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Research paper

Political Culture of Coastal Society in the Hinterland Area of Batam City

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Abstract

This research examines the political culture of coastal communities in the face of Simultaneous Regional Elections of 2015 in Batam City. The purpose of this research is to analyze the types of political culture and the participation of coastal society in political activities, especially elections, because there is no research that discusses the political culture of coastal society in particular. Research that discusses the political life of coastal society has not been discussed, especially how the role and views of society on political life and government. In fact, coastal society are groups that will be affected and feel the consequences of these political activities. This research uses qualitative method. The respondents are selected by purposive sampling technique and data obtained by observation and in-depth interview. The findings in this study indicate that the type of coastal society culture is included in the type of participant political culture, in which the level of participation society in Simultaneous Regional Elections of 2015 is quite high and their knowledge on political activity is sufficient.

Keywords: *Political Culture; Coastal Society; Participant Political Culture*

1. Introduction

Political culture is part of the culture of society with more distinctive features. The term of political culture is closely related to people's awareness to participate in collective decision-making and public policy makers to the whole community. A form of community participation in collective decision-making is election. General Election is a concrete manifestation of the full involvement of the community in building a democratic government.

In the context of election in Indonesia, General Election has become a repeated political agenda, whether in the form of principle representation or direct election. Democratic election is a way to measure democtratic country in carried out the election. By direct election, the society may be fully involved in the political process. In observing the political behavior of society, it certainly will not be separated from the political culture that shapes the voter participation.

The society, participating in the political process; for example by voting in elections, are motivated by the belief that by attending the activity their interests will be channeled or at least noticed, and can influence the policy. Thus, the public believes that the involvement in the election will have political literacy, which can generate political awareness in society.

The sense of awareness to participate in such political activities begins with educated people, who has better life, and prominent people. Sastroadmodjo [1] explains that citizens' political participation is influenced by several things, such as: [1] political awareness, [2] trust in government, [3] social status, [4] economic status, [5] political affiliation, [6] organizational experience. Hoogerwerf [2] stated, "People with high incomes, higher education, and higher job status participate much more than others". Based on the statement, the existence of awareness and public participation in political activities will reflect a political culture in a society.

Almond and Verba [3] stated that there are three types of political culture. They are: [1] Parochial Political Culture, less political consciousness of most societies, less knowledge of politics, less participation of society in the political process although they are aware the center of power. [2] Subjective Political Culture, society has attention and awareness to political system. However, they assumed his position as a passive subject. [3] Political Culture of Participants, high public political awareness, high knowledge and awareness of the political system and actively engage in political activities.

Related to political culture, there is no research discussing the political culture of coastal society particularly, especially how the role and views of the society towards the political life and government. Whereas, coastal societies are groups that will be affected the consequences of political activities.

Kepulauan Riau Province is one of the administrative regions that has participated in the success of the mandatory of Law no. 8 of 2015 on Simultaneous Regional Elections of Governor and Vice Governor election and the election of Mayor and Vice Mayor. Geographically, Kepulauan Riau Province is an archipelago, where the area of waters is wider than the mainland, so many people who live in coastal areas, where some coastal societies are fishermen. Based on data from the Central Bureau of Statistics [BPS] of Kepulauan Riau Province in 2015 that the population of Kepulauan Riau Province amounted 1.973.043 people, with the majority of residents are in the city of Batam with a population of 1,188,985 people. Meanwhile, the number of coastal society working as fishermen in Kepulauan Riau Province amounted 57,563 people. The following table 1.1 on the number of fishing society in Kepulauan Riau.

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Table 1: Number of Fishermen Society of Kepulauan Riau Province 2011

City/ Regency	Number
Tanjung Pinang City	8.739
Batam City	16.474
Natuna District	8.132
Karimun District	8.124
Lingga District	12.605
Lingga District	3.489
Total	**57.563**

Source: Batam Marine and Fishery Service 2011

Based on Table 1 it shows that the number of coastal society working as fishermen amounted 57,563 people, with a considerable number in Batam City, which are 12,605 people occupied as the second largest after District of Karimun.

City of Batam, as a strategic city, has supported the national economy from variety of professions and community activities. Thus, the sustainability coastal society contributes significantly to economic activity in the development of Batam as a regional industrialization. Although, it cannot be denied that there are differences in the development of *mainland* area [Batam city] and hinterland [coastal areas of Batam].

Based on the mapping of the cultural character of coastal society [hinterland], it was found the backwardness and underdevelopment. Individually, many coastal societies plagued by a sense of complacency, resignation, high individualism, wasteful, and less of human resources with lower levels of education as an indicator [4]. Furthermore, Nasution [4] explained that hinterland societies are not able to follow the rhythm of industrialization and helpless against the political system, economic and social which are created and recreated by *mainland* region giving rise the cornering stereotype society towards helplessness. In addition, the existences of modern institutions do not play effective in strengthening the hinterland society.

Based on the above problems, normatively the coastal society has a subjective political culture. Moreover, the coastal society has poorly educated, but they have base knowledge of politics. However, they are usually apathetic towards politics, especially General Election, Because of its position as a subject; they believed that the position is not going to determine anything about political change.

Coastal society generally lives as fisherman. They assume that going to sea to earn more is better than participating in the election. However, the problem is different when looking at the coastal society in the Village of Buluh Island at the time of the elections of 2015, where the level of public awareness on Simultaneous Regional Election was very enthusiastic. Based on the political culture stated by Almond and Verba and the phenomenon that occurred in Village of Buluh Island, researchers was interested to conduct the research, How the participation of coastal society in political activities especially General Elections? By using this division of political culture types by Almond and Verba, researchers need to see a political culture that developed in the coastal sociaty in hinterland area especially Buluh Island. This research focus only on coastal society in Buluh Island Village.

2. Literature Review

2.1. The Concept of Political Culture

Political culture is a part of political life, although many people considered the political culture is not a part of political life and it was seen as a condition that colored the pattern of human life in the society. The political life is the everyday interactions between citizens and government, and non-formal institutions aside of government in terms of political activity; for example, the legislative elections or political leaders done by the society, and also the role of citizens is obliged to support the government.

The political culture regarding the behavior and attitudes of the society towards the existing political system that directs the action aspect based on the orientation of the values that exist in the political system. According to [3] explained that the political culture as an orientation of typical attitude of citizens towards the political system and a variety of its parts, and attitudes toward the role of citizens in the system. Every society of a country has a political culture as well as individual who lives in the midst of the people who always have an orientation, perception of the political system. It happens in modern society and traditional society, even primitive societies. Generally it can be said that in terms of political culture, the individuals in the community assess the place and their role in the political system.

Further, Almond and Verba [3] noted that in the political object there are three components, namely:

1. Cognitive component; a component that concerns on political knowledge and belief in politics, role and all regulations.
2. Affective orientation; the sense of political system, the role, the actors, and the appearance.
3. Evaluative orientation; the decision and presumption of the political objects that typically involve a combination of value standard and criteria and information and feelings.

Those components can be used to identify the attitudes of individual political orientation towards political system. To obtain relatively accurate approach and view of the individual orientation towards political culture, knowledge, involvement, and assessment of a person against the principal objects of political orientation are needed. Based on the individual political orientation, Almond and Verba [3] classified the three forms of political culture, as follows:

2.1.1. Parochial Political Culture.

Parochial political culture is usually found in the traditional and simple political system, with small specialization, so the political actors do not have special tasks to do because one role is done along with other roles such as activities and the role of political actors are carried out simultaneously with their role in the economic, social and religious fields.

The characteristics of parochial political culture are as follows.

a. This political culture takes place in traditional and simple society.
b. There is no special political role because it is held simultaneously with economic, religious, and other roles.
c. Society awareness towards central authority or power in their communities tends to be low.
d. Citizens are less likely to be interested in general political objects, except those around them.
e. Citizens do not expect or do not have certain expectations of the political system in which they are located.

2.1.2 Political Culture Subject

The type of political culture of this subject, community members have sufficient knowledge of the political system. They have a high interest, concern and awareness of the political system, but merely in terms of output [policy]. Meanwhile, the orientation towards input and participation aspects of political activity is still low. Their position as subjects is considered as a passive position. They assume as subjects that are powerless to influence or change the system.

In general, member of this society, accept all decisions and policies taken by the authorities, and all decisions taken by political leaders are absolute and irreversible.

These are the characteristics of political culture subject:

a. Society is fully aware of the government's authority.
b. Not many of citizens give input and demand to the government, but they are quite satisfied to receive anything from government.
c. The citizen is accepting the judgment they consider not be corrected or challenged.
d. The citizens as the political actors considers passive; it means that citizens are not able to do much to participate in their political life.

e. The citizens generally have awareness, interest, and attention to the political system and especially to the object of output politics, whereas their awareness of input and awareness as political actors tends to be low.

2.2.3. Political Culture of Participants

In the type of participant's political culture, community members have a high level of knowledge and awareness of the political system. Community members in this type of culture have an orientation that is totally related to the structure, political process and administration, as well as the determination of input and output of the political system. They are actively involved in political activities. A person who is active in political activities, has an awareness of his rights and responsibilities in exercising their political rights. Community members in this type of culture do not just accept political decisions, because they are totally aware for the constellation of the existing political system.

The characteristics of the political culture of participants are:

a. Citizens are aware of their rights and responsibilities and able to exercise the rights and responsible of their obligations.
b. Citizens are aware of condition, submissive, disciplined but able to judge with full awareness all political objects, input, output and position overall.
c. Citizens highly participate all political objects, either accepting or rejecting a political object.
d. Citizens recognize that they are active citizens and act as an activist.
e. Political life is considered as a means of transactions, just like sellers and buyers. Citizens receive consciousness, but also able to resist based on their own judgment.

2.2. Concept of Coastal Society

Coastal societies are group of people living in coastal areas who live together and meet their needs from the resources in coastal areas. The societies living in cities or coastal have socially economic characteristics closely related to the economic resources of the marine region [5]. Similarly, types of livelihoods that utilize natural resources or environmental services existing in coastal areas such as fishermen, fish farmers, and owners or workers of the maritime industry. Coastal societies dominated by fishing businesses are generally still on the poverty line; they have no livelihood options, they have low levels of education, they are unaware of the sustainability of natural resources and the environment [6]. Furthermore, the status of land legality, some residential areas in the coastal areas generally do not have legal status, especially areas that are self-reclaimed by the community [7].

The coastal area is defined as the land area that is adjacent to the sea. The boundary on the land covers the waterlogged and unlogged areas which is still influenced by sea processes such as tides, sea winds and salt intrusion, while the boundary at sea is the area affected by natural processes on land such as sedimentation and freshwater flows into the sea, and marine areas affected by human activities on land [8].

Based on the environmental aspects, Usman [9] suggested that the natural environment would shape the nature and behavior of people. Physical and biological environments influence social interaction, social role distribution, characteristic values, social norms, attitudes and institutionalized perceptions in society. He also said that environmental changes could change the family concept. Social values that developed from the interpretation of the benefits and functions of the environment trigger the social change. The coastal societies tend to be aggressive, as stated by Andriati [10] due to environmental conditions of coastal areas, the societies are easily provoked, and one of the habits is their life more consumptive when they earned money easily.

In the social aspect, Purba [11] stated that there are various social issues in the management of the social environment, such as; raising conflict or social friction, inequality of socio-economic access, unemployment, poverty, socio-economic disparity, access resource management gaps, lifestyles [consumptive], lack of protection of the rights of local communities and social capital, value changes, waning of indigenous peoples, the lack of social control, population dynamics changes, health problems and environmental degradation. The coastal societies, in this description, are those who live and settle in the coastal and marine areas.

3. Methodology

This study applies a qualitative research, which is an approach that emphasizes the withdrawal of conclusions based on interpretation of a phenomenon or fact. The selection of qualitative research methods in this study is because there are six reasons which are finding a certain meaning, understanding the context of research that focuses deeply, understand unanticipated phenomena, understand the process, explain causality, and finally, describe the model or pattern [12]. Qualified research will produce research that provides an in-depth understanding of the context, processes and outcomes of the coastal communities' political culture. Furthermore, in this study using in-depth interviews and intensive observation, so this research will be able to provide a comprehensive analysis of the political culture of coastal communities in the hinterland area of Batam City.

The scope of this study is very limited, because it runs in a small area [micro], namely the construction of social facts in one of the hinterland area of Batam City located in Buluh Island Village, sub-district of Bulang. Implementation of the data collection is implemented by using a moderate participant observation with some respondents, i.e. 30 Buluh Island residents that spread across in 5 polling stations [TPS]. Sampling technique used in this research is purposive sampling, according to a criterion; there are 18 and 12 respondents [male and female], respectively with diverse backgrounds in terms of religion, education and age. Buluh Island Village voters are 17 years old up to 55 years old and above, with variations of religion Moslem, Christian, Confucianism and Buddhism. Buluh Island voters also coexist with the diversity of tribes such as Java, Minangkabau, Batak and Flores. To see a representation of the population in the study, it is important to compare the demographics of Buluh island voters with selected respondents.

4. Results and Findings

Political culture as a common phenomenon in people's lifes will be affected by the complex value that is understood and embraced by the community itself. The political life of society will be met by the interaction between its own orientations. In order to describe the political culture of coastal society of Buluh Island, this study uses three types of political culture, namely the type of parochial political culture, the type of subject political culture, and the type of participant's political culture. All three types of political cultures are reflected in seven standarts in determining the types of political cultures in Buluh Island. They are public awareness in political activities, task orientation in political activities, liveliness in political activities by having the rights and responsibilities to exercise the political rights, the level of voter participation in the election, the level of public criticism of the government, actively join the winning team of candidates, and society involvement in the preparation of the candidate winning strategy.

4.1. Public Awareness in Political Activity

Based on data from interviews with 30 people of Buluh Island, 24 respondents stated that the respondents are very concerned, while the remaining 3 respondents stated are not too concerned with the Simultaneous Regional Election of 2015. Thus, 80% people of Buluh Island are interesting and proactive in politics, especially Simultaneous Regional Election, because this moment is a direct experience of carrying the local leaders who will be directly in touch with the interests and lives as coastal societies.

Meanwhile, 20% people of Buluh Island stated that they are not concerned with political activity, because they feel bored in giving votes rights held in the adjacent time. Those elections are presidential election in July 2014 and legislative elections in April 2014. They considered that political activities they have done previously did not have significant impact on their life and just become the object of political parties and certain powers.

4.2. Task Orientation in Political Activities

Task Orientation is an attitude determination of voter based on the orientation in voting a candidate in the General Election. Based on the data from the interview, it explains that the candidate's orientation towards the task becomes the reason for the votes of Buluh Island in voting rights at the Simultaneous Regional Election. The attitude of the respondents on the candidate's task orientation indicates the respondent's knowledge towards candidate of regional head that they considered to become locomotive of regional leadership to fight for the aspiration, interest and society's rights as a whole.

This means that the task orientation of the candidate of elected regional head indicates the capabilities and skills that candidates must have to gain votes. If the voter's view gets closer to one candidate from certain party, then the greater they vote the candidate. From 28 respondents who stated that the task orientation towards the candidate is important, they also emphasize that the elected regional head, either mayor of Batam or the governor of Kepulauan Riau province, has a clear evaluation system where his party or other political machine does not give influence in determining political decisions.

4.3. The Activeness in Political Activity

Based on the number of registered voters in Simultaneous Regional Election 2015, which amounted to 2.156 voters, but not all voters gave the right to vote. So, the valid votes obtained after the counting is not balance as contained in the permanent voters list of Simultaneous Regional Election 2015. Factors that cause a decrease in the number of eligible voters is the finding of voters who are unappropriate in the list. From the data above, 20% respondents who did not give the right to vote is not due to a desire not to select, but because external factors in the form of weather and physical exhaustion of them in carrying out previous activities such as fishing activity. This certainly should be a note that the constraints of election when granting the right to vote for citizen can be influenced by institutional factors and external factors voters.

Inactivity respondents in the election is not categorized as abstentions [Golput]. According to Sanit [13] that abstentions is a conscious effort not to choose. This indicates that abstention is not only a protest movement carried out by society generally and the critical society particularly, but the abstentions has integrated into various circles of society by improving and finding alternatives in the context of improving the political system in Indonesia. Administrative and institutional factors also cause the respondents cannot give the right to vote. Factors related to the administrative aspects resulted voters cannot exercise their rights. Among them were not recorded as voter due to unreliable migration/displacement, did not get the election card, or had no identity card [KTP]. This type of administrative matters that can make voters unable to participate in the elections. Voters will not be able to exercise their rights if they are not registered as voters.

Based on the result of the interview, Buluh Island people needed the clarity program and cost-benefit consideration in voting a candidate. Political expectation of Buluh Island people towards Simultaneous Regional Election 2015 indicated that they wanted their input on the system of political material where they positioned themselves as voters with the rationalization of their candidate.

4.4. Level of Public Participation in Election

Based on the data, the participation of the Buluh Island people in the Simultaneous Regional Election 2015 is quite high. This can be seen in Table 2 as Data Summary of voters list in Simultaneous Regional Election 2015 in sub-district Bulang

Table 2: Data Summary of voters list in Simultaneous Regional Election 2015 in Sub-district Bulang

No.	Villages	Voters List		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Batu Legong	697	364	1.061
2	Bulang Lintang	545	514	1.059
3	Gelam Beach	387	345	732
4	Buluh Island	1.115	1.041	2.156
5	Setokok Island	743	1.182	1.925
6	Temoyong	470	435	905
Total		**3.957**	**3.881**	**7.838**

Source: Regional General Elections Commission [KPUD] Batam City 2015

Based on the Table 2 above, the significant number of voters located at Buluh Island with 2,156 voters from six villages in the sub-district Bulang. Voters were spread out at five polling stations in Buluh Island Village.

This research found that the character of Buluh Island society in political activity are more realistic in expecting the output of political agenda that they do by giving the rights in Simultaneous Regional Election to improve the livelihood of Buluh Island society significantly which mostly work as fisherman. Another interesting point is the social institutions such as fishermen's cooperatives have made them accustomed to organize for the welfare of fishermen. Regarding the organizational structure of fishermen in the form of cooperative fishermen gives them an understanding in managing a fishery business which is a good leader is needed to have capability in establishing good relationships with members by mutual cooperation and kinship and willing to do the best for the common interest to keep the business goes well. Capital, which organization is difficult to have, is a "savior" to the fishermen economy in which an economic organization can also matures them politically as well.

Moreover, the research also found that women also given the same opportunity to participate in the political process. The fisherman who controls economic assets and organizations fully looks like tolerant very much for women to participate in the political process in Simultaneous Regional Election 2015. This indicates that socio-cultural provides an opportunity for women to participate in the political process.

4.5. Level of Public Criticism against Government

The fishermen of Buluh Island are not used to protest or criticism openly and frontally but they reflected criticism in small discussions before or after their fishing activity like in the coffe shops. This happens because of the feeling of closeness with the candidates or the parties of each candidate. They claimed to have benefit directly from the appropriate governmental program for fishing community. This proximity is figure out by mass media that makes voters patterned to determine the candidate.

Based on the data of interview, it was found that the average community of Buluh Island in voting candidates in the elections is not based on the party bearer, but figure out from the candidate background. This is reflected from the candidates who is carried by different political parties. Although a number of parties have different records of accomplishment, they do not affect the voters to vote for the desired candidates. For example, the political party of candidate no. 1, reported bad achievement with the corrupted party, internal disunity party, would determine the choice of this candidates. It turns out that the party tends to be reported bad achievement is still able to appoint candidate of this no. 1 to get voters' votes. In contrast, the PDIP [Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan] which won the Kepulauan Riau legislative was not capable enough to attract potential votes from the voters.

In national level, Jokowi won votes than Prabowo in a slight difference. It means that the fishermen voters of Buluh Island are typically not a kind of voters who are consistent with the party bearer. They believe candidate figure more to make other political choices. This is well-reasonable for Buluh Island fishermen voters who put their hopes on the candidate figure than the party bearer.

4.6. The Activeness of Joining the Candidate Winning Team

Based on the data of interview from 30 respondents, 90% voters stated that they follow the campaign of political parties by carrying the election of regional head for either the governor or the mayor. It means that the direct campaign method pioneered by the party allows the voting community to recognize the candidate of Regent/Mayor or the Governor/Vice Governor.

The level of political participation of the people in the General Election including the election of regional head is greatly importance to judge, because the low or high participation is an important signal and indicator of the process of democratization and the embodiment of the people's sovereignity. High participation rates indicate the level of concerning the society of Buluh Island because they have gone through several stages of election.

5. Conclusion

The finding of the research showed that the political culture formed Buluh Island society was classified into the type of participant political culture and was a fairly rational voter in voting candidates in the General Election. Buluh Island society is individually subjective political culture that was characterized by the level of voter participation in Simultaneous Regional Election 2015, and they do not give their right to vote based on the popular candidates or not, but they see candidates who have been proven to bring the welfare of coastal communities. Indirectly, the Buluh Island society also gives an indication that the political socialization is quite successful in their sociological as coastal society, which tends to homogeneous and has a sense of united fate to position them as unity of coastal society that has high solidarity.

The majority of Buluh Island society who work as fishermen enjoyed the euphoria of democracy positively where they gave their right to vote based on the candidate they wanted and decided not to go to sea at night. They have already felt that as a homogeneous society with the profession of fishermen carries good implication, so in the initial level of elections they have been able to predict the elected candidate as provincial and municipal head.

Buluh Island society contains a collection of individual cultural with their politics participatively marked by the level of voter participation in the Simultaneous Regional Election 2015. The political stance of Buluh Island society is limited by not getting further involved in the preparation of candidate winning strategy. It is interesting because the coastal communities in the hinterland region included in the category of participants although typical of coastal communities are usually classified subject in unbalanced socio-cultural order and apathy that tends to raise up.

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