THE ROLE OF STUDENTS IN ISLAMIC POLITICS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ERA OF MODERNISATION

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Abstract

Students have a role as agents of change as activists for the country, students who are faced with various challenges in this modernisation era have many challenges and also increasingly complex demands. The development of technology has a big impact at this time. Students continue to strive to overcome problems in the development of this nation. In our country, students play many roles in the political world including (1) Awareness of politics and education, (2) Advocacy of social justice, and (3) Moral guardians in the political world. However, students are still faced with various challenges in this global era related to their status as Muslim intellectuals. The challenge is the lack of understanding from the Muslim community about the principles of Islam.

Keywords: Student's role, advocacy, social justice, guardian of political morality

A. Introduction

Politics is inherent to this nation and also cannot be separated from its participation in the community, especially for students.

Participation is an important aspect of democracy[1] . Indonesia, which adheres to the principle of democratic thought, understands that participation is sovereignty from the people and for the people, which means that sovereignty is influenced by the people and will also benefit the people. Participation in politics is participation in the political world, which means the freedom of citizens to follow the processes that exist in politics[2] . In their participation, students play a very important role in the development of the political world at this time, not only as voters but also as agents *of change* who can affect changes in the community.

In social life, we cannot deny that not everyone wants to participate in political discussions. Political awareness involves responsibility and rights as a society. History has stated that people who want to follow political developments are those who have higher education, who are often involved in an organisation or community that is in it[3] , Because with this, students can get to know more about politics. The organisation on campus is a new experience and also a place to learn to understand the dynamics of politics because the organisation is the first step for students can develop and also learn more about the structure which is not far from the current political development.

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[1] Hasbi Wahyudi and others, 'The Role of Political Trust and Democracy Satisfaction on Student Political Participation', 9 (2013).

[2] Wahyudi and others.

[3] Journal of Research and Service for Pancasila and Civic Education and others, 'SEMAYO: Improving Community Political Awareness in Facing the Challenges of Globalisation through Political Education', 1.1 (2023), 12-22.

Harrod Lasweel defines politics simply as *who gets* what, when and how.[4] In this time of modernisation, it is very challenging for Islamic students to contribute to the world of politics. The existence of global transformation and the rapid development of technology require students to be able to adopt many Islamic values in their journey in politics.

In this context, it is very important to explore the role of students in politics from an Islamic perspective and also highlight the challenges that will be faced by students in determining their future steps in the era of modernisation. With moral awareness, students should be able to maintain following the values set out in Islam.

The role played by students is very crucial in politics by considering religious values and also the challenges for students in maintaining an Islamic identity attached to themselves in this modernisation era. And students must be smart in reading the gaps to contribute to the inclusive and sustainable political stage which is a characteristic of politics in Indonesia.

B. Methodology

This article uses a quantitative approach by collecting data through a literature review by including several studies that have been made and are also relevant to the title. According to Afifuddin (2012) literature review as a very important tool for comparison,

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[4] Weekly Review and Islamic Studies, 'Delivered at the Islamic Studies Forum for Indonesia (ISFI) Weekly Review at IIUM, Wednesday, 9 April 2014', April, 2014.

because literature can help in presenting a context that is being carried out and relevant [5]

C. The Role of Students in Politics According to Islam

The role of students in politics according to Islam is very important, where students have many roles that affect the situation in politics as agents of social and political change in the scope of society. Students must also be able to play a very active role as enhancers of moral strength, and social control, and also as an agents of change in the development aspects of the Indonesian nation[6] . Students also have a moral and social responsibility to ensure that the values contained in Islam can be implemented in the political system and society. According to Sodjatmako, a very big dilemma for intellectuals is the dilemma of the relationship between intellectuals and power being made into one unit[7].

In the hands of students, the Indonesian nation can develop or not, students who are considered intellectuals can understand how the situation in the Indonesian nation. If students cannot maintain a balance in the political system, national development will have an impact on the process. The impact that can be felt is that it greatly affects the welfare of the Indonesian people.

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[5] B A B Ii, 'Literature Review', 2002, 26–84.
[6] Adina Sukmawati and Al Rafni, 'The Role of the Muhammadiyah Student Association Youth Organisation in Implementing Political Education for Youth in Padang City', *Journal of Civic Education*, 3.2 (2020), 191–99 <https://doi.org/10.24036/jce.v3i2.349>.
[7] Haniah Hanafie and Ana Sabhana Azmy, 'Political Forces', *Political Forces*, 2018, pp. 1–4.

Therefore, students should be the contact person between the government and the community so that the stigma of instability in the Indonesian nation can be minimised. Students have also been improved, learnt, and raised by their environment[8] so that students can have a social function that is of great use to society.

The role of students in politics according to Islam has several perspectives, including the following:

1. Political awareness and education

    This is very difficult to separate in the student movement and also the politics that exist in this nation, students who are dubbed as agents of change must be able to eliminate the stigma of society, which considers that politics is a bad thing so that many people are reluctant to get involved in it[9] .

    The unevenness of education is increasingly visible, the orientation towards education is still very cognitive, which still considers that students are only a complement in politics. What students do is sometimes still far from the expectations that exist, students should be included as people who are expected to be able to change the situation in today's society[10] . To be able to understand political awareness in students, a lot of motivation is

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[8] Abdus Sair, 'Campus and the Degradation of Students' Political Knowledge', *Journal of Humanist Sociology of Education*, 1.1 (2016), 9–20 <https://doi.org/10.17977/um021v1i12016p009>.

[9] Sakinatuz Zahro and others, 'Political Awareness in Indonesia', *JOCER: Journal of Civic Education Research*, 1.2 (2023), 49–64 <https://doi.org/10.60153/jocer.v1i2.34>.

[10] The Western Mirror, 'Page 26', *May-2013*, 7724 (2013), 26–37.

needed in the world of education in learning where students can participate in it.

At this time politics is not a thing that is interpreted well, many individuals use politics as "power" to be able to realise a personal interest that arguably many people are harmed by it. With this continuous thing, it is hoped that education can create a superior generation that has the character of honesty, a justice following the fifth Pancasila, and also a responsibility that must be owned by students. All of these characters are very important in future political development with the emergence of a generation that has these characters giving a clean political impact on its implementation. Awareness of political matters is a willingness in a person without coercion or encouragement from others to be involved in decisions that will be made by the government[11].

With education, students can be literate about technological developments in the era of globalisation, with the rise of hoax news, many are consumed by the news with the spread of information quickly enough, students can minimise unexpected events. With the existence of globalisation, it is not as bad as imagined if students can take part in contributing to the country, in the sense that students who are still indifferent to this are given further attention to be maximised. Therefore, synchronisation between the government and students is needed

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[11] Research and Service for Pancasila and Citizenship Education and others.

to overcome things that have a negative stigma in a country's development.

2. Advocate for social justice

Advocacy is identical to an institution or organisation, and Islam also encourages us to speak out for social justice. The role of students in advocacy cannot be separated. Advocacy comes from a failure in a country in its function. So that there is a movement to get justice to create social justice,

Students are very involved in this movement, where students demand that the state can overcome cases of poverty, injustice, and others which are the duties of the state. Advocacy from an Islamic perspective has existed since the time of the prophet when there was a famous figure at the time of the prophet named Ibn Aiham, at that time ibn aiham performed Umrah, but while performing towwaf his clothes were accidentally stepped on by.2 ` baduwi (people on the margins). Then angrily hitting the baduwi, the baduwi who felt himself weak asked Ummar bin Khattab for help. Ummar told the baduwi to hit Back ibn aiham as he was hit at the beginning12 .

By learning from this story that justice is upheld everywhere, ordinary people need protection from various parties. Students should be able to move this so that the state is not blind to the people at the bottom. Students cannot just be silent watching so

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12 M. Tamyiz Mukharrom, 'Theology of Advocacy', *Al-Mawarid*, 12 (2004), 110–20 <https://doi.org/10.20885/almawarid.vol12.art8>.

much injustice that has been going on, this movement is very much following the essence of Islam, namely justice[13].

Therefore, the policies issued by the state must be analysed whether the policies that have been issued are by the existing functions. Because in its development advocacy is often used for important things to advance social justice in Indonesia. This advocacy is formulated indeed for a systematic struggle to realise social justice and also a change in the policies that have been made by the state, according to Mansour faqih is social advocacy. In carrying out advocacy, students must also be able to approach many groups that are important so that the expected goals can be achieved by employing this approach.[14] Because in the implementation of an advocacy, there must be the greatest strength of the various parties involved, not only students but all elements can be related to the implementation of this advocacy.

3. Moral guardian of the political world and agent of change

In the Islamic view, students are also the holders of control to maintain the moral state in the political world, the role of government critics is very important for students, they must be able to criticise the policies issued by the government whether the policies made are following the conditions needed or it could be that the policies issued by the government are detrimental to

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[13] Mukharrom.
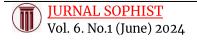[14] Teuku Zulyadi, 'Social Advocacy', *Al-Bayan*, 21 (2014), 63–76.

society. If the policies made are considered detrimental to the community, students do not hesitate to move to fight against things that they think are very detrimental.

The emergence of a movement carried out by students is certain that several factors have deviated, these factors are: First, an anxiety in society with the issuance of a policy from the government that is considered detrimental so that the spirit of opposition arises in students. Second, there is a discrepancy between ideology and bureaucracy. Third, with a movement/action carried out by students, they hope that they can become leaders someday15 .

The student movement is expected to make a difference because it has a considerable influence on political development, but the student movement is still very far from expectations and very far from idealism.

Students as agents of change are felt to be able to make a breakthrough for new things in politics. The presence of students is very important in politics, students as young agents for the nation must be able to master and have innovative and creative things that are supported by a very adequate education. Because

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15 History Education and others, 'Student Movement and Nkk/Bkk Policy in 1978 – 1983', 4.1 (2016), 99–106.

the presence of students can change thinking in society in shaping a character, morals, and also an ethic in society.16

The existence of this movement is a participation in the world of politics for students, as said by Lewis: students are the nation's intellectuals, who seem never satisfied with the decisions made, they must ask whether it is right. And this will always be a wider scope.[17]

These are all roles that do exist for students in the world of politics, in an implementation students are also faced with various challenges that complicate the development of their participation in politics. The challenges faced by students are as follows:

1. Globalisation

With the development of technology being a big challenge for a student, the rise of hoax news that spreads to the public is getting wider. Globalisation will continue to grow rapidly and will also have a direct impact if society cannot control it. Globalisation and politics are closely related, with the existence of social media being evidence that this is closely related to the large number of social media users and the faster people get information on politics having good and bad views. Because globalisation will greatly affect

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[16] Bambang Utoyo Sutiyoso and others, 'The Role of Students in Political Development in the Era of Society 5.0 and Industrial Revolution 4.0', *Nemui Nyimah*, 2.1 (2022) <https://doi.org/10.23960/nm.v2i1.29>.

[17] Study Programme, Relations, and Student Movements, 'Vol.9, No. 1', 9.1 (2000), 61–70.

the nation's generation[18] , therefore globalisation is also a challenge for students if they are not selective in its use.

Restrictions on the use of social media make this a way that can be used so that people are not consumed by political issues that are not clear the truth which results in a division between individuals or groups. In an interest sometimes globalisation is used by some countries to be a bad thing, globalisation is used for colonisation carried out by Western countries.   Globalisation is not just physically colonising but has affected the existing culture[19] . The existence of globalisation has also become a big gap in the country's politics, which makes the political actions in the country become divided. The weakening of nationalism in the nation makes globalisation dominate anything that makes all affected, because "A country experiences contradictions when its transnational interests collide with the interests of its people"[20] .

Globalisation has also had a huge impact on secularisation, often resulting in students playing a role in polarisation in politics, as well as ideological conflict. This makes students uneasy because it has shifted many religious values in political development. In

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[18] Faridahtul Jannah and Ani Sulianti, 'Student Perspectives as Agents of Change Through Citizenship Education', *ASANKA: Journal of Social Science And Education*, 2.2 (2021), 181–93 <https://doi.org/10.21154/asanka.v2i2.3193>.

[19] Aa Bambang A.S, 'DEMOCRACY, INDONESIA'S POLITICAL COMMUNICATION AND GLOBALISATION (Identification and Expectation of Re-planning)', *Journal of Communication and Media Studies*, 19.2 (2015), 303 <https://doi.org/10.31445/jskm.2015.190211>.

[20] R D Estuningtyas, 'The Impact of Globalisation on Politics, Economy, Way of Thinking and Ideology and its Da'wah Challenges', *Al-Munzir*, 2018 <https://ejournal.iainkendari.ac.id/al-munzir/article/view/1118%0Ahttps://ejournal.iainkendari.ac.id/index.php/al-munzir/article/download/1118/882>.

essence, secularisation is the enemy of politics and religion[21] . This also makes students have to be able to maintain existing religious values rather than following secularism in the political world.

2. Ideological Conflict

Students are often faced with challenges regarding ideology in very complex politics. This ideological conflict has occurred since the time Indonesia established a state ideology, the ideology of the state in its creation was debated at that time when the first session of BPUPKI there was a very sharp difference of opinion so at that time it did not reach common ground regarding the basis of the Indonesian state[22] , even the biggest incident of G-30S Pki was a conflict of ideology in Indonesia which at that time already had Pancasila but there was an opposition from communist ideology so that the movement emerged.

This ideology is closely related to religion so it is very risky in the view of the community, that's why the ideology in Indonesia, namely Pancasila, has the words "divinity that is almighty" in the first principle, which underlines that Indonesia's people are religious and do not adhere to other beliefs. In social life itself, the Indonesian people have a similarity in life, the ideology of Pancasila, and also a view of an existing problem.

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[21] Mohamad Latief, 'Islam and Political Secularisation in Indonesia', *Tsaqafah*, 13.1 (2017), 1 <https://doi.org/10.21111/tsaqafah.v13i1.974>.

[22] Gusti Ngurah Santika, Gede Sujana, and Made Astra Winaya, 'Building the Integrative Consciousness of the Indonesian Nation Through Reflection on the Historical Journey of Pancasila in the Perspective of Ideological Conflict'*JED (Journal of Democratic Ethics)*,

Students must be able to maintain existing ideologies from the onslaught of a rapidly growing era of globalisation.

F. Conclusion

In this age of growing modernisation, the presence of students is very important in its role. Especially when asked about their views according to Islamic teachings. Students who are agents of change and also have critical minds have a moral responsibility to participate directly in the development of a society that is aligned with Islamic values.

In this context, there are indeed challenges and opportunities that will be faced by students to participate in politics at this time, the challenge is an era of globalisation that continues to develop today and also the crisis of ideological understanding in the community, but in this era of challenges, students also have many roles in politics such as awareness in politics and education where students move to make students aware of the importance of politics through a proper education, advocacy for social justice, and moral guardians in the political world and agents of change.

To face the challenges and utilise the current role, students must strengthen their awareness of their responsibility to Islamic morals and ethics when engaging in politics. Students must also understand the Islamic principles that are compatible with modern politics.

Thus, the role of students according to Islamic views has great potential for a better future for politics. With a high enough awareness, students can be a positive force to maintain political stability that is inclusive and can also be useful to the entire community.

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