

Politic and Psychology in Decision Making in Indonesia

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Abstract

Election is the implementation of freedom to vote which involves political movement in making decision. Politic is the field of war which have very complex entities with many interest and strings of power. Politicians need high level of cognitive ability in making any decision related to a political movement, because a wrong misstep could ruin their reputation, abundant money loss, as well as their own lives. Because the main goal in politics is to get power and authority, the reason behind the decision-making of politicians is simply for the sake of their mutual interest. The absence of power in common people could lead to chaos during the COVID-19 outbreak as a result of loss in the source of income. This study has the purpose to observe the relation between power and politic in gaining authority, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords: COVID-19, Disruption, Decision Making, Politic, Unemployment

1. Introduction

Election is the implementation of people's sovereignty which is carried out directly, publicly, freely, secretly, honestly, and fairly based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. The general election in Indonesia held every 5 years to vote for Legislative chosen from political parties at the central level, State Parliament (DPR-RI), Provincial Parliament (Provincial DPRD), City Parliament (City DPRD), and Representative Council Regions (DPD-RI). Another is choosing the President and its vice as the leader of the nation (Törnquist, 2019).

Political parties use every possible means to get as many votes as they can to conquer both in government as well as in the house of Representatives. Generally, being elected as president does not grant omnipotent power rather the president itself should follow the will of the House of Representatives. Commonly both house of representative and president are elected from the same parties, so that there is no conflict of interest in the future. As a result, capitalism behind the general

election is strongly rooted as a foundation in deciding the flow of power between each party.

The perspective in deciding elected mayors and governors depend on the motivation behind their participation in election. Decision-making can be considered as a result of psychological process that leads to the selection of a choice among several available alternatives. According to Preston and MacMillan-Ladd in their study, decision-making is a process through a combination of individuals and groups and integrating existing information into implementation of action. Moreover, decision making is a process of evaluating existing options to achieve the intended goal (Preston and MacMillan-Ladd, 2020).

For the heads of local government in Indonesia, their decision-making in taking action toward series of regulations for the public is highly influenced by political parties vision and mission, as well as how much fund they have spent during the election. This study reviews the psychology of Indonesian politicians in taking decision. It also concludes several articles which observe about decision-making theory, as well as political theory.

2 The Goal Setting Theory in Making Decision

Decision making are attempts to create an incident for intended future events. Decision making is the selection of alternative behavior from two or more alternatives. Furthermore, decision making is a systematic approach to a problem to create the best solution by collecting facts and data, smart determination toward available alternatives, and taking the most appropriate action (Ravaja et al., 2016).

In this 21st century, deciding on an institution or enterprise tends to adhere the economy principle, so that the decision would avoid the profit loss or disappearance of economic opportunities. Decision making in general is a complex phenomenon, including all aspects of life, covering various dimensions, and the process of choosing from a variety options available (Soria and Stebleton, 2013).

The theory of decision making is based on the concept of satisfaction. Based on this concept, decision making by managers and company owners are executed based on the economic ratio to maximize its utility. In this case, information from the financial accounting and marketing team is mostly used by the management team for the foundation before reaching an economic decision (Nevill and Schlecker, 1988).

Decision-making not only has a cognitive aspect, but also emotional too. Parray et al. in their study state that emotions inside the mental state of an individual could give a warning that there is an important feature of a situation and provide instruction for cognitive and behavior process (Park et al., 2011). When people are faced with the option, their psychology will start to think about the description of the option, the consequence of taking an option, and the possible outcome of that decision. The strong emotional factor also plays an important role in influencing the decision making of choosing an option (Sarkova et al., 2013).

One of the criteria for choosing among alternatives in the management level of the company is maximization of profit, usefulness, and expected value of product and service. In the classical economic model, human with rational thought always try to maximize usability (Rouvette et al., 2004). For a company or enterprise, usability is usually recognized not only as an achieved profit, but also sales results, market parts, and so on. Taking decision is intended to avoid risk to meet expected results. Decision making is a matter in which choice is the better than the other option (Latham, 2003).

Decision making is the result of a process that involves an assessment in evaluating various options and decides which option to choose. Decision making could only occur when there is one or more option appeared. Moreover, the option that will be chosen must have a positive value or something desirable. Preston & MacMillan-Ladd in their study state that the decision-making process always involves the cognitive aspect, and the theory of psychology focuses on elucidating the cognitive processes that influence individual in taking choice (Preston and MacMillan-Ladd, 2020). Study by Latham shows that different individual in different circumstances tend to think about decisions in the same way, which conclude that humans have similar cognitive skills. The variation in choosing an option between each people is highly influenced by their cognitive skills and limitations to decide whether the option is ideal or not for them (Shu and Peck, 2011).

3 Theory of Decision Making in Politics

Psychology is a complex system that involves experiences that arise in humans such as feeling,

thought, intention, and will, which are implemented into their daily action and behavior. When people make a decision, they are influenced by psychological factors both from the inner or outer self (Harman et al., 2019). The normative decision theory in Psychology appeared in the 20th century; a theory of how decisions must be made to be rational. According to Latham, decision making requires the art of choosing alternatives to achieve the intended goals. It requires factors based on present, past, and future times by comparing the obtained information to find alternative ways as many as possible (Gonzalez and Quesada, 2003).

Making a decision entangles many aspects that could influence the psychological circumstances of an individual. One of them is based on subjective feelings by following thoughts without considering own abilities to cope with the outcome of the action. This could be influenced by individual experience in solving the problem of finding the best method in fulfilling the desire (Whittington and Bell, 2016). When an individual have to make a decision which could influence the fate of many people, rational problem solving is preferred because it involves various objective considerations ranging from problem explanation, objectives, and collecting various alternatives with the risks that will emerge. Individual will prefer choice according to the criteria and alternatives prepared, and choosing the maximum result from the various alternatives as performance (Gonzalez et al., 2017).

Politics is the field of war which have very complex entities with many interest and strings of power. Politicians need high level of cognitive ability in making any decision related to political movements, because a wrong misstep could ruin their reputation, abundant money loss, as well as their own lives. Individuals who will nominate themselves as legislative candidates will go through a selection process before deciding to compete for regional head (Latham and Locke, 1991). Decision making itself is a part of human that cannot be separated and varies between individuals based on the cultural background. When individuals make a decision, their rationality and intuition affect the obtained result. There are several stages to lead to a stable decision, namely, understanding the problems faced, formulating the core of the problem, developing alternatives to problem solutions, exploring information related to alternatives, selecting alternatives that are close to solutions, decisions, and action/implementation of decisions (Locke, 1996).

The role of regional heads is very important to support local government accountability and transparency. The elected regional head is expected to be a competent individualism with vast knowledge about politics. The competence of managers in the

public sector affects the timeliness of the delivery of financial reports which could accelerate or impede the central government (Aminuddin and Attamimi, 2019). The outcomes of an organization, both strategic goals and effectiveness, are a reflection of the values and cognitive abilities of the “actors” behind them (Hidayaturrahman and Sudarman, 2019).

In Indonesia, The local government management paradigm started a new chapter along with the implementation of regional autonomy since the beginning of 2001. One of the principles related to autonomy is decentralization. The idea of decentralization is granting authority to local governments to take care of their household finance management. Regional government are demanded to be creative and innovative in optimizing local potential to increase regional performance, both non-financial performance and financial performance (Sumaryana et al., 2017). Financial performance improvement will continue to be pursued because it can boost local government for achieving goals of non-major performance finance, namely the creation of community welfare (Engström and McKelvie, 2017).

4. Politic, Power, and Religion toward Decision Making in Society

Politic always involves complex hierarchy and interest of individual or a group of people. The main goal in politics is to get power and authority over the society, institution, or company. There is no politic without the pursuit of power. The more power a politician has, the better option he/she has in politic as well as in societal norm. Decision making also influences with the power and authority individual has.

Michael Foucault is the famous figure in the study about the relation between power and politic. Power based on what Foucault thinks is not to be recognized as the ownership of property, acquisition, or privilege that can be held by small communities and could be endangered. Thus, power is not to be understood to operate negatively through repressive actions, coercive, and suppressing the weak by using an institution as power, include a country. In social class, the function of power is not the domination of class according to the control over the economy or ideological manipulation, nor due to charisma (Allen and Goddard, 2014).

Power is not viewed negatively, but positively and productive. Power is not an institution or structure, not the power possessed, but power is a term that is used to describe a deep and complex public strategic

situation. As a result, power could become the source in deciding strategic situation through the decision making of local government in controlling cultural and economic system in society. According to Foucault, power must be viewed as diverse and spread relations like a network as strategic scope (Heyes, 2014).

For local chief election in Indonesia, especially in big cities, the issue of unemployment as well as the prosperity of workers remains unsolved. The unemployment rate caused by the globalization, high competition, and lack of appropriate skills taught in formal education has been used for many politicians to gain more votes. Moreover, the outbreak of COVID-19 causes high unemployment rate as a result of limitation of economic activity issued by the government. The psychology of society now are more under pressure and local government needs quick decision-making to find the alternative solution to cope with the unemployment (Setiati and Azwar, 2020).

Blustein and Guarino states on their study that COVID-19 could influence the psychology of society stronger than in ordinary day because every economic sectors are reduced its productibility as a result of physical distancing and lockdown. COVID-19 outbreak also has a huge impact on export-import sector in each country which could cause massive disruption in the international trading scale (Blustein and Guarino, 2020). As a result, many big companies has lost their profit. For middle and small scale enterprises, it could led to bankruptcy and massive unemployment would be occurred every month (Suryahadi et al., 2020).

One of the sector which is heavily influenced with COVID outbreak is the tourism sector. With no visitor since there is a travel warning, the economic sector around tourism vacancies are now collapsed (Olivia et al., 2020). Local government are responsible to cope with situation, since they have the authority to manage financial allocation. But in reality, the psychology of politicians who prioritize capitalism besides socialism disrupts tourism sector become worsening now. One of the example is in the members of the House of Representative which still get full salary with huge incentive, instead of cutting their own incentive for helping people which are affected by COVID-19. Another is the local government who do not give any sponsorship to tourism vacancies who are really need of help in maintaining their daily life, because no income available for them. It can be understood that politicians have been spent massive amount of funds to be elected as authorities (Bol, 2016).

Tourism supporting sectors such as hotels, restaurants, and entrepreneurs retail will also be affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Hotel occupancy has decreased to 40 percent impact on the continuity of the hotel business. The lack of tourists also impacts some restaurants in which most of their consumers are tourists. Reducing number of tourism because of COVID-19 also has an impact to retail industry.

Economy is one of the important factors in human life. Economic activity is always connected to daily life of society, because every society needs are always related to economic activity. The existence of the economy can provide opportunities for humans to satisfy daily necessities such as food, drink, dress, and place to live. The importance of economy in human life demands the state to set policies about the economy and guarantee the economy of the citizens. When the economic sectors are disrupted, the social sectors are also in chaos and can cause turmoil inside society because of the necessity to satisfy primary needs.

5. COVID-19 and Psychology of Unemployed People

It is known that the COVID outbreak causes several countries faced with economic recession, even in modern country such as USA. Indonesia as developing country has vulnerable position to get sunk into economic recession since many unemployment happened and a huge number of small and medium enterprise have gone bankrupt during this pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has three psychological effects for people which are crisis, uncertainty, and loss of control. The effect of the crisis is characterized by coming on suddenly without preparation, and having a pressing negative effect.

The uncertainty which is causes by this pandemic put more stress to people without authority because more burden will be experienced by them. Those without power could not find the new source of income from economy system and would be put under unemployment. As a result, high number of unemployment rate could create more criminal cases. Mimoun et al state on their study that losing a job can be emotionally tiring, and the uncertainty caused by COVID-19 pandemic could add even more stress. Losing a job often produces the same grief as losing someone. The emotional stage of grieving is the same, starting with shock which causes denial. The individual then feeling angry and bargaining which needs along time be be undergone before reaching the stage of acceptance and hope (Mimoun et al., 2020).

Conclusion

Psychology is a complex system which involves experiences that arise in human. When people make a decision, they are influenced by psychological factors, both from inner or outer self. Politic always involves complex hierarchy and interest of individual or a group of people. The main goal in politic is to get power and authority over the society, institution, or company. There is no politic without the pursuit of power.

In the COVID-19 outbreak, those who have power can maintain their primary needs without problem while others without power cannot. This disruption in economic sector caused by COVID-19 outbreak also causes turmoil inside society as a result of unemployment. Unemployment itself could change psychology of people into state of chaos, such as criminality.

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