

Strengthening Interest Groups in Empowering Women in the Coastal Area of Makassar City

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Abstract. This study examines the empowerment of women and ex-prostitutes carried out by the interest group. This study explores the empowerment carried out by interest groups through work programs and various government linkages in the empowerment carried out by interest groups. The research took place in Makassar City. The research was qualitative with a phenomenological approach, in which primary data was obtained through observation and in-depth interviews, while secondary data came from various literature, supporting documentation and archives to strengthen primary data. Data were in words and spoken words from the observed research subjects. We employed the theory of civil society, feminism theory, interest group theory, and self-esteem theory. The results of this study indicate that interest groups have control over the empowerment and identity of women, especially former prostitutes. The work program and activities carried out can provide experience and learning materials for former prostitutes regarding several aspects of life such as inculcating morality and helping the community in increasing self-potential, providing guidance and empowerment of former disabled women, conducting counseling, and building strength with legally aid institutions. The government's involvement dealt with providing legal certainty as a social service.

Keywords: Interest groups; empowerment; ex-prostitutes; self-esteem

1 Introduction

One factor social in developing countries or in developed countries, is sometimes associated with women. They are often complex, both social and social, and private. The complexity of the problems of some women is usually raised because of their biased behavior, the social problem of commercial sex workers. The situation affects other conditions, such as self-awareness and self-confidence, a socially inadequate environment, and an economy, forcing them to work outside social boundaries. The phenomenon of prostitutes is indeed felt to be increasingly complex and dilemmatic, both from the causes and impacts caused by prostitutes. Moreover, with the influence of industrialization and globalization which is currently and will occur directly or indirectly, it will have an effect on increasing the growth and population of prostitutes and can further cause conditions that are harmful to healthy social and moral life.

One of the many efforts to overcome the problem of prostitutes is through a program to empower prostitutes. The empowerment of prostitutes is carried out with the aim of fostering

people with prostitution problems to be capable and willing to restore their self-confidence, self-esteem, and social responsibility, so that they can carry out their social functions properly and can live independently normatively like members of the community. other. Empowerment of prostitutes is their position and existence as Indonesian citizens. Strictly in the 1945 Constitution article 27 paragraph 2 which states that every citizen has the right to a decent living and work for humanity. The existence of women with the above conditions, one of which can be found in coastal communities. Especially in Ujung Tanah District. The empowerment of local women and the empowerment of several former prostitutes in improving their identity and economy can already be categorized as economically independent because of the existence of interest groups that empower women. The program involving the community in every activity carried out by interest groups aims so that women in Ujung Tanah Subdistrict can have experience in various things such as how to educate children, socialize with the good of the community, especially neighbors, and entrepreneurship training for women. Until women are taught how to take care of administration, it is the response of this interest group that changes politization in particular to former misanthropic women and, at the same time, improves local communities' economies for the better. In guidance, those who are active in developing themselves, overcoming problems, or making decisions are the individuals themselves. In addition to teaching skills to the people of Ujung Tanah Subdistrict, especially former prostitutes, interest groups also teach them how to be good citizens and obey the laws in force in Indonesia, especially with regard to the protection of children and women so that they understand themselves. Based on the description of the background above, the formulation of the problem to be studied is as follows: (a) how to implement the work program of interest groups in the context of community empowerment, especially ex-prostitutes, and (b) what is the government's role in the implementation of interest group empowerment programs for women and ex-prostitutes?

2 Literature Review

2.1 Civil Society

Civil society here is defined as an area of organized social life with the characteristics of volunteerism, self-sufficiency, self-sufficiency and independence in dealing with the state. Civil society is conceptualized theoretically as a society that is free, from dependence on the state and the market, self-reliance (self-confidence), self-supporting (self-sufficiency), voluntary (voluntary and obedient to applicable values and norms, free from dependence on the state and the market) is intended as a form of the freedom of the community to carry out community activities (social, cultural, political and religious) without state and market intervention, state intervention in society is allowed if there is injustice in social and state life, the rules of the game are violated or the law is not enforced [1].

2.2 Interest Group Theory

Basically, interest groups are a number of people who have the same characteristics, attitudes, beliefs and or goals, who agree to organize themselves to protect and achieve goals. As an organized group, apart from having clear membership, this group also has a leadership pattern, financial resources to finance activities, and communication patterns both inside and outside the organization. Interest groups can also be interpreted as a means to convey or strengthen the delivery of the demands of the interests of community members on the political

system [2]. In addition, interest groups can also be defined as any organization that seeks to influence government policy without at the same time wishing to obtain public office. Political science as part of social science has many perspectives in understanding things, including the concept of interest groups. Starting from this explanation, we will discuss the existence of interest groups, as well as their influence and position in the political system. So far, discussions about the political process have been concentrated on political parties. In fact, in line with the proliferation of people's lives and the emergence of new sectors in life, the existence of interest groups needs to be taken into account politically. In this case, interest groups emphasize more on the condition of society in which there is limited government authority, freedom of the market economy, and the emergence of independent community associations where one another supports each other.

2.3 Liberal Feminism Theory

Liberal feminism strongly supports industrialization and modernization which they consider as a way to improve the position of women because it is based on liberal capitalism which requires equal rights for men and women in various fields including work, political participation, and education [3]. So, a woman must obtain freedom and equality of treatment with men to advance her existence. Women's participation in politics is hampered by a culture that defines women in the traditional division of labor, as both mothers and domestic workers. Based on the explanation above, the researcher can conclude that in the perspective of liberal feminism, women have a position and role in the public sector and demand equality in it.

2.4 Self -Esteem Theory

Self-esteem is an individual's assessment of himself. It expresses an attitude of approval or disapproval of things related to oneself, and shows the extent to which people consider themselves capable, meaningful, successful, and valuable [4]. Self-esteem is an individual's positive or negative assessment of himself as a whole, which includes the individual's attitudes and views of himself. Self-esteem is an individual's positive or negative assessment of himself as a whole, which includes the individual's attitudes and views of himself. Self-esteem also makes an individual have confidence herself. nan to be able to carry out a thing or task. Self-esteem can be said as an evaluative component of self-concept. This is a sense of self-respect and is the result of judging oneself. This evaluation shows how the individual assesses himself and whether or not his abilities and success are recognized. The assessment can be seen from the appreciation of existence and significance [5].

3 Method

This research is qualitative with a descriptive method, namely collecting, describing and analyzing a phenomenon so as to obtain an objective description and sufficient understanding of the study of empowerment conducted by interest groups and the involvement of the government's role in empowering women and virtuous ex-women in Ujung Tanah District, Makassar City. This research using qualitative descriptive method is expected to find an objective picture and sufficient understanding of the process of empowering interest groups and the involvement of the government in implementing the empowerment of women and former prostitutes. By referring to the research method that has been determined, the data collection

techniques that will be used in this research will include 3 (three) ways, namely, Observation, Interview, Documentation and Focus Group Discussion.

4 Findings and Discussion

4.1 Implementation of the Interest Group Work Program in the context of Community Empowerment, Especially Ex-Prostituted Women

The work program in the interest group always involves women, especially former prostitutes. The program involves women, especially former prostitutes in every activity carried out by interest groups, so that they can have experience in various things such as how to respect themselves, socialize well with the community, and entrepreneurship training so that they can earn their own income. Until ex-prostitutes were taught how to take care of administration, it was the responsiveness of interest groups that changed the mindset of ex-prostitutes and at the same time provided new job opportunities for ex-prostitutes and local women for the better. In addition to involving women, especially former prostitutes, this work program also supports their economy, where this work program is named "the deepening of women's character and skills". It has been proven that since the existence of the work program of this interest group, women and former prostitutes in the Ujung Tanah sub-district can open up new job opportunities for themselves and are independent in the sense of increasing their economy. With the increase in the economy for former prostitutes, it is very helpful for them to be separated from their old jobs. The author considers that this character and skill deepening work program teaches former prostitutes and women how to improve the economy by using the skills that exist in each of them.

The first interest group empowerment program is about conducting guidance and empowerment of women, especially ex-prostitutes, empowerment as a change for the better, from being powerless to being empowered. empowerment is related to efforts to improve the standard of living to a better level. Empowerment is increasing the ability and sense of self to use the power possessed in determining actions in a better direction. although in reality it is not optimal in its implementation. Empowerment of ex-prostitutes and women is something that is widely discussed by the community because it is related to progress and change both in knowledge and morals. Skills that are still lacking for former prostitutes will greatly hamper economic growth itself because they do not have skills and have low education, so they as individuals are not able to empower their abilities to the fullest to achieve prosperity in their lives independently. Second, legal aid institutions are one of the social institutions that aim to meet the need for peace and order in the social life of legal institutions and the functioning of law in society effectively and efficiently. Along with the times, people increasingly doubt the capacity and capability of law enforcement and judicial institutions in Indonesia, especially for the poor. The rise of big cases that stick out in public, involving high-ranking state officials and important people in the litigation process in the middle of the road seems to have disappeared into the earth. Especially when law enforcers are very inappropriate to be done by a law enforcer. Many law enforcers are found who are willing to risk their noble duties with a nominal amount of money. It is these kinds of things that cannot be avoided which lead to the emergence of public pessimism about justice in this country because of unethical law enforcers. That is why the Interest group cooperates with a legal aid agency to help former prostitutes and women in the advocacy process so that they can help former prostitutes and women in solving legal problems they are experiencing. With the role of legal aid institutions, it is hoped that they can

participate in achieving the function of legal aid, equitable distribution of legal aid funds, equitable distribution of those who are entitled to legal aid funds and participate in realizing legal institutions as access to justice. Citizenship is very important; therefore the interest group involves the Makassar City KPU in the counseling so that former prostitutes are aware of their role as citizens. Not only that, apart from being aware of their role as citizens, this counseling also adds to the knowledge of former prostitutes about the function of the KPU and how the KPU works. Thanks to this regular counseling, several former prostitutes are now involved in organizing the elections, some of them as District Election Committees, Voting Committees and members of election organizing groups.

4.2 The Role of the Government in the Implementation of the Interest Group Empowerment Program

The shift in the roles of the government requires the state to support the formation of local institutions and provide a space for participation for community involvement in public affairs. Human rights in Indonesia are a very strategic and requires attention from all elements of the nation. In the 1999-2004 Outline of State Policy, it is stated, this is not limited to providing legality from the government to community activities programs, but the government is present in ensuring the creation of justice in the community and the fulfillment of the rights and obligations of the community. Protection of ex-proselytized women and their families is carried out based on concern for others. Descendants of former prostitutes are a priority because children are the successors of this nation. Children become victims of their parents' violence, so interest groups and the government pay attention to children's rights and they are psychic. The violence that happened to his parents was physical and sexual violence. Government and interest groups encourage and motivate him to remain productive in daily activities. The program that is usually carried out is holding monthly counseling activities whose contents are about health checks carried out by the Makassar City Health Office, providing nutrition for children so that their health is maintained. The two governments, as social services, play an active role in handling social problems, especially women and ex-prostitutes. In the area there are several social institutions that play a role in carrying out efforts or activities aimed at helping the welfare of the community. There are various social institutions that cooperate with this interest group. One of them is Legal Aid Institute (LBH) Indonesian Women's Association for Justice (APIK). To increase the knowledge and sense of security of women and especially former prostitutes, the Interest group carries out various forms of empowerment, such as empowerment in the fields of economy, administration, politics to spiritually improving the ex-prostitutes. The existence of support from the Government can prove that Interest Groups can help ease the Government's work in social and community empowerment and it can be said that this Interest Group is an extension of the government's hand in carrying out its duties.

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5 Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1 Conclusion

Efforts to overcome the problem of prostitutes are through a program of empowering prostitutes. The empowerment of prostitutes is carried out with the aim of fostering people with prostitution problems to be capable and willing to restore their self-confidence, self-esteem, and social responsibility, so that they can carry out their social functions properly and can live independently normatively like members of the community. other. Empowerment of prostitutes is their position and existence as Indonesian citizens. Strictly in the 1945 Constitution article 27 paragraph 2 which states that every citizen has the right to a decent living and work for humanity. Prostitutes are legally part of Indonesian citizens, they are citizens who have the same position as other residents, they have the right to have a decent life and work, and they also have the right to have an equal life. So it is only natural that they get guidance to return to the right path, which is in accordance with the norms that apply in this country. The government's role in assisting interest groups in various activities is one of them in terms of moral support. The local government always supports and participates in several activities carried out by the Interest Groups. Synergy is indeed needed between all parties in order to achieve all the targets that are the targets of both the Government and Interest Groups.

In the future, the government, especially in Makassar City, is required to further facilitate the emergence of other local institutions which will synergize with established institutions, as well as empower the community together.

5.2 Recommendation

To encourage the success of empowerment and restore the confidence of former morally impaired women, researchers have suggestions so that the Government and other parties who participate in empowering and supporting former morally impaired women can carry out their lives like other communities. The suggestions given by the authors in this study include: 1. The government should immediately make a Regional Regulation on or a special government program for interest groups so that it becomes a continuous program or activity even though the leadership of the Regional Head will be one after another. 2. seeing the results of each work program of interest groups that prioritize improving identity and restoring the self-confidence of women, especially former morally impaired women, is a reference for the government to pay more attention to community groups as an extension of the government.

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