



Digital Participation and Active Involvement of Civil Society in Organizing Ideal Elections

¹Farhan Fathur Rahman, ²David Nwanna Dumbiri

¹UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, ²University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria

E-mail: ¹22203011040@uin-suka.ac.id, ²david.dumbiri@uniben.edu

Article Info

Article History

Received : 2024-04-13

Revised: 2024-04-17

Published: 2024-05-30

Keywords:

*Digital Participation,
Civil Society, Elections*

Abstract

Digital participation and active involvement of civil society are important elements in the implementation of ideal and democratic elections. Digital technology opens up new spaces for people to participate in the electoral process, whether through social media, digital platforms, or special applications designed to monitor and ensure the transparency and accountability of elections. The research method used is normative juridical, with legislative, conceptual, and comparative approaches. The legislative approach is carried out to examine regulations and policies related to digital participation in elections, while the conceptual approach is used to understand the concept of digital participation and the role of civil society. A comparative approach was taken to compare the practices of digital participation in elections in different countries, in order to gain a broader understanding of the effectiveness of the strategies implemented. The results of the discussion show that digital participation has great potential in increasing civil society involvement, but there are still significant challenges, such as low digital literacy, the risk of spreading misinformation, and limited access to technology. Clear and systematic regulation is needed to effectively support digital participation and prevent abuses that can undermine the integrity of elections. In conclusion, digital participation is an important means to increase public involvement in the implementation of ideal elections, but it needs to be accompanied by supportive policies and adequate public education. The suggestions from this study are to strengthen regulations on the use of technology in elections, improve people's digital literacy, and encourage safe and transparent digital platform innovation for election participation.

I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a legal country that adheres to a democratic system. In particular, the democratic system is referred to as the Pancasila democratic system, which is a system that is held based on deliberation to reach an agreement for the welfare of the people (Nurtiasih, 2019). Where individual freedom is guaranteed by the state but not absolutely because it must be adjusted to social responsibility. Every citizen has a right called a constitutional right that is in accordance with the constitution of the country in which he or she is located. I Dewa Gede Palguna defines constitutional rights as rights guaranteed by the constitution or the Constitution either implicitly or not (Handayani & Angrayni, 2019).

In Article 1 Paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution Amendment, it is stated that "sovereignty is in the hands of the people and is governed according to the Constitution". Since the beginning of independence, Indonesia has been a democratic legal state derived from the idea of the

concept of rule of law and people's sovereignty that has been embodied by the founders of the Indonesian nation (Muhlashin, 2021). On the other hand, the State of the Republic of Indonesia is a power structure designed based on the principle of people's sovereignty. In fact, the 1945 Constitution itself gained the status of the highest law because it was formed by all the people as the owners of sovereignty.

One example of the realization of "people's sovereignty" in the article is the holding of general elections or what will be referred to as elections. Elections are a means for the people to elect their leaders and deputy leaders, which will later determine where the movement of a region or country is headed (Millah & Dewi, 2021). So that they become important figures in regulating and running the wheels of government. In article 1 of Law Number 7 of 2017, it is stated that elections are a means of people's sovereignty to elect members of the House of Representatives, members of the Regional Representative Council,

President and Vice President, and to elect members of the Regional House of Representatives, which are carried out directly, publicly, freely, secretly, honestly, and fairly in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia targeting Pancasila and the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.

Technology is a necessity. Its development is inevitable, because technology corresponds to human needs in all fields (Hadi et al., 2020). However, most importantly, its existence can be the answer to every problem faced. Not the other way around, it is the cause of new problems. Even in terms of elections, technology is needed to be able to provide solutions to every existing obstacle and challenge, in order to present the implementation of elections with integrity, both in terms of processes and results. The higher the quality of the election results, the stronger the legitimacy of the elected government, which will then create a stable government and a politically capable government.

The development of IT is very important, especially in social media. The number of Internet users has increased significantly from 2013 to the current year. With these developments, people are never separated from information technology, especially the Millennial generation and Generation Z. The rapid development of technological advances makes it the main source of information in a system that requires design and implementation in the application mode of Information Systems to be developed (Abror et al., 2024).

One of the important elements in the implementation of elections is trustworthy, public trust (Maarif & Arifin, 2024). No matter how much partiality the election results are for one candidate, if the public does not trust it, then support for the government will also be weak and vice versa. Djameludin Ancok said that building public trust in the government is the main prerequisite for the creation of a peaceful and democratic civil society.

The term "civil society" refers to the concept of a society that has the characteristics of citizenship, active participation, and social justice, and this concept is often associated with Islamic thought, becoming the basis for the development of a harmonious and just society (Jufri, 2020). The concept of civil society has its roots in Islamic thought, especially in the concept of "al-madina" which describes an organized society and lives peacefully. This idea is also related to the concept

of caliphate and just leadership in the Islamic tradition. Civil society emphasizes the active role of citizens in the development and management of society, involving active participation in social, political, and economic life. The principles of social justice, including the equitable distribution of wealth and opportunity, as well as the protection of human rights, are important pillars in this concept.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

The research model used by the researcher in this case is included in the type of literature research or normative legal research, which is research that focuses on a legal rule or other regulations about whether there is an impact resulting from the active involvement of civil society and digital participation in organizing elections. This research will also use a conceptual approach, namely to see how to realize the ideal election concept.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Civil Society

In Islam itself, there is no mention of what civil society is, but there are several terms for society with this characteristic, one of which is *khairu ummah* (Ridho et al., 2021). This is found in the Qur'an Surah Ali Imran verse 110 which means "You (Muslims) are the best people born for mankind, (because you) command (to do) what is righteous, and prevent from doing what is wrong, and to believe in Allah. If the People of the Book believed, it would have been better for them. There are those who believe, but most of them are wicked people."

This letter itself was revealed in the seventh year of the *hijriyah*, which means that at that time the Muslims had already settled in the Medina area and had formed a colony or group that grew and developed. This letter means that this letter is a higher demand for not only individual Muslims but for all Muslims. He explained that *amar ma'ruf nahi munkar* and also faith in Allah is the obligation of every Muslim, whose main goal is peace, justice, and safety in this world and the hereafter (Fadilah, 2021). However, there are several criteria that must be met by Muslims to be called *khayru ummah*. So that the title cannot necessarily be pinned by every Muslim.

The formation of the Medina charter at that time made the Prophet not only some religious leaders, but also some leaders of a community or the head of the constitution who had a mission to

build the development of political and social life in it (Jacob, 2019). In this case, it can be seen from the success of the Prophet in shaping the society of Medina into a civil society. This is what initially underpinned the concept of civil society that exists today.

In this modern era, Civil society was first introduced by Anwar Ibrahim (then Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia) in a speech at the National Symposium in the framework of the Scientific Forum at the Istiqlal Festival, 26 September 1995. The term is translated from the Arabic "mujtama' madani", which was introduced by Prof. Naquib Attas, an Islamic historian and civilization from Malaysia, founder of ISTAC. The word "madani" means civil or civilized. Madani also means civilization, as other Arabic words such as hadlari, tsaqafi or tamaddun. The concept of "madani" for Arabs does refer to the ideal things in life (Nur & Makmur, 2020).

The concept of civil society was born as a result of an Islamic Festival called the Istiqlal Festival, a festival organized by ICMI (Indonesian Muslim Islamic Scholars Association). ICMI is an Islamic organization that was established in December 1991 with the blessing of President Suharto and chaired by BJ Habibie, Suharto's right-hand man who held the position of Minister of Research and Technology. The establishment of ICMI cannot be separated from Habibie's role in convincing President Soeharto to accommodate the interests of the Muslim middle class who are growing rapidly and need the means to channel their aspirations. The dipper was welcomed because Suharto was looking for a Muslim partner to support his desire to become president in 1998. This was done by Suharto to reduce the pressure of influence from those who were highly critical of his policies, especially from nationalists who founded various NGOs and Islamic groups that followed the socio-cultural path such as Gus Dur, Emha, and Mustafa Bisri (MOKLIS, n.d.).

They developed the pro-democracy movement by introducing the concept of civil society. This concept is offered as a resistance to the state's massive hegemony through the military, bureaucracy, and technocrats. The concept of civil society is more intended to counter the dominance of the Indonesian Armed Forces as the main buffer for the existence of the New Order (MOKLIS, n.d.). The ABRI not only acts as an element of defense and security but also interferes in civil affairs. For this purpose, the

ABRI justifies its actions on the doctrine of dual functions of the ABRI, where the ABRI participates in performing civilian duties both in the executive, legislative, and judicial institutions. His involvement in politics was decisive. As a result, checks and balances in the government system did not work and the New Order was transformed into a bureaucratic authoritarian regime.

Thus, the government has a very large role in the formation of civil society. The government needs to adopt an all-inclusive attitude, which means being able to accommodate various elements in society and provide facilities without differentiating between one group and another (Djani, 2022). In general, civil society is a concept of a society that is able to advance itself through independent activities in a space of movement that the State cannot intervene with. This is closely related to the concept of civil society with the concept of democracy and democratization, because democracy can only be a body in civil society and civil society can only develop in a democratic environment.

B. The Role of Civil Society in Organizing Ideal Elections Through Participation in Cyberspace

1. Elections and Digitalization

Elections are a means of people's sovereignty to elect members of the House of Representatives, members of the Regional Representative Council, President and Vice President, and to elect members of the Regional House of Representatives, which are conducted directly, publicly, freely, secretly, honestly, and fairly in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia based on Pancasila and the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (Indradjaja et al., 2022). Elections are the election of people to fill certain positions, for that elections are very important because in elections there is the exercise of people's sovereignty. However, to carry out the ideal election, it must at least include some of the following characteristics: fair representation, transparency and transparency, high voter participation, data security and protection, supporting technology, fair and clean campaigns and financial openness (FHERRA, 2023).

Civil society has a number of characteristics that reflect its values, principles, and characteristics. First, the active participation of its citizens in social, political, and economic life is a distinctive mark of this society. Citizens are actively involved in the process of community

development and decision-making that affects our shared lives. Furthermore, responsible citizenship is a characteristic of civil society, where its citizens have an awareness of their rights and obligations as citizens and contribute positively to the development and maintenance of the social environment (Mubarok, 2019).

Political participation refers to voluntary actions taken by the general public to influence public policy, either directly or by influencing the election of the individual who makes those policies. Examples of these activities include voting in elections, supporting political campaigns, donating funds to specific candidates or causes, communicating with officials, filing petitions, delivering protests, and working with others to address an issue. Citizen participation is the basis and essential requirement for a democratic system. Citizens have several diverse methods of political participation, such as determining officials through the electoral process or influencing policy directly through protests, lobbying activities, or demonstrations (Setiawan & Djafar, 2023).

With this increasingly modern era, the use of technology and information has spread into various aspects of social life, including elections. Technology and information systems that contain the functions of communication support, human networking, efficiency, political decision-making, authority decisions, public service, and public insight have great potential to support the democratic process in any society, regardless of the political direction of the government (Rahman et al., 2022). In its development, science is also the main aspect of technological development because technological development will be inseparable from the development of science. Furthermore, the existence of technology for monitoring supports the development of information technology in the future and the tone of technology in technology learning with blended learning.

According to Silih Agung Wasesa, the presence of new digital-based media makes political information not only more passive, but also distributed quickly and interactively.

With its characteristics, not a few political actors in a number of countries use social media in the political campaign process. Social media has greater potential in the production and distribution of information more effectively (Solihin et al., 2021). With such capabilities, social media can certainly play an active role in

strengthening democratization. Political communication is the delivery of a message directed to the achievement of such an influence, that an issue discussed by this type of communication activity can bind all groups or citizens through a sanction that is mutually determined by political institutions. Political communication can be carried out using media such as radio, billboards, banners, flags, banners, pamphlets and so on.

Danuri revealed that digital technology is an information technology that prioritizes activities carried out on computers or digitally rather than using human labor. He further explained that digital is basically just a very fast counting system that processes all forms of information as numerical values (Martins, 2022). From this system, various very significant developments have been produced such as the fields of communication, information transformation, data processing, data security and handling of increasingly complex activities. The transition of human activities from manual to automated systems and in this case technology is also called digitalization. Digitization is an automatic operating system with a format that can be read by a computer.

2. Civil Society and Its Role in Realizing Ideal Elections

To realize an ideal election that is in accordance with the progress of the technology and information system, of course, good cooperation is needed between the government and the community and in this case the community is the most important element for the implementation of this. Both before the implementation of the election, during its implementation, and after the election is held. Digital participation in civil society in the implementation of ideal elections is certainly an important tool to increase the effectiveness of their role (Asfia, 2023). Technological advances have made everything easier both in conveying and receiving information. It can be said that the number of invalid votes in previous elections was due to the lack of socialization to the public about elections, so that people who are familiar with this make mistakes that cause their votes to become invalid, be it mistakes in voting, absenteeism at the time of elections, and so on.

The role of civil society in the field of digital participation is important in various aspects related to information (Irwan et al., 2023). Such as providing information about the election,

conducting socialization to the public, sorting out positive information so that it is not misleading, conveying information about the candidates to be elected, reporting election violations that occurred and so on. Of course, this will increase citizens' knowledge so that it can increase community participation in the implementation of elections. Not only that, as mentioned above, things such as transparency and data security will also increase public trust, especially elections.

In addition, the application of digital technology in general elections not only increases the effectiveness and efficiency in political contestation, but also becomes a solution to the obstacles that often arise in conventional systems (Waruwu et al., 2024). The use of e-voting makes it easier to process data, present more credible, accountable, and accountable results because of transparency in calculations using electronic systems. The application of e-voting in the electoral mechanism is part of an effort to digitize elections that rely on computerized applications to support daily activities in social life (IRAWAN TARA MANDAPU, 2022). While it brings potential progress in democratic life, it is necessary to consider the various threats that may arise, especially related to data confidentiality and security.

However, there are still challenges in the use of social media in today's times, one of which is about hoax news and buzzers that increasingly affect public perception to be negative about a certain candidate. The term buzzer was initially used to market a product or service on various social media so that it was expected to increase sales of a product or service. Buzzers can be ordinary individuals, celebrities, or even fake accounts that are deliberately created for a specific purpose. They use their social media accounts to spread certain messages, ideas, or views for more people to see and follow. Buzzers can also form groups or networks to increase the impact of their campaigns (Faulina et al., 2020).

However, the use of the term buzzer on social media during the Regional Head Election (Pilkada) and the General Election (Election) tends to be identified with the use of negative campaign strategies so that it makes the term seem negative. They can use a variety of tactics, such as disseminating information that is favorable or detrimental, creating trending topics on social media, or participating in online discussions to achieve their goals (Faulina et al., 2020).

The role of civil society is again needed in this problem, because everyone has an obligation to contribute positively to the development and maintenance of the social environment. Especially in straightening out the public view that was swayed by the irresponsible buzzers. Not only that, this is also exacerbated by the absence of regulations governing the way political buzzers work in campaign activities which allegedly contain negative things. Then added to the difficulty of law enforcement officials in tracking the anonymous accounts of these buzzers. Even though this buzzer-like thing is growing rapidly in recent elections, people must still be able and remind each other to always sort out the news that is scattered in these times so that they are not exposed to sheep fighting.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusion

Elections in Indonesia act as a mechanism for expressing people's sovereignty in determining their representatives, including members of the House of Representatives, DPD, President, and Vice President. Democratic principles such as direct, public, free, secret, honest, and fair general elections are the basis for holding elections, in accordance with the values of Pancasila and the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. The importance of an ideal election is reflected in a number of distinctive features, such as fair representation, transparency, integrity, high voter participation, data security and protection, technological support, fair campaigning, and financial openness. All of this aims to ensure a democratic and accountable electoral process.

The role of technology and information in modern elections cannot be ignored. The use of digital technology, social media, and information can make a major contribution to efficiency, transparency, and public participation in the election process. The digital participation of civil society is a key element in increasing the effectiveness of elections. The public can use technology to disseminate information, conduct socialization, convey information about candidates, report violations, and increase citizens' awareness of the importance of participation in the democratic process.

However, challenges arise along with the development of social media, including hoax news and the role of buzzers that can influence public perception. Therefore, the active role of civil society is crucial in straightening out information,

filtering positive news, and making a positive contribution to maintaining the integrity of elections. Thus, the active and responsible participation of civil society, supported by advanced technology and information, is the main key in organizing democratic, transparent, and quality elections.

B. Suggestions

Based on the conclusion on the importance of digital participation and civil society involvement in the implementation of ideal elections, it is recommended that the government, election organizers, and civil society organizations work together to increase digital literacy among the public. Education on the wise use of technology, how to detect and fight false information (hoaxes), and understanding the importance of the role of each individual in maintaining election integrity needs to be expanded and strengthened.

In addition, governments and election organizers must develop stricter and more systematic regulations related to the use of technology in elections, including the protection of voters' personal data and supervision of social media activities that have the potential to undermine election integrity. Initiatives are also needed to improve technology infrastructure, so that access to information and digital technology can reach all levels of society, including in remote areas.

To support the creation of fair and transparent elections, various technological innovations such as election monitoring applications and credible information platforms must continue to be developed and optimized. Civil society is also expected to take an active role in providing independent oversight, participating in election monitoring activities, and vocalizing aspirations constructively. With these steps, it is hoped that the election process in Indonesia can take place more democratically, accountably, and reliably.

REFERENCE LIST

- Abror, K. M., Putri, R., & Nadif, M. (2024). Strategi Layanan Bimbingan Dan Konseling Dalam Menghadapi Era Revolusi Industri 4.0 Bagi Generasi Z. *Jurnal Bimbingan Dan Konseling*, 10(2), 73–81.
- Asfia, H. (2023). Peran E-Voting Dalam Mendobrak Batasan Tradisional Sebagai Upaya Menyongsong Pemilu Modern. *Prosiding Seminar Hukum Aktual Fakultas Hukum Universitas Islam Indonesia*, 1(4), 218–229.
- Djani, W. (2022). *Administrasi Publik (Teori Dan Pergeseran Paradigma Ke Era Digital)*. Zifatama Jawara.
- Fadilah, A. A. (2021). *Implementasi Program Pemberdayaan Ekonomi Mikro Lembaga Amil Zakat Infaq Dan Sedekah (Lazismu) Guna Meningkatkan Kesejahteraan Masyarakat Dalam Perspektif Dakwah Bil Hal*. Iain Kudus.
- Faulina, A., Chatra, E., & Sarmiati, S. (2020). Peran Buzzer Dan Konstruksi Pesan Viral Dalam Proses Pembentukan Opini Publik Di New Media. *Jrti (Jurnal Riset Tindakan Indonesia)*, 7(1), 1.
- Fherra, G. R. (2023). *Evaluasi Penggunaan Sistem Informasi Partai Politik Pada Pemilu 2019 (Studi Di Komisi Pemilihan Umum Provinsi Lampung)*.
- Hadi, K., Asworo, L., & Taqwa, I. (2020). Inovasi Dialogis: Menuju Transformasi Pelayanan Publik Yang Partisipatif (Kajian Sistem Pelayanan Malang Online). *Journal Of Government And Civil Society*, 4(1), 115–129.
- Handayani, F., & Angrayni, L. (2019). Implementasi Perlindungan Hak Konstitusional Warga Negara Oleh Mahkamah Konstitusi Menurut Sistem Ketatanegaraan Di Indonesia. *Riau Law Journal*, 3(1), 44–69.
- Indradjaja, N., Abid, M. A., & Andarini, V. (2022). Pemilihan Umum Serentak Dan Wacana Penundaan Pemilihan Umum Dalam Perspektif Azas Demokrasi Indonesia. *Wijaya Putra Law Review*, 1(2), 108–119.
- Irawan Tara Mandapu, I. (2022). *Government Dalam Proses Pemilihan Lurah E-Voting Kabupaten Sleman Kapanewon Turi Kalurahan Wonokerto*. Sekolah Tinggi Pembangunan Masyarakat Desa Stpm "Apmd".
- Irwan, A. I. U., Fauzi, E. A., & Jalianery, J. (2023). Sosialisasi Pemilu Sebagai Strategi Alternatif Meningkatkan Kesadaran Politik Pemilih Pemula Pada Pemilu 2024. *Jurnal Masyarakat Madani Indonesia*, 2(4), 522–528.
- Jufri, A. (2020). Masyarakat Madani Dan Penguatan Demokrasi Politik Islam Di Indonesia. *Jurnal Ilmiah Al-Jauhari: Jurnal Studi Islam Dan Interdisipliner*, 5(2), 285–307.
- Maarif, M. S., & Arifin, T. (2024). Kecurangan Pemilu Tahun 2024 Dalam Perspektif Uu No. 7 Tahun 2017 Dan Hadits Riwayat Muslim.

- Tashdiq: Jurnal Kajian Agama Dan Dakwah*, 3(3), 86–96.
- Martins, P. D. (2022). *Pemanfaatan Digital Marketing Menggunakan Media Sosial Sebagai Alat Pemasaran Online Pada Pt Benelli Perkasa Motor Pusat Surabaya*. Universitas Hayam Wuruk Perbanas Surabaya.
- Millah, N. S., & Dewi, D. A. (2021). Skpp Bawaslu Sebagai Sarana Pendidikan Politik Dalam Upaya Meningkatkan Partisipasi Politik Warga Negara. *Jurnal Kewarganegaraan*, 5(2), 355–363.
- Moklis, N. U. R. (N.D.). *Analisis Gerakan Masyarakat Sipil (Civil Society/Masyarakat Madani) Pada Demokratisasi Di Indonesia Oleh*.
- Mubarok, M. Z. (2019). *Reorientasi Pendidikan Islam Dalam Perspektif Masyarakat Madani Era Reformasi Di Indonesia*.
- Muhlashin, I. (2021). Negara Hukum, Demokrasi Dan Penegakan Hukum Di Indonesia. *Jurnal Al-Qadau: Peradilan Dan Hukum Keluarga Islam*, 8(1), 87–100.
- Nur, A., & Makmur, Z. (2020). Implementasi Gagasan Keindonesiaan Himpunan Mahasiswa Islam; Mewujudkan Konsep Masyarakat Madani Indonesian Discourse Implementation Of Islamic Student Association; Realizing Civil Society Concept. *Jurnal Khitah*, 1(1).
- Nurtiasih, D. (2019). *Tinjauan Fiqh Siyasah Terhadap Implementasi Pasal 78 Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014 Tentang Desa (Studi Pembangunan Desa Pandansari Kecamatan Sukoharjo Kabupaten Pringsewu)*. Uin Raden Intan Lampung.
- Rahman, A., Latifah, E. D., & Fachrurrazi, S. (2022). Peranan Teknologi Informasi Dalam Meningkatkan Partisipasi Politik Warga Negara. *Sisfo: Jurnal Ilmiah Sistem Informasi*, 6(1), 12–24.
- Ridho, A. R., Nuruddin, N., & Hariyadi, M. (2021). Model Masyarakat Madani Dalam Al-Qur'an Sebagai Cerminan Masyarakat New Normal Pandemi Covid-19. *Sangkép: Jurnal Kajian Sosial Keagamaan*, 4(2), 215–245.
- Setiawan, H. D., & Djafar, T. B. M. (2023). Partisipasi Politik Pemilih Muda Dalam Pelaksanaan Demokrasi Di Pemilu 2024. *Populis: Jurnal Sosial Dan Humaniora*, 8(2), 201–213.
- Solihin, F., Awaliyah, S., & Shofa, A. M. A. (2021). Pemanfaatan Twitter Sebagai Media Penyebaran Informasi Oleh Dinas Komunikasi Dan Informatika. *Journal Pendidikan Ilmu Pengetahuan Sosial*, 13(1), 52–58.
- Waruwu, D., Hombing, H. D. S. S. B., Situmorang, S. E., & Elsi, S. D. (2024). Analisis Peran Teknologi Digital Pada Proses Pelaksanaan Pemilu Serentak 2024. *Journal Of Law, Administration, And Social Science*, 4(5), 776–784.
- Yakub, M. (2019). Islam Dan Solidaritas Sosial: Perkembangan Masyarakat Islam Periode Madinah. *Jurnal Pemberdayaan Masyarakat*, 7(1), 31.