
THE ROLE OF AGENT OF CHANGE IN THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY IN THE VORTEX OF DUALISM OF AGENTS AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES

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ABSTRACT

This study aim is to see how the role and efforts of intellectual social activist act as agents of change for disabilities people in the vortex of agent's dualism and structures involving the disabled and local governments in Malang City. This study examines the case with a sociological study approach by using the Active Society, Theory of Societal Self-Control developed by American sociologist Amatai Etzioni. The research employed case study research method, with purposive sampling technique. The data collection technique of this study is using in-depth interview techniques, observation, and documentation studies. The data analysis technique used is pattern matching. Valid, data used is the validity technique of the respondents. The results of this study indicate the involvement of the role of intellectual social activist as agents of change in the effort to release persons with disabilities from discriminatory practices committed by the Malang City Government. The role of involvement is carried out by mobilizing the actions of persons with disabilities towards collective action in the field of advocacy as part of efforts to form an active society.

KEYWORDS: Agent of Change, Social Activists, Persons with Disabilities, Government, Collective Action

1. INTRODUCTION

Disability issues in recent years become a hot issue to be discussed by the Indonesian public. Not only among people with disabilities who make it such a daily conversation. However, also these disability issues have reached the realm of discussion in the lives of Indonesian people, especially urban communities in Indonesia. Disability issues in Indonesia always be the topic to discussion. The phenomenon of disability issues arises in the middle of the public sphere of Indonesian society because it was previously caused by several social problems involving several actors who disagreed in them. Then it makes this social problem grow and develop in the realm of life for the people of Indonesia. Especially by involving actors who are at loggerheads in it, namely the government as policy makers with disabilities as executors and connoisseurs of these policies.

The social problems that occur between the government and the disabled are mostly caused by feelings of complacency and injustice concerning the disability community related to public policies that are endorsed by the government. This problems indicated by the amount of news about disability issues and issues that appear to be the topic of discussion in the public domain through print and electronic media in Indonesia. Then, this disability issue develops not only there, but disability issues had been discussed and developed into the academic realm in Indonesia. Related to this problems

that we can be seen by the many intellectuals in Indonesia such as lecturers, students, and several social activists who care about the fate of the disabled in Indonesia.

Intellectuals in Indonesia make people with disabilities part of their academic research by discussing disability issues that are developing in Indonesia. Not only that, some social activists and agents of change in Indonesian society are also very concerned about the sad fate of people with disabilities. They play an active role in helping people with disabilities get out of all forms of discriminatory practices and the negative stigma usually carried out by the government through public policies that tend to harm the disabled. Usually social activists and change agents who want to play an active role in making changes for people with disabilities in a better direction, they form a collective forum that we commonly call the Disability Community. The purpose of this Change Agent is to form a Disability Community to educate people with disabilities so that they can be released from all discriminatory practices and negative stigma from the government. This form of education is usually given jointly or collectively to persons with disabilities in the form of empowerment, training and social assistance.

One of disability community that cares about the fate and rights of citizens with disabilities is the Disability Social Linkar community (LINKSOS) in Malang City. The disability community movement Linkar Sosial (LINKSOS) is very active in terms of helping and fighting for the disabled in Malang City. This is done so that it can be separated from the entanglement of the community's negative stigma and the practice of discriminating local governments through adverse public policies. So, what caused the selection of Malang City and the Community of Social Linkar (LINKSOS) in this case related to the role and efforts of agents of change in helping the disabled in Malang City out of all forms of discrimination practices.

The reason for choosing Malang City is because the authors are interested in Thohari's research journal (2014) about the research argument in his research journal on disability. Thohari stated that in fact since 2013, Malang City had actually been established by the Office of Education and Culture as an inclusive city of education and friendly to people with disabilities. Second, Malang City has a campus that uses the pioneer of inclusive education in higher education, of course this will be contradictory if Malang City itself becomes less friendly to persons with disabilities. Third, Malang is the second largest city in East Java Province after the City of Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia. In this city the population of persons with disabilities is quite high, compared to other cities in East Java (Thohari, 2014: 28).

Indeed, the author must say that the research conducted was not the first research on disability in Malang City. However, previous studies on disability in the city of Malang which then encouraged the motives of the authors were interested in exploring more deeply about the dynamics of the lives of people with disabilities as inferior people in Malang City. In looking at this case, of course the author uses the theories, approaches, and methods of social science in the corridor of the study of sociology.

In this study, the authors departed from the phenomenon of disagreement or conflict between the Malang city government and people with disabilities regarding public policies. Where the viewpoint of the Malang city government may be the formulated public policies that can represent all the aspirations of the people who are accommodated. However, on the other hand there are still people who see that the policy is felt to still not represent all aspirations of the people of Malang in this case the disabled. This phenomenon in the concept of structuration put forward by Giddens is a form of agent dualism and structure. As can be interpreted dualism there are two conflicting principles. Just as in social sciences there are two poles of social science that cannot be put together. Structuralism and Functionalism both propose the concept of object imperialism. Whereas on the other hand the interpretive sociology approach proposes the subject of imperialism as its approach (Maliki, 2012: 297).

However, in the case of this study, the author sees the dualism between agents and this structure as a frame or stage as a research frame. It is precisely the focus of the author in this study interested in the role of efforts of change agents (intellectuals) in the disability community of Linkar Sosial (LINKSOS) in helping disability communities apart from discriminatory practices committed by local governments through their public policies. Where it is expected that the role of agent of change in these efforts can bridge the disability of Malang City out of the practice of discrimination from the dualism relationship with the Malang city government. To dissect the role of the changing agent of the Social Linkar Community (LINKSOS) in mobilizing the disability community in Malang to get out of the shadow of government discrimination practices. The researcher used the Theory of Societal Self-Control developed by Amitai Etzioni, an American-Israeli blooded sociologist.

According to Etzioni in the Theory of Societal Self-Control "Society is seen as a permanent social movement that is involved in intensive and continuous self transformation. The main driver of this self transformation is in the self-changing ability that triggers oneself and creates creative responses from the people. Where these abilities are collectivities, groups, and social organizations. While the mechanism is known as collective action, especially in the framework of the political process. (Sztompka, 2010: 227)

So, the research of the role of agents of disability community change in the vortex of dualism of agents and social structures, the authors formulated the problems to be sought and analyzed in this study based on sociological studies. How the role of the efforts of change agents of the Disability Linkar Social community (LINKSOS) in helping disabled people in Malang City comes out of the discriminatory practices of the regional government.

2. METHODS

This research was conducted in March 2018 in the Linkar Sosial Community (LINKSOS) Malang City, East Java Province, Indonesia. Malang was chosen as the research location, because Malang City has been designated as a friendly city for people with disabilities since 2013, but until the time this research was conducted, there were still many news or articles that contained disability issues

and issues about discriminatory practices and negative stigma to people with disabilities in Malang. The research method used in this study is qualitative with a case study research approach. Determination technique of informants in this study using purposive sampling technique.

The criteria for informants in this study were social activists who belonged to the structural management of the Disability Linkar Social Community (LINKSOS) in Malang City. The data collection technique is done by in-depth interviews with several informants who are in accordance with the informant's characteristics and observations made around the study site. The data analysis technique used is matchmaking patterns (Yin, 2009). As well as the validity of data techniques using the technique of validating respondents with cross check method.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to these problems, it should be known that persons with disabilities are also part of the community within a country. Disability is no different from society in general in a country. Its rights and obligations are the same as those of a normal society living in an area of the country. Even those (disabilities) should get privileges or inclusion guaranteed by the country's constitution. Even in some countries there are those that guarantee the rights and needs of persons with disabilities in their country. Even their lives must be prospered and protected by the country. In fact, in Indonesia, it has been regulated in the Republic of Indonesia's legal system regarding persons with disabilities who must be protected and have the same rights as Indonesian citizens in general. The laws and regulations of persons with disabilities are contained in the Law of the Republic of Indonesia No.4 of 1997.

However, applicative actions towards the laws and regulations have not been fully implementation by regional officials through public policies and rules that have been endorsed by them as agents or actors from state institutions at the regional level, whether executive, legislative and judiciary. Discriminatory practices are still mostly carried out by regents, mayors, and even governors in regional administrations as executors of the tasks of the state constitution at the regional level to persons with disabilities. This case is seen based on the subjective view of persons with disabilities and intellectuals as agents of change in the Disability Linkar Social Community (LINKSOS) in Malang City.

This raises a number of polemic issues and disability issues which seem to have no end which always involves the two groups of agents and actors who are at loggerheads. Phenomena is the point of entry for change agents from the general public to help people with disabilities against the tyranny of regional government that is so pressing on the lives of people with disabilities in Malang City. This is what changes agents do in the Linkar Sosial community (LINKSOS) who are so concerned about the fate of the disabled in Malang City. In this study the authors found several research findings in which the role of agents of change efforts (in this case intellectuals from ordinary people) in helping disability communities fight the tyranny of local government policies that suppress and

discriminate against persons with disabilities. The findings of the research are the role of change agent efforts in the Linkar Sosial community (LINKSOS) in helping people with disabilities in Malang City. Realized in the form of collective actions of change agents and actors with disabilities. The collective action is more patterned towards social movement actions involving agents of intellectual change with disability actors, namely advocacy actions.

The role of intellectuals in the Linkar Sosial community (LINKSOS) as a change agent for disability society has so far provided its role in the form of assistance and spokesperson in four advocacy activities carried out by persons with disabilities in the Linkar Sosial community (LINKSOS) with the Malang city government. The four advocacy activities include: (1) Discussion and Impression with the General Election Commission (KPU) regarding the proposed socialization of procedures for using voting rights for persons with disabilities in the 2019 Election. (2) Directly involved in overseeing socialization activities that conducted by the General Election Commission (KPU) for people with disabilities in Malang City. (3) Demanding that the Malang city government immediately form an integrated service unit in the health sector for persons with disabilities. (4) Actively involved in directly overseeing the process of designing Regional Regulations (PERDA) on disability being formulated by the Regional Representatives Council (DPRD) of Malang City.

The collective action was initiated by three intellectuals in the Linkar Sosial Community (LINKSOS) as agents of change namely Mr Kerta, Mr Adi, and Mr. Faisal. Based on the findings of the study, the three people were not careless agents of change in Malang. They came from intellectuals who were critical of social dysfunction community issues in the city of Malang. Third Change agent has a personal background that cannot be underestimated. Mr. Kerta is a social activist who is an expert in the field of advocacy defending the people who experience social dysfunction such as people affected by leprosy. He is very reliable in the field of advocacy to help people who experience social dysfunction related to the problem of mediating matters and negotiating issues related to social problems involving local government and community social dysfunction. Mr. Adi also has a profile that is not less flashy, he is a graduate of the best Bachelor of Theology in one of the universities in Indonesia, he is also a pastor who has many congregations of people with disabilities in Malang, and also as a teacher in the field of music and Braille . Likewise with Mr. Faisal, he is a social activist who is very critical in voicing disability rights which is attached through his articles published on social media and online disability news portals in Malang City.

These are the frontline agents of change in the Disability Linkar Social Community (LINKSOS) who are always active in carrying out collective actions with persons with disabilities in the Linkar Sosial Community (LINKSOS) especially in the field of advocacy. Such a phenomenon has actually described what Etzioni calls a reflection of active society in the theories he developed (Theory of Societal Self Control).

The formation of affiliation among the disabled people in Malang City with several agents from the intellectual community as agents of change can be said as a unity of what Etzioni said as an active society. Affiliation of people with disabilities through the Social Linkar community (LINKSOS) and agents of change from intellectuals in Malang City as active communities. Due to the purpose or orientation of the affiliation, that is as a response to the demands of the disabled people in the Linkar Sosial Community (LINKSOS) regarding the public policy of the Malang city government that is not accessibility to persons with disabilities. The affiliations of these two groups indicate that they have capabilities as agents (individuals) in influencing government policy (structure).

This is actually one of the processes in the process of creating duality relations in Giddens structuration theory. However, in this study the opposite happened where the agent's ability to reproduce the structure was considered as a potential threatening structure. So this is where the position called dualism lies in this research. Etzioni's (Theory of Societal Self-Control) developed by the active community is actually not much different from other theories of social reconstruction. However, his theory has a few different views regarding the mechanism of this theory of work, in which this theory focuses the mechanism on the collective action of agents.

Therefore, collective action becomes the main emphasis for persons with disabilities in the Linkar Sosial community (LINKSOS) with intellectuals to control their social world so that it becomes a part that can be said by active society. Where active communities have the ability and purpose to master their social world. However, in this case the abilities and objectives are hindered by the structure that binds and curbs the actions of persons with disabilities in the Social Linkar community (LINKSOS) to achieve the goals of the social world of the Disabled Social Linkar community (LINKSOS). In this process, the role of agent of change from social activists in the Linkar Sosial community (LINKSOS) as intellectuals is required to be able to become a bridge and provide the right solution to fight through advocacy actions.

Collective actions carried out by agents of disability community groups and agents of intellectuals in the Malang community of Linkar (LINKSOS) in the form of protest and resistance against the government. The role of change agents (intellectuals) in the Linkar Sosial Community (LINKSOS) is required to be able to mobilize the collective actions of persons with disabilities in getting one of the three components that they must get in the process of achieving goals / orientation as disability communities in Malang City. Components that have not been owned by persons with disabilities in the Social Linkar community (LINKSOS) in Malang are access to power facilities to change the social order.

Etzioni revealed that the process by which humans can shape society to cope with their needs and reproduce their own social world must fulfill the three components they have. First, the existence of personal awareness, second, the ability of knowledge of actors and commitment to one or more goals

that must be achieved and third, access to facilities of power to change social order (Poloma, 2000: 355).

Based on the research findings of two of the three components of active community orientation, the authors conclude that the disability community of the Social Linkar community (LINKSOS) has obtained it through the role of change agents in educating people with disabilities in Malang City. Remaining one part of the component that has access to get it is a little difficult for persons with disabilities to achieve in the Linkar Sosial community (LINKSOS) along with the assistance of intellectuals as spokespersons and negotiators for persons with disabilities with the Malang city government. It concerns the component of power facilities to change the social order. In this study, there were few constraints related to access so that the voices and aspirations of the opinions of persons with disabilities in Malang City could be accepted directly by the Malang city government to be followed up. Efforts to trace opinions and discussions, and mediation carried out jointly by persons with disabilities in the Social Linkar Community (LINKSOS) and intellectuals (agents of change) with the Malang city government often find dead ends or end without producing a satisfying one each other.

So far, the role and efforts of intellectuals as social activism and change agents for persons with disabilities in the Linkar Sosial community (LINKSOS) have only formed an active society by mobilizing collective actions of persons with disabilities in the Linkar Sosial Community (LINKSOS) towards advocacy actions. As a response to the resistance of the disabled community against all forms of injustice and discriminatory practices committed by the Malang city government towards persons with disabilities in the Linkar Sosial Community (LINKSOS) in Malang City.

4. CONCLUSION

The conclusion that can be drawn from this research is the involvement of the role and efforts of agents of change (in this case intellectual social activists) in helping the disabled people of the Social Linkar community (LINKSOS) to get a social world. By way of mobilizing the actions of persons with disabilities towards collective action in the field of advocacy as an effort to form an active society. There are four collective actions as part of forming an active society.

First, a trail of opinion and discussion with the General Election Commission (KPU) regarding the status of disability political rights in Malang City. Second, directly oversee the socialization of general elections held by the General Election Commission (KPU) for people with disabilities. Third, the demand for Disabled Personnel Units in the field of health. Fourth, actively involved in directly overseeing the process of drafting the "PERDA" regional regulation related to disability in Malang City. Such is the collective action of the role of intellectual social activists as agents of change for persons with disabilities in the Social Linkar Community (LINKSOS). Collective action aimed at the Malang City government as a response to dissatisfaction and resistance of the disabled people to all forms of discrimination in the Malang city government.

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