# THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN COMMUNITY POLITICAL EDUCATION

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## ABSTRACT

*Political parties have a role in carrying out the functions of political parties by Law Number 2 of 2008 concerning political parties, one of which is to collect aspirations and provide political education for the community. This research is motivated by cooperation between political party administrators that have not been established, the ability to carry out political education that has not been active, and the absence of attitudes that can be used as role models from party administrators so that researchers are interested in researching the role of political parties in providing political education for the community. Sukahurip Village, Cisaga District, Ciamis Regency. This study uses a qualitative method with descriptive research that aims to describe the role of political parties in political education in society. Data collection was done by observation, literature study, and interviews, so the data used were primary data and secondary data. The data analysis technique was carried out in three stages: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing/verification. The results of the study indicate that political party administrators are more active before the general election, and political education for party administrators is very limited so the ability of party administrators is limited. The functions carried out by political parties are only based on instructions and the lack of political party activities outside the general election.*

**Keyword**: *The Role; Political; Community; Political Education; Administrators*

## Introduction

Indonesia is a country that adheres to a representative democracy system. Representation here is the sovereignty of the people in a country to run and/or be represented by State Institutions, including the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary. Positions in State Institutions are obtained based on the will of the people through general elections using intermediaries called Political Parties. Political parties and most importantly are the main pillars for the implementation of a democratic system because they become a means or tool for the people to channel their political aspirations in achieving public policies or public positions and positions listed in the Act. Based on West Java data, the level of community participation in 2020 has decreased to 100 compared to 2019 as much as 195,

but in 2021 it will increase again to 340 (Open Data, Jabar.go.id, 2022).

Political parties as organizations that support the establishment of democracy must have political understanding and have the function and/or obligation to provide insight to members and the public about knowledge of the nation and state (Pasaribu, 2017). Insights are given so that the public understands the rights, obligations, and responsibilities that are their responsibility as part of the Citizenship State. Political education is expected to form understanding (Yuliani, 2016), public awareness, and participation as citizens in political life (Hermawan, 2020). The understanding and reality of Political Education are often limited to only one understanding, namely formal politics. For example, politics is understood with Power, Government, State, and General Elections. But in reality, Political Education provides broader knowledge and understanding, including growing one's involvement in political discussions and recognition of the diversity of socio-political values held by individuals and groups (society).

Political parties have the function of providing political education (Nurdiansyah, 2015; Saputro, 2015; Yuliani, 2016; YULIANI, 2016). The education delivered should not only be done during the campaign or before the democratic party. However, political education must be carried out conceptually and continuously (Dedi, 2020) with an evaluation process carried out by political parties, the goal is that every society can pass on political insight, from one generation to the next (Yuliani, 2016).

This is by the Functions of Political Parties as referred to in Article 11 paragraph (1a) of Law Number 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties which function as a means: "Political education for members and the wider community to become Indonesian citizens who are aware of their rights and obligations. in the life of society, nation, and state." In addition, Kartono (2009:104) also states that political education is: 1) continuous and sustainable learning efforts; 2) Self-escalation in the political constellation; 3) Efforts to advance society and the state. Political education is a continuous learning effort to increase knowledge related to politics and increase critical thinking about politics. Political education can be improved through political socialization (Dedi, 2019; Pahlevi & Amrurobbi, 2020; Sarnoto, 2012). One of the actors or groups in charge of and responsible for providing political education to the public is a political party.

The obligation of political parties to provide political education is also regulated in Article 13 letter e of Law no. 2 of 2008 concerning the obligations of political parties, namely "to carry out political education and channel political aspirations for its members". The Political Role of the Party offered is political education and even welding in Article 31 of Law Number 2 of 2008

Article 31 paragraph (1) Political parties provide political education for the community by the scope of their responsibilities by paying attention to justice and gender equality, to increase awareness the rights and obligations of the community in the life of the state, increasing political participation and community initiatives in life, increasing independence, maturity, and building the nation's character to maintain unity and integrity. Political education is often referred to as forming politics or politics Bildung. It is said to "form" because it contains the intention of forming political people who are aware of their political position in society. And "Bildung" because the term contains the notion of self-formation with self-awareness and responsibility to become a political person (Kartono, 2009:63).

My previous research conducted by Ayub Budi Prayoga (2013) with the title of the role of political parties in providing political education to the people in Gresik (a study on the Branch Leadership Council of the Gresik National Awakening Party) explained that the Branch Leadership Council of the National Awakening Party of Gresik was indeed has done ole in providing political education to the wider community, but considering that political education has not been maximized. Several things affect political education so political education is not optimal. This study recommends the need for changes in providing political education to the community, both changes in the form of communication, materials, settings or places of implementation as well as methods, to achieve the actual goal of providing political education to the community (PRAYOGA, 2013).

Then Cindy Astria Octaviana Hutagalung with the title The Role of the Golkar Party in Fostering Community Political Awareness. community and assist the community (3) Cadreization, namely increasing the capacity of all Golkar Party administrators in Semarang City (Sitepu, 2016). Whereas Lutter and Sri entitled: The Role of Political Parties in the Implementation of Political Education in the Context of Increasing Community Participation and Initiatives in the General Election Process in Semarang City explained that the role of parties in the implementation of political education was carried out by the Democratic Party, the Golkar Party and the Gerindra Party Political Party, Semarang City. This is very important because no more than 85% of the people in the city of Semarang participate in elections in the city of Semarang, so the role played by political parties greatly affects the level of the active role of the community in voting in general elections (Nurgiansah, 2021).

In Educational Politics, there is learning and political understanding, for Political Education, namely to build awareness of citizens about their rights and obligations under the constitution, to be able to play an active role in every political decision that exists in the state. Citizens are involved in political

decisions because they have political consciousness. Awareness of politics can be obtained through political education, as stated by Kartono (2009:64) that political education is an international, deliberate, and systematic educational effort to form politically aware individuals, and capable of being ethically/morally responsible political behavior to achieve political goals.

People who do not misunderstand the socio-political conditions in their country are caused by apathy and skepticism, so they are easily influenced and easily spread information that has not been confirmed. I can reflect on this misunderstanding that political education is not actively involved in the regions, not political education can be caused by the absence of the role of Political Education actors or the absence of other alternative media to study Political Education. Therefore, political education agents or actors have a fairly influential role in people's political understanding.

Based on the results of observations in Sukahurip Village, Cisaga District, Ciamis Regency, it can be seen that; (1) The management of a political party does not understand their rights and obligations as an administrator of a political party, so the function of a political party does not work, this is evident from the initiatives carried out only during campaigns or in the general election agenda. (2) The interaction of political party administrators in Sukahurip Village tends to be limited only to the cadres of

the political parties they carry, as evidenced by the time the socialization was only carried out on cadres of political parties.

Based on the above background, the formulation of the research problem can be determined, namely: "What is the role of political parties in providing political education to the community in Sukahurip Village, Cisaga District, Ciamis Regency?" The location is in Sukahurip Village, Cisaga District, Ciamis Regency. Sukahurip was chosen by the author for research because it has never been studied on the role of political parties in awarding prizes. Political education in Sukahurip can be said that this is the first research in the area. Further interest is to know more about the role of political parties in education politics in Sukahurip, how are the obstacles to the role of political parties in the politics of giving education in Sukahurip, and how are your efforts to overcome obstacles to the role of political parties in the delivery of education politics in Sukahurip.

**Literature Review**

In the implementation of a democratic state, institutions are needed that can bridge the interests of the community, one of which is through political parties. A political party is a collection of people or an organization that has the same principles and the same line in politics, then interacts with the government and society to achieve common goals and decisions in a

particular area. According to Neuman (Modern Political Parties) in Budiardjo's book (2000: 163) also says that: Political parties are organizations of political activities that seek to control government power and win popular support for competition with a group or groups who have different views.

Role according to Riyadi (in Lantaeda, 2017: 2) is defined as the orientation and concept of the role played by a party in social opposition. With this role, individual and organizational actors will behave by the expectations of people or their environment. Roles are also structurally given guidelines (norms, expectations, taboos, responsibilities, and others). Sarmiento (2000: 735) explains that the role is something that must be carried out based on the timeliness of the occurrence of a thing or event.

Suhardono (2018:3-4) explains that the understanding used in studying the role theory is understanding structuralism and understanding interactionalism. Structuralism relates to the role of a cultural unit and refers to a set of rights and obligations, which have been proclaimed normatively by the cultural system. Meanwhile, interactionalism is an understanding that shows a more active-dynamic connotation of the role phenomenon. Especially after the role is a "role embodiment", which is livelier and more organic, as an element of the social system that has been internalized by the individual actors of the role. In this case, the actor becomes aware of the social

structure he occupies. Therefore, he tries to always appear "quality" and is considered by other actors "not to deviate" from the expectation system that exists in his society.

One of the functions of political parties is political education. Pahlevi (2020) explains that political education is an activity that aims to shape the moral values and political direction of the individual community, and according to Kantaprawira (2006) explains that political education directs the community to be responsible for their political choices in the administration of the state (Pahlevi & Amrurobbi, 2020). Political education is different from political socialization, if political socialization only reaches people's awareness, then in political education, the points produced are that people understand ethical values in politics and practice them with a conscience.

The purpose of political education is to increase people's political insight, hope that the community will be able to exercise government social control, be able to carry out political will action, have the critical thinking, and understand the political system in their country. Surbakti (2015: 150) explains that political education is a process of dialogue between the giver and the recipient. Through this process, community members recognize and learn the values, norms, and political symbols of their country, from various parties in the political system such as

schools, government, and political parties.

Kartono (2009:64) Education policy is an international educational effort, deliberate and atis system to shape individuals so that they are politically aware and able to become political actors who are ethically/morally responsible for achieving political goals. The essence of political education is the political aspect as an aspect of understanding the process of forming citizens' awareness of their rights and obligations based on the constitution, to be able to influence and make decisions on every development in the process of conducting the state.

## Research Methods

The research method used is a qualitative method, with a descriptive research approach. This method was chosen because this study aims to explain and describe a phenomenon based on facts and existing data from an informant directly. Determination of informants in this study using purposive sampling technique and determining several key informants. The informants used in this study were 11 people consisting of several representatives of political party members and from the local community. The data collection technique used is library research in the form of documentation studies and field studies in the form of observations and interviews. The data that has been collected is then analyzed using data triangulation. Then the data analysis used is data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing/verification. This research was carried out for 9 months from the assessment stage to the preparation of the research report.

## Results and Discussion

Sukahurip Village, Cisaga District, is one part of the Ciamis Regency area where the population is heterogeneous because it is located on an inter-provincial crossing, so the mobility is quite high. With the geographical and social conditions of the community, the authors are interested in researching the role of political parties in political education in Sukahurip Village. A role is a set of references that limit what behavior a person should do in his position, which can lead to role conflict if it is not to the expectations pinned on his position. This study refers to the concept of role from Suhardono (2018), that to find out whether a role can be seen from the dimensions of structuralism and the dimensions of interactionalism. This explanation seeks to explain how the role of political parties in carrying out the functions of political parties in the field of a political education by looking at the position of political party administrators in the local community. The structuralism dimension in the role of political parties consists of four indicators, namely: understanding of the rights and obligations as administrators of political parties, the establishment of cooperation with other parties, the capability of political party

administrators in carrying out the functions of political parties, and the existence of political party activities in carrying out the functions of political parties. Based on the results of observations and interviews, it is known that of the 4 indicators in the structuralism dimension, only one indicator has been optimal, namely the indicator that political party administrators have understood their rights and obligations as political party administrators. While the other three indicators are not optimal.

The understanding of political party administrators on the rights and obligations is by knowing to understand of political party administrators on the articles of association and by-laws (AD/ART) of political parties. In addition, political party administrators know and understand how to carry out the consolidation of political parties and regularly attend work meetings held by political parties and their associations.

The second indicator relates to cooperation between political party administrators which is still not optimal. Based on the results of interviews, several informants stated that there were no routine activities carried out by political parties in providing political education to the public, including within the internal environment of political parties. Consolidation activities are only carried out routinely when the general election is approaching. This problem is caused by the fact that many party administrators have other activities outside of political parties, such as being active in other organizations and busy for work reasons. So that the second indicator has not been implemented optimally.

The third is an indicator of the ability or capacity of political party administrators in carrying out the functions of political parties that have not run optimally, it is known that political parties are only used as a shelter and channel for aspirations. Meanwhile, the ability in the function of political education to the public is still considered lacking, because there are no routine activities carried out by political parties in political education activities. The activities carried out are only limited to political socialization, and even then only carried out within the internal environment of political parties, namely for party administrators and members.

Another indicator that is not optimal is that the activities of political parties in carrying out the functions of political parties are only limited to activities during recess, namely to collect aspirations. Meanwhile, the function of political parties in other fields, especially in the field of political education for the community is not carried out. Not only for the people of Sukahurip Village but also others, there are no political education activities from political parties.

By Law Number 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties, political parties have a function as a means of political education for members and the wider community to become citizens

who are aware of their rights and obligations in the life of society and the state. Based on Law No. 2 of 2008 political parties also must provide political education and channel the political aspirations of their members. Likewise in the concept of the role according to Suhardono (2018), the role is a dynamic aspect of behavior carried out by people or institutions who occupy certain positions in the social system.

Based on the explanation above, it can be seen that political parties have a role in carrying out their functions as providers of political education to the community. Then, the political education delivered should not only be done during the campaign or only for internal political parties. However, political education must be carried out conceptually, continuously, and continue with the evaluation process carried out by political parties, the goal is that every community can pass on political insights from one generation to the next.

The second dimension in the role of political parties is interactionalism. This understanding shows a more active-dynamic connotation of the role phenomenon. Especially after the role is a "role embodiment" that is more alive and more organic, as an element of the social system that has been internalized by the individual actors of the role. In this case, the actor becomes aware of the social structure he occupies. Therefore, he tries to always appear "quality" and is considered by other actors "not to deviate" from the expectation system that exists in his society.

Based on the results of the study, it can be seen that the application of the Interactionalist Understanding dimension where there are 4 (four) indicators), with the result that 1 (one) indicator is not optimal and 3 (three) indicators are optimal. Among the indicators of involvement of political parties in general public activities that can be said to be good, this is evidenced by the existence of political party administrators who collect and help channel the aspirations of the Sukahurip Village DPRD, become involved as members of institutions in Sukahurip Village, and are involved in community activities, such as the construction of public facilities that carried out in the form of private or individual management. However, it is known that there are still obstacles faced by political parties in the involvement of general public activities, including the personal activities of political party administrators and financial problems that make it difficult to engage in material community activities on behalf of the party.

Then indicators of the existence of political parties that can be accepted by the general public have been carried out, as evidenced by the existence of political parties and their administrators who are recognized as informal institutions in Sukahurip Village, but there are still obstacles faced by Political Parties that must be accepted by the general public, among others

because of differences people's choice in choosing political parties, as well as the activity of political parties that only appear at certain times (before the general election)

Then the indicator of awareness of political party administrators to interact with the community has also been optimal, this can be proven in the form of cooperation in the construction of public facilities and fighting for the aspirations of the community, even though the majority of party recruitment. do not consider the quality of human resources.

Then the indicators of political party administrators who become role models have not been optimally proven from their visible functions at certain times so that the public's view of political party administrators does not carry out their functions, the obstacle faced by political party administrators is that they do not actually carry out their functions. Party administrators become role models for the community, including not all people, who are enthusiastic about political parties, the lack of political party activities outside the general election, and the lack of support from the village government.

**Conclusion**

The role of political parties in providing political education for the people of Sukahurip Village, Cisaga District, and Ciamis Regency, in general, has not been carried out optimally. This is evidenced by the structuralist understanding and

interactionalist understanding which still have obstacles in their implementation, resulting in the role of political parties in political education not being carried out optimally, including party administrators who have their respective activities outside the party's duties, then the limited understanding of the party. management and/or limited understanding gave from the sub-district level to the village apparatus, the function of political parties because the functions carried out by political parties are only based on instructions from parties at the sub-district and/or district level, the lack of political party activities outside the general election

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