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RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Ethics Role of Good Governance in Indonesia

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Abstract: The people trust the government to regulate the country. They hope that they will get prosper. The Government must always build this attitude of mutual trust at all times. The country will be divided and chaotic if the government breaks this trust. Reports in the media about corruption cases committed by State Officials are increasing. The increase in corruption cases committed by public officials is a slap. It shows that the state has unscrupulous bureaucrats. The ethics of every public official is an important factor in realizing good government. This study aims to determine whether the ethics of public officials can strengthen personal behavior by realizing a good government, especially in overcoming corruption. The method used in this study uses a qualitative approach, by conducting a descriptive analysis through a study of the collected literature. The results of the study show that the role of ethics is very important in forming bureaucrats that are free from corruption, collusion, and nepotism, and also to strengthen good governance.

Keywords: ethics, good governance, morals, state officials

1. Introduction

Indonesia is a country that has various tribes and cultures. Disunity will easily occur if unity is not always well instilled. Countries can grow and develop because of mutual trust. The community gives trust to the government to run the wheels of government as well as possible. Meanwhile, the government carries out the mandate given by the people.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) illustrates that *governance* has experienced a shift in meaning from the term *government*. The meaning of *government* is that the state acts as the sole actor that regulates all aspects of life. Meanwhile, *governance* means that the state has a limited role as a regulator and administrator, where *governance* is a form that involves all sectors.

Mutual trust between the people and the government is a strong foundation for running the wheels of government so that it can run well. Public administration can run well if it involves public trust. The people will be even more disappointed if the people who have been entrusted with them violate their responsibilities. A public administrator must uphold the commitment to apply public administration ethics.

In general, Indonesian people understand *good governance* in various perceptions, but some of them have the imagination that *good governance* will give them a better quality of governance than before. With better *good governance practices*, they imagine that later the quality of public services will get better, acts of corruption will decrease, and the government will have concern for citizens (Khamim, 2021). In reality, many government officials are tripping over the law and the rate of corruption is increasing in Indonesia. They should be role models for the



people. The more corruption is done in a country, the country is threatened to become poor and many areas will break away. This can cause the unity of the country to be divided.

The existence of irregularities and violations committed by public administrators will have an impact on the slow realization of *good governance*. There is a lot of news about the insecurity of a public administrator. It can be seen from the level of corruption in Indonesia. The following is data from the Corruption Eradication Commission:

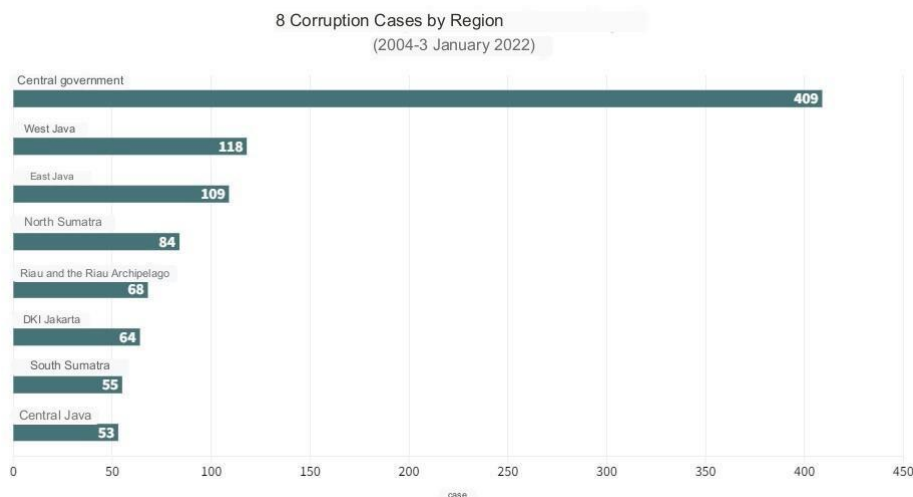


Figure 1. The 8 Corruption cases by Region

Source: Corruption Eradication Commission 2022

Looking at the table above, it can be seen that corruption cases in Indonesia from 2004 to 2022 have increased, especially cases in the central government. There are many factors that cause corruption to occur, one of which is the weakening of ethics as a public administrator.

According to Onghokham in (Ulum & Kurniawan, 2021) the concept of corruption exists when people have separated finances between private and public. This means that corruption became known when people entered the modern political system. This principle of separation appeared in the western region since the early 19th century after the American, French and British revolutions. The concept of separating private money from state money in Islamic history has been implemented and applied by the prophet and his companions. During the time of Caliph Umar bin Khattab it was told that the caliph never used the people's money except for what was part of the caliph. Until one day there was a personal guest who was going to meet, he turned off the lights which were financed by the state, because the guest was not for the needs of the people.

In 2045 Indonesia will experience a golden age in which in that year Indonesia will reach even 100 years of age or even one century. Remembering Indonesia's struggle for independence to become a sovereign Indonesian State. At the age of one century, it is hoped that *good governance will* be free from corruption. The issue of increasing acts of corruption can be viewed from the ethics of public administration.

2. Literature Review

2.1. The concept of Good Governanc

The paradigm shift experienced in the Indonesian government, which previously prioritized power, is now experiencing a change in authority in providing services to the community and community empowerment. Acceleration of ASN transformation with the launch from the President of the Republic of Indonesia, namely the establishment of ASN *core values with* "Proud to Serve the Nation". *The core values* BerAKHLAK in question stand for Service

Oriented, Accountable, Competent, Harmonious, Loyal, Adaptive and Collaborative. The foundation of a work culture for all ASN in Indonesia, in line with the changes in the reform era, is a guideline that every civil servant (apparatus) must understand and practice properly

Management *Good governance* is part of public administration. The more people's knowledge and education grows, the rapid growth and development of information technology which is no longer stopped, the need for *good governance* will also increase. Improvements made by the government must be carried out immediately to improve, improve service quality, change, and simplify so that a good, clean, honest, and accountable government can be achieved. (Budiman et al., 2022)

2.2. Ethics Concept

Etymologically, ethics comes from the Greek word *ethos*, which literally means custom or human behavior. In everyday life, the concept of ethics is known to have three meanings. First, it has the meaning of ethics as a science which explains that ethics is an assessment of one's actions. Second, it has the meaning of ethics in action, this can be interpreted as a code of ethics which means a collection of values and moral norms that are a must for someone who carries out their profession. Third, it has the meaning of ethics as a philosophy, this explains that ethics discusses issues related to issues of decency and views in the wider community. (Ulum & Kurniawan, 2021)

three meanings provide an overview of the meaning of the concept of ethics, that ethics has a moral philosophy on human behavior which should have become a standard measure. In the world of ethical organizations there are 3 types (Budiman et al., 2022), namely:

1. Individual ethics which has a meaning in which a person's behavior is good or bad that intersects with other people. This kind of ethics should be owned by people who are in the position of public *servants*. Where a person has good individual ethics, he will develop good individual ethics to treat other people well too.
2. Organizational ethics, where organizational ethics has a function as a rule (*ethics as rule*) which contains an incentive and disincentive system as well as sanctions according to the rules. This organizational ethics is applied in an organizational structure even to the functions and procedures within the organization.
3. Professional ethics, where professional ethics are applied from one's work. Professional ethics that has a concept that is compiled and then legally accepted or formed from a group of professions concerned so that the profession has good morals in carrying out its work.

3. Research Method and Materials

This research uses a qualitative approach by conducting a descriptive analysis through the study of literature collected to be used as material for analysis in providing a description of the role of ethics in *good governance* in Indonesia. Literature sources obtained from books, *e-books*, research articles and articles in *online mass media* related to the role of ethics in *good governance*

4. Results and Discussion

According to data from the KPK, corruption cases will increase in 2022 by 34.23% compared to last year. We can see from the figure 2.

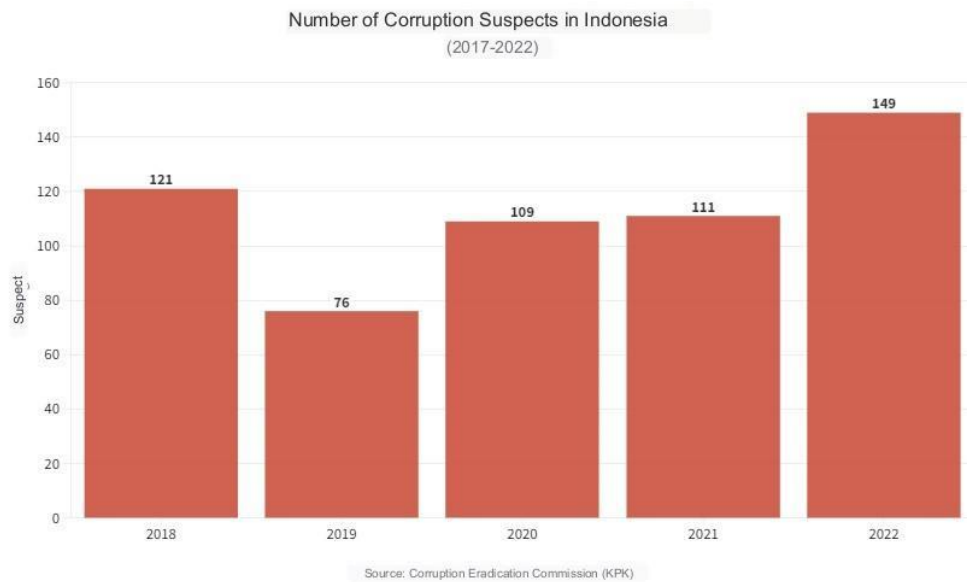


Figure 2. Number of corruption suspects in Indonesia

The figure 2 shows that in the last 5 years, in 2022 the number of corruption cases is the highest. This corruption case is clearly a violation of ethics because it is not in accordance with the moral values prevailing in society and is not in accordance with the law. Viewed from the theoretical concept of ethics, corruption is related to individual ethical theory, which means that a person does not carry out his duties in a trustworthy manner. Corruption comes from English, namely "*corruption*" which means damage or depravity.

The results of research that was conducted by Santoso & Dewi (2019) with the title "*Ethics of State Civil Apparatus in Building Good Governance* " gives the result that the weakness of existing law enforcement means that it is still far from realizing *good governance* . As a result, ethical violations have an impact on the quality of public services.

The categories included in state administrators based on Law Number 28 of 1999 are state officials who are in the executive, legislative and judicial functions. Apart from that, other officials who have the main functions and duties related to the administration of the state in accordance with the laws and regulations include civil servants. Before they carry out their mandate, they are required to take an oath/pledge in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

The law clearly states who is meant by state administrators . Where everything is taken from the people, then given the mandate to take care of this country. Before they carry out their duties, they are sworn in first to be able to uphold the principle of responsibility. Morally, state administrators have sworn an oath that they should be present in their hearts to be serious about carrying out this mandate and have no intention of renegeing on it.

In Law Number 28 of 1999 concerning State Administrators who are Clean and Free from Corruption, Collusion and Nepotism, Article 5 stipulates the obligations of each state administrator as follows:

- 1) Make an oath or promise in accordance with their religion before taking office; Morally, this first point has become a reinforcement for state administrators to always remember the promises made before carrying out their duties.
- 2) Willing to examine his wealth before, during and after taking office; The willingness of bureaucrats to have their wealth examined is a sign that the bureaucrats are no longer hiding anything in terms of their wealth.
- 3) Reporting and announcing his wealth before and after taking office; Wealth already owned by bureaucrats is reported so that it is known by the general public. This is a

correction for bureaucrats not to collect wealth from their positions and to always appear simple without exaggerating.

- 4) No corruption, collusion and nepotism; The bureaucrat's obligation not to engage in corruption, collusion and nepotism (KKN). Obligations that have been written in the law to be fulfilled and practiced by state administrators.
- 5) Carry out tasks without discriminating against ethnicity, religion, race, and class; Justice in every Government policy issued must be able to protect the entire community so that peace and prosperity can be created and no one is harmed. The services provided to the community must also be felt by every individual without any discrimination against certain social groups.
- 6) Carry out duties with full sense of responsibility and do not commit disgraceful, selfless acts, whether for personal, family, crony or group interests, and do not expect compensation in any form that is contrary to the provisions of the applicable laws and regulations; The obligations in point 6 are also clear. That the public's hope is to entrust the mandate of state administrators, namely that the officials who sit in their respective seats can carry it out seriously and with full responsibility.
- 7) Willing to be a witness in cases of corruption, collusion and nepotism as well as in other cases in accordance with the provisions of the applicable laws and regulations. It is clearly implied that every bureaucrat must have a brave soul to create *good governance*. Dare to reveal the ugliness that exists when you see things that are not good around it.

The meaning of obligation means having the responsibility to fulfill it all. If this obligation is violated, morally the violator will get a punishment both determined by the state and from society. Even life will not be able to be calm if the obligation is violated. In ethical theory, state administrators are among the first to attach good individual ethics to themselves.

Ethics from the side of public administration or bureaucracy means philosophy and "*professional standards*" (code of ethics or office ethics), or morals or "*right rules of conduct*". All of this must be obeyed by public administrators or bureaucratic officials or public service providers (Satibi & Ediyanto, 2020). The ethics of public officials is not only carried out at work but also implemented in everyday life. This is because someone who has the mandate of a certain position must be able to be a role model for the wider community.

Everyone is not enough to have personal goodness but must be accompanied by social goodness. Because what is good and can improve will change what he leads to get the good of all. Armed with these two characters, the figure of Umar bin Abdul Aziz can be an example of how during his reign, with the goodness that was in him, he could change the world for goodness. When he first led what he did was concentrate and improve society. (Faizi, 2012)

Some of the ethical principles mentioned by Umam (2011) in his book entitled *Organizational Management* as the basis for this research analysis are the principles of beauty, equality, goodness, justice, freedom, and truth. Then from the analysis of each ethical principle will be reviewed from the point of view of *good governance* which consists of actors, namely the giver (government) and recipients (community). The following will explain in detail the analysis of each ethical principle, namely:

- 1) The principle of beauty (*beauty*)
Human ethics is more generally related to the values of beauty that exist in humans themselves, which are related to their morals. The principle of beauty is based on human nature which includes the pleasure of beauty. Deviations that occur with the existence of corruption in government make people no longer look at the beauty of the government in their country. In fact, the public is fed up with news about corruption because it is something they are used to hearing. *Good Governance* should provide an efficient and effective system of administering state government, not the other way

around, making government administrators rich because they are not trustworthy with their responsibilities. (Satibi & Ediyanto, 2020)

- 2) The principle of equality (*equality*)
The nature of humanity wants equality between humans with one another so that discrimination does not occur. Every individual has the same rights in interacting with anyone even with state officials. Corruption can make this country poor, as a result the government will take steps so that people give contributions to the state under the pretext of people's welfare. This is the similarity that state facilities provide to the people, there is often a category or level, for example, with BPJS there are classes 1, 2 and 3. The public does not get the same facilities as state administrators. The history of the Government of Umar bin Abdul Aziz shows very clearly how his role came to be able to help low-income people in paying off their debts (Faizi, 2012). The existence of *Good Governance* should provide values that uphold the will of the people. (Zulkarnain & Mitrayanti, 2020)
- 3) The principle of goodness (*goodness*)
In general, kindness has the meaning of a trait or characterization attached to something that gives rise to praise. If there is good social order, it requires legal awareness, mutual respect, good habits, and so on. People who are elected to positions in the ranks of state administrators, where they have taken the oath of office before assuming their duties, they must apply the principle of kindness. All parties must be able to provide good, not even build damage. In government, the purpose of administering government, development and public services is basically to create goodness and improvement for its citizens.
- 4) Principle of Justice (*justice*)
Justice is a fixed and eternal will to be given to everyone what it should be. Corrupt practices are ethical violations both within an organization and within a person. Actually corruption is related to the comfort of one's life. If a corrupt person still uses his heart, his life will definitely not be calm because he is haunted by his guilt. The law states that people who commit corruption will be subject to criminal law. (Rizqi, 2022)
- 5) The principle of freedom (*liberty*)
In simple terms, freedom can be formulated as the freedom to act based on the available choices. Corruption also includes choices, how a person is not tempted to commit fraudulent acts, knowing that these actions are not good morals. The rights and obligations of state administrators as contained in Articles 4 and 5 are carried out in accordance with the provisions of the 1945 Constitution and the applicable laws and regulations. The implementation of good, clean and authoritative governance (*clean and good governance*) is the ideal and hope of every nation. Individual freedom to take action must be balanced with good morals so that this country is free from crime, including free from corruption.
- 6) The principle of truth (*truth*)
The meaning of truth means that there must be evidence in the field so that it does not just become symbolic. The government has provided provisions stating that state administrators are free from Corruption, Collusion and Nepotism (KKN) practices. All of this must be shown to the public so that people's trust in the government is built. Good government can only be built through a clean government *where* the bureaucratic apparatus does not commit any form of public fraud, such as Corruption, Collusion and Nepotism (KKN). (Lubis et al., 2020)

Based on the analysis of the six ethical principles, that is a basic prerequisite in developing ethical values or a code of ethics is to form relationships between individuals, between individuals and society, between society and the government, and so on. There is a series of ethics that is structured as a rule of law in every organization, both private and government. The application of ethics in each of these organizations will build a clean country, because every individual has attached themselves to good ethics, plus each

individual is not easily swayed to do bad morals, and is supported by the surrounding environment to always do good.

5. Conclusion

This paper has provided an overview of the root causes of corruption among bureaucrats. This relates to the role of ethics so that it is firmly applied to each individual. So that as administrators of the state, they can carry out the mandate with full responsibility, and support the realization of *good governance*.

Ethical principles ranging from beauty, equality, goodness, justice, freedom and truth can be emphasized for all officials and all those related to public administrators in carrying out their duties. If all of these ethical principles can be reflected in the person of state administrators, then people will be happy and satisfied with the services provided by the government. The level of public trust will grow higher and will always *support* the policies taken by the government and *good governance will be realized* in Indonesia.

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