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# ADVOCACY MODEL OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS IN PUBLIC PROBLEM SOLUTION (Study on the Role of Islamic Boarding Schools in Lampung Province)

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## Abstract

There are many public problems in Lampung Province that need to be resolved by the government. However, it turns out that the government has limited resources and technology capabilities so that various public problems cannot be completely resolved. On the other hand, as part of civil society groups, the role of Islamic boarding schools can be said to occupy a strategic position as agents who can provide understanding to the people (community) and assist the government regarding various public problems such as social conflicts, religious fundamentalism that occurs in several areas. in Lampung Province as well as other issues concerning public policy and governance. Therefore, research on the strategy and advocacy of Islamic boarding schools in solving various public problems, for example in terms of religious fundamentalism and social conflicts, is important to do. The aims of this study are to: 1) describe the role and strategies of Islamic boarding schools in responding to public problems, 2) explain the implications of the roles and strategies carried out by Islamic boarding schools in solving public problems, and 3) explain the factors that influence affect the ability of Islamic boarding schools to solve public problems. In the long term, the study of Government Science related to the relationship between the state and civil society will develop further with the modification of the theory of civil society as a result of this research. The independent character of civil society organizations (including Islamic boarding schools) is recognized by the community as a new force capable of contributing to collaboratively solving public problems. This type of research is descriptive research that uses a qualitative approach and analysis. Primary data was obtained by conducting interviews and observations to at least 3 Islamic boarding schools in Lampung Province in the focus of different advocacy objects. The secondary data was obtained from searching reports and research related to the advocacy topic of Islamic boarding schools which are directly related to this research. The results of the study show that civil society groups, Islamic boarding schools in the study locations have shown a good model of citizen participation by being actively involved in advocating for public issues that occur around their Islamic boarding schools using eight stages of advocacy. The use of eight stages of an advocacy strategy with two main strategies, namely a persuasion strategy and an advocacy strategy, has been proven to provide maximum contribution to the resolution of public problems that are the object of advocacy. The factor of choice of public issues and the level of acceptance of stakeholders on public issues that are advocated are proven to be the factors that most influence the success of the advocacy model of this Islamic boarding school.

**Keywords:** *Public Issues, Islamic Boarding Schools, Advocacy Strategies.*



## 1. Introduction

The involvement of civil society organizations in the management of government is very important. This is based on the idea that the government has limitations in the availability of funding sources, human resources and technology, as well as collaboration between communities (Imansari, 2019).<sup>16</sup> On the other hand, the paradigm of civil society development in the community empowerment model must also contribute thoughts and concrete actions so that civil society is able to interact with the state in the opinion formation movement or other strategies in an effort to influence government policy through a democratic process in achieving the common good in society. focus on political affairs, state affairs, as well as other public affairs or cases. The ethnic diversity in Lampung shows the existence of a pluralistic society. It is undeniable, with the condition of a pluralistic society, the negative impact is that many conflicts arise. This fact is confirmed by Silvana's (2013) study on mapping conflict-prone areas in Lampung Province. The research describes that the root causes of Lampung Province as one of the conflict-prone areas are generally caused by political, economic, socio-cultural issues between religious communities, ethnic groups, communities with business actors and the unbalanced distribution of natural resources.

The justification that Islamic boarding schools are civil society groups is as expressed by Dawam Raharjo (in Culla, 2019) who explains that civil society is an integration of the ummah or society as seen through the form of Nahdaltul Ulama and Muhammadiyah in Indonesia. According to him, the concept of civil society is an association of groups based on religion as the source, civilization as the process and urban society as the result. As part of a civil society group, the role of Islamic boarding schools can be said to occupy a strategic position as agents who can provide understanding to the people (community) regarding various public problems such as conflict issues and religious fundamentalism that occurred in several areas in Lampung Province. This is confirmed by research conducted by Mustafa (2011) that as a religious institution, Islamic boarding schools have a central role in society. As also recorded in the history of nationality, the Islamic boarding school community has always been actively involved in peace initiatives ranging from being involved in resolving communal conflicts to formulating the national basis of the Indonesian state.

There has actually been a lot of research on the role of Islamic boarding schools and their relation to the advocacy carried out by these Islamic boarding schools. In the advocacy aspect, for example, Lay (2017), Barnes et al. (2016), Saputra (2015), Rahadi and Asmara (2015), and Aspinal (2013). Even so, research that uses Islamic boarding schools as objects of research has also been found very much. In addition, research on the role of Islamic boarding schools in the life of the nation and state is often carried out. However, research that combines the three, namely advocacy, Islamic boarding schools, and public issues at the grassroots level so far has not been found by many researchers. Based on a review of several previous studies, researchers see that there are still gaps that can be used to examine the active role and strategy of Islamic boarding schools in solving public problems, for example in countering the spread of religious fundamentalism and resolving social conflicts that exist in the community around Islamic boarding schools.

## 2. Literatur review

### Strategy and Advocacy Concept

Based on some of the explanations above, strategy is an art in preparing individual plans or a formal or informal organization to ensure the goals to be achieved can be achieved



properly and are carried out effectively. The strategy created is expected to be adapted to the internal or external environment of the individual and the organizational environment. A strategy that is able to match the organization's capabilities and resources with its environment can be ascertained to be able to achieve the goals to be achieved. In the context of this research, the strategy is a boarding school strategy aimed at solving public problems. Advocacy can be interpreted as an effort to approach other people who are considered to have an influence on the success of a program or activity being carried out. so that the targets or targets of advocacy are the leaders of an organization or work institution, both in government and private circles, as well as community organizations. The meaning or advocacy has a broad meaning, many experts have different views on advocacy.

According to (Goyena, 2006) <sup>14</sup> advocacy is an act of influencing or supporting something or someone. <sup>1</sup> Advocacy as an attempt to influence public policy through various forms of persuasive communication. In other defines, advocacy as a persuasion effort that includes awareness activities, rationalization, argumentation and recommendations for follow-up on something. Advocacy is understood as a process that connects various elements in civil society through the formation of strategic alliances that fight for the creation of social justice by pushing for changes in public policies.

Based on this concept, some defining <sup>7</sup> characteristics of advocacy can be seen in several aspects. First, advocacy is an activity initiated by citizens, acting individually or collectively and often represented by non-profit organizations. This is in contrast to public participation activities initiated by government agencies, including by familiar outreach means such as public hearings, citizen surveys, or others. Second, the advocacy method involves a deliberate process to influence decision makers or influence a social or community agenda within the framework of building political will around action. <sup>12</sup> Third, the ultimate goal of advocacy is policy change or policy-making processes and generally to make policies more accessible and transparent known as 'participatory <sup>12</sup> advocacy (Chapman and Wameyo, 2001).

### Overview of Factors Affecting Advocacy Strategy

The implementation of a policy or program is not carried out in a vacuum. Implementation occurs in an area in which there are various factors: social, economic, and political that have an important contribution to implementation activities. Among these factors, political factors are considered to have the dominant influence. As Lindblom and Woodhouse put it, <sup>6</sup> 'the actions of policy implementers are considered to be political, because they have the possibility of altering and influencing political decisions the basis of their own knowledge, insights and interests'.

Taking into account the opinion of deLeon and deLeon (2001), the variables that affect the success of implementation are not only related to the dimensions of administration and management which are strongly influenced by the idea of Woodrow Wilson (1887) about the political-administrative dichotomy, but also relates to the process of how the policy is formulated. According to deLeon and deLeon, if the policy has been formulated in a democratic way, the potential for the policy to succeed will be even greater. With arguments, the community has a better understanding of the program's objectives as well as providing input. The community understands the benefits of the program, as well as being able to identify the obstacles, in addition to better recognizing the implementation mechanism. More than that, implementation performance can be measured through, first, how big the level of community participation in designing the program, and second, whether the program design is implemented properly so as to achieve the objectives.



### 3. Research Methods

The research locations are three Islamic boarding schools in East Lampung Regency, Pesawaran Regency, and Pringsewu Regency as cases with different advocacy objects. This type of research is descriptive research that uses a qualitative approach and analysis. The term qualitative research is intended as a type of research whose findings are not obtained through statistical procedures or other calculations (Basrowi and Suwandi, 2008).

This qualitative approach relies on human instruments in collecting and accumulating empirical data through in-depth interviews and observations (as primary data) as well as supporting data from reports and other research results (as secondary data) for further inductive analysis to obtain a factual description. complete description of the roles and advocacy strategies of the three Islamic boarding schools and their implications for solving public problems as well as the driving or hindering factors for the success of the said advocacy roles and strategies. This research focuses on three basic objectives, namely 1) describing the role and strategy of Islamic boarding schools in responding to public problems, 2) explaining the implications of the roles and strategies carried out by Islamic boarding schools in solving public problems, and 3) explaining the factors involved in solving public problems. factors that affect the ability of Islamic boarding schools to solve public problems.

### 4. Result And Discussions

#### Advocacy Strategy in the Issue of Religious Radicalism

The terminology of "radicalism" is indeed diverse. According to Azyumardi Azra, the word radical refers to certain conditions, people, or movements that want social and political change quickly and thoroughly, and are often carried out using uncompromising and even violent means, not peaceful means. Thus, religious radicalism relates to how to fight for the religious beliefs they hold without compromise and if necessary, by means of anarchism and violence. The factors that give rise to radicalism in the field of religion, among others, are (1) wrong or narrow understanding of the religious teachings they adhere to, (2) social injustice, (3) poverty, (4) political revenge by making religious teachings a motivation to justify his actions, and (5) social inequality or jealousy over the success of others.

Islamic boarding schools in essence cannot be separated from the history of the development and development of the nation. So in that context, today's empowerment is increasingly needed for network development and cooperation between caregivers of Islamic boarding schools. It is a struggle that is quite heavy for pesantren to develop their existence, so it is impossible to be left alone without the care of various elements of society and the government. So we need a "cooperation forum" between pesantren by involving themselves in the agenda of empowering pesantren in Lampung by advocating for strengthening them into pesantren organizations and providing access for them in developing their communities to various aspects of education, information technology, economics, socio-cultural to politics. . To design his empowerment agenda above, workshops on improvement, network development and efforts to overcome religious radicalism were carried out. And this activity is also the main theme.

Diniyyah Putri Islamic Boarding School conducts advocacy through the government to overcome terrorism with related institutions, such as BNPT, POLRI etc. Through the government held an association initiated by the lodge to invite community leaders,



religion, customs, and youth. Then there will be socialization and dialogue on the issues that develop in this case regarding terrorism and religion. In this dialogue, all participants will be given guidance and guidance, because there will provide an understanding of everything about the dangers of terrorism directly to the community. With what the Pondok has done, it has proven that the Pondok is advocating for a peaceful life, on the other hand terrorism is synonymous with radical Islam.

Then, the relationship between the cottage and the public is continuous, meaning that the lodge invites, embraces and facilitates the needs of the community, in this case the cottage also plays an active role in activities held around the lodge. While preaching Islamic values, the lodge also invites and provides an understanding of sacred Islamic values. With the condition of the majority of the people with high economic inequality, the cottage also tries to provide compensation to the orphans and the elderly, not only in the form of events and activities, the cottage is also active in donating both material and non-material in the form of ideas and ideas. Then on every big day of Islam, the Pondok holds recitations by involving all elements of society without exception.

### **Advocacy Strategy in the Issue of the Draft Criminal Procedure Code and the Weakening of the KPK**

The strategy used by Islamic boarding schools tends to use pressure strategy and predispose strategy. Islamic boarding schools are a complete institution in influencing these policies, because Islamic boarding schools consist of kyai santri, especially the Al-Hidayah Islamic boarding school is a boarding school with a Nahdatul Ulama background which tends to play a kyai as a Predispose strategy because the kyai is considered capable of leading the way. public opinion. Meanwhile, students can take actions to pressure the government by joining the student alliance in Nahdatul Ulama through PMII to join and voice the voice of a joint demonstration.

### **The role of Representative District of Nahdlatul Ulama Lampung Province in countering Radical Islamic Ideology**

The role carried out by Representative District of Nahdlatul Ulama Lampung Province has not been optimal. However, Representative District of Nahdlatul Ulama Lampung Province has tried to carry out work programs that are oriented towards countering Radical Islamic ideology as mentioned in the work program above.

The relationship that occurs with public problems related to the Draft RKUHP Bill and the weakening of the KPK has received serious attention, including Islamic boarding schools, considering that the KPK is a tool to eradicate corruption in Indonesia that was created by the NU charisbadik cleric Gusdur in his time. Islamic boarding schools in an effort to influence policies or public order also take steps that all lines can enter, because Islamic boarding schools have created many scholars, culturalists, businessmen, to political leaders. So that the relationship that occurs between Islamic boarding schools and public problems can be advocated by Islamic boarding schools using existing strategies, either through lobbying or demonstrations. Both kyai and santri have a big role in advocating for these government policies or regulations.

Al-Hidayah Islamic Boarding School in bringing this problem to the fore by giving lectures to every citizen and santri related to the government policies and regulations, so that public opinion will be awakened so that they equate the same thoughts regarding the RKUHP and the weakening of the KPK after they agree then they can take action.



pressure on the government, but the way is to join other alliances and students, by building a strong coalition to be able to influence government policy. Controversial laws must be revised and resolved together so that no one feels disadvantaged by these regulations. Moreover, the regulation is full of the interests of the rulers alone. The strategy and advocacy carried out by the Al-Hidayah Islamic Boarding School is an illustration that Islamic Boarding Schools have a big role in influencing public policy if they are united between one institution and another. As a major force, the strategy used by Islamic boarding schools is a complete package, they can advocate from various lines, both through the grassroots and through a network of superiors. However, in Islamic boarding schools, al-Hidayah Islamic boarding schools tend to use an approach through the community, not through the government.

The relationship between the advocacy strategy of Al-Hidayah Islamic boarding school in using the strategy tends to use the Predispose Strategy as an effort to advocate for the community in the Islamic boarding school environment in influencing public policies related to the draft RKUHP and weakening the KPK. Islamic boarding schools use this strategy on the sidelines of recitations held in the boarding school environment, and when invited to recitations in other areas. Except for students who are already in college, we encourage them to join other student actions so that these regulations can be changed or canceled (Basrori and Mukhlis, 2017).

### Advocacy Strategy in Social Conflict Issues

Advocacy carried out by Islamic boarding schools is advocating for the occurrence of social conflicts in the community. The conflict in question is related to criminal acts which were then carried out by a group of people in this case the theft and resulted in polarization in the community and triggered clashes between villages. Take, for example, the conflict that occurred between the Betengsari village community and the Negara Batin village in 2016. The conflict began when a robbery occurred, then the perpetrator was caught and judged until he died. In the aftermath of the incident, the perpetrator's family from the Negara Batin Village prosecuted Betengsari Village for 200 million. The threat, if not fulfilled, will be carried out an attack.

After the incident, conflict re-occurs in the community. The main cause also comes from criminal acts. People are worried about the theft. The case is almost the same as before, if the perpetrator is caught, he will threaten and fight. People who were initially silent, one day they put up a fight and a conflict arose that was getting bigger and bigger. From these events, the steps taken by the Al-Ittihad Islamic Boarding School were to mediate by gathering several community leaders to conduct deliberations. Previously, the community had made a complaint to the village and had been handled by the police. However, no follow-up on solving the problem was carried out. In the end, the community complained to the Al-Ittihad Islamic boarding school in order to provide solutions to the problems. In that context, Islamic boarding schools do advocacy.

## 5. Conclusions And Suggestions

The research findings juxtaposed with the ideals of the advocacy model resulted in the conclusions of this study, as follows:

- a) As a civil society group, the Islamic boarding school in the study location has shown a good model of citizen participation by being actively involved in advocating for public issues that occur around their Islamic boarding school using 8 (eight) stages of advocacy, namely (a) choosing the advocacy objectives that appropriate, (b) use good data, (c) identify targets, (d) package and develop a good message, (e) form



- coalitions, (f) choose persuasive strategies, (g) gather resource support, and (g) evaluate persuasion strategies.
- b) The use of eight stages of an advocacy strategy with two main strategies, namely a persuasion strategy and an advocacy strategy, has been proven to provide maximum contribution to the resolution of public problems that are the object of advocacy.
- c) The choice of public issues and the level of public acceptance (stakeholders) of the public issues being advocated proved to be the most influencing factors for the success of this Islamic boarding school advocacy model.

## 6. Acknowledgement

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