

Realising Clean Government: an Ethical Approach in Public Administration

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the importance of an ethical approach in realizing clean governance, emphasizing the role of public officials' ethics as a key factor in creating a healthy and ethical administration. In this context, community involvement in oversight and active participation in decision-making is highly recommended to improve government transparency and accountability. Ethics education for prospective officials also needs to be integrated into the education curriculum with the aim of shaping characters of integrity and increasing moral awareness. The research method used in this article is a literature review, which involves collecting and analyzing information from various literature sources to develop a comprehensive view of ethics in public administration.

INTRODUCTION

In the implementation of a clean government from all deviant actions, of course, the ethics of officials as actors in the process of government administration are very important and are one of the factors that must be considered in an effort to create a clean government, government officials who run the government by not applying public ethics in carrying out their duties will become a big problem and can hinder the growth of healthy government, Government officials who violate the ethics that are considered as moral guidelines in carrying out their duties will create unhealthy conditions and various kinds of irregularities occur such as the practice of Corruption, Collusion and Nepotism (KKN) which can thwart the realisation of the expected government (Djami & Djafar Djafar, 2016), 2016). Efforts to create a clean government do not only come from the ethics of the officials, but in this case it needs strong collaboration with the wider community, meaning that when viewed from the ethical point of view of Public Administration, the community has an obligation to oversee the running of the appropriate government and has the right to criticise government officials who abuse the power they have.

Regulated in Law Number 28 of 1999 concerning State Administration Free from Corruption, Collusion and Nepotism, it should have become a benchmark for how clean governance is realised, but the facts in the field are sometimes considered to be still lacking in applying the principles of good governance to realise clean governance, such as the principles of participation, Law Enforcement, Transparency, Responsiveness, Deal Orientation, Equality, Accountability, Effectiveness and efficiency (Baru et al., 2021) , 2021) Therefore, until now, there are still violations committed by officials who do not comply with the ethics of Public Administration Therefore, until now, there are still violations committed by officials who do not comply with the ethics of Public Administration, therefore the ethics of Public Administration is very important because it is a mecca for bureaucrats in carrying out their duties in order to create a clean government.

In the context of clean government, strengthening public ethics is not only the responsibility of government officials, but also involves the active role of the community. The public has the right to demand transparency and accountability from the government, as well as participate in the decision-making process. According to (Suharto, 2020), public participation in government. Oversight can increase effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of public services, thereby reducing the possibility of corruption, Oversight can increase effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of public services, thereby reducing the possibility of corruption With community involvement, public officials will be more reminded to carry out their duties with integrity and in accordance with ethical principles.

In addition, the importance of ethics education for public officials must also be considered. Good ethics education can shape the character and behavior of officials in carrying out their duties. This is in line with the opinion of (Mardiasmo, 2018), which states that ethics education in public administration can reduce deviant behavior and increase moral awareness. Therefore, the

integration of ethical values in the education curriculum for prospective public officials is very important to realize a clean and integrity government.

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Public Ethics in State Administration: Djami & Djafar (2016) state that public ethics among state officials are key to realizing clean governance. They highlight the importance of morality as a guide in the implementation of government tasks to prevent corruption, collusion, and nepotism (KKN).
- Ethics Education for Public Officials: Mardiasmo (2018) emphasizes that ethics education in public administration is very important in shaping the character and behavior of officials. This education can reduce deviant behavior and increase moral awareness among prospective officials.
- Community Participation in Government Oversight: Mardiyah (2021) emphasizes that community participation in government oversight can increase accountability. This involvement not only increases transparency but also the legitimacy of the government, as the public feels involved in the decision-making process.
- Information Technology in Government Transparency: Rizal (2022) shows that the application of digital technology in public administration can increase transparency and accountability by facilitating access to public information on policies and financial reports.
- Performance Evaluation of Public Officials: Sari (2023) emphasizes the importance of evaluating the performance of public officials, including aspects of ethics and integrity. Ethics-based performance indicators can be used to assess the effectiveness and accountability of the government.
- The Role of the Community in Government Oversight: Suharto (2020) highlights that the public has the right to demand transparency and accountability from the government, as well as to participate in the decision-making process to reduce the potential for corruption.

METHODOLOGY

This article uses the literature review method. According to (Sugiyono, 2013), a literature review is a research activity conducted to collect, examine, and analyze relevant literature sources related to the research topic. This literature review is related to information on the ethical approach to public administration in achieving clean governance. The data obtained will be collected and analyzed using a descriptive method, which involves compiling and organizing facts to form complete and comprehensive information. The purpose of this article is to determine how to achieve clean governance from the perspective of public administration ethics.

RESEARCH RESULT

The Pertamina corruption case is one of the cases that has a very large loss to the state among other major corruption cases in Indonesia, the Pertamina case is a clear manifestation of how bureaucrats in Indonesia in carrying out their responsibilities do not apply public ethics in it, the Pertamina case is one of the

cases of irregularities related to the government's efforts to procure goods and services to provide benefits to the wider community, this can be reviewed through the officials involved in this case. According to (Baru et al., 2021) state that Public Accountability and transparency are the main elements in realising *Clean Government*, both principles are also the modalities of Public Ethics, *the formation of civil society* and public involvement in the accountability process of public officials will be very influential as a means of control over the management of public institution resources, According to Klitgaard (1998), the anti-corruption strategy for the realisation of clean government must be through strengthening the role of the community in reviewing and supervising the government in order to strengthen public accountability, this is considered to provide public power in its obligations as a watchdog group that can encourage bureaucrats to apply the principle of prudence in the process of utilising and using all facilities and organisational resources that have been provided. To encourage the creation of a government in accordance with expectations, it is necessary to apply the principle of transparency that upholds openness to the public by facilitating the widest possible access to the public regarding the management of government institution resources, based on Government Regulation (PP) Number 24 of 2005 states that transparency is to provide open and honest financial information to the public by considering that the public has the right to know openly and thoroughly about the government's accountability in managing the resources that have been entrusted to it and its compliance with the Law. This means that even though regulations on transparency have been established, when there is a conflict of interest or misappropriation, public officials can easily still find loopholes and holes for criminal acts of corruption that are contrary to the principles of public ethics (Haryatmoko, 2013).

Furthermore, to realise clean government, the importance of establishing an ethical culture in public administration cannot be ignored. This ethical culture will shape the character of public officials who are honest, transparent, and accountable. According to (Purnamasari, 2020), strengthening ethical culture can be done through ethics education and training for public officials. This aims to instil strong moral values, which will guide them in making appropriate and responsible decisions. One of the main challenges in the implementation of public ethics is the widespread practice of gratuities at various levels of government. Gratuities can blur the line between public and private interests, leading to conflicts of interest. According to (Supriyadi, 2019), to overcome this problem, there needs to be a strict monitoring system and an effective reporting mechanism. The public plays an important role in overseeing the course of government, by providing reports on alleged irregularities that occur.

In addition, public involvement in the decision-making process is also very important. Active public participation can be an effective control tool to encourage accountability of public officials. (Mardiyah, 2021) notes that public participation not only increases transparency, but also strengthens the legitimacy of the government, as people feel involved in the processes that affect their lives. The application of information technology in government can also improve transparency and accountability. By utilising digital platforms, information

regarding policies, budgets, and financial reports can be easily accessed by the public. According to (Rizal, 2022), the use of digital technology in public administration can reduce the potential for irregularities, as all actions and decisions can be monitored in real-time by the public. Finally, to ensure the sustainability of clean government, it is necessary to periodically evaluate the performance of public officials. This evaluation should include aspects of ethics and integrity, as well as the impact of decisions taken on society. (Sari, 2023) emphasises the importance of ethics-based performance indicators as a tool to assess government effectiveness and accountability.

In addition, ethics education and training in public administration is essential for building integrity and accountability among public servants. Mardiasmo (2018) states that ethics education can shape good character and behaviour among officials, which is necessary for responsible decision-making. Thus, the integration of ethical values into the education curriculum for prospective public officials is essential to prepare a generation of leaders with integrity. Ethics education aims to raise employees' awareness of ethical values and principles, so that they can avoid corrupt practices and abuse of power. In addition, this education contributes to the character building of employees with integrity. Ethics training, through simulations and case studies, allows employees to learn to apply ethical principles in real situations. Workshops and seminars can also enhance their understanding of current ethical issues. Implementation of this education and training can be done by integrating ethics curriculum in the education of prospective employees as well as providing continuous training programmes. Evaluation of the effectiveness of this programme is important to ensure that employees apply ethical values in their work. In this way, a clean and accountable government is expected to be created. With all these efforts, it is hoped that a government that is clean and free from corruption, collusion and nepotism will be created, so that it can fulfil the public's expectations of good governance and integrity.

State responsibility plays a very important role in the implementation of government to achieve the goals of the nation's struggle, namely creating a just and prosperous society, as written in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (UUD 1945). State responsibility consists of officials who carry out executive, legislative, or judicial functions, as well as other officials whose main duties are related to applicable laws and regulations. The role of the government as state responsibility in the context of a welfare state is very important, as they are responsible for ensuring the welfare of the people. Therefore, the government has the authority to intervene in various aspects of social life. With this responsibility, it is expected that the government can actively participate in the dynamics of people's lives. To realise good governance, organisers must be able to carry out their functions and responsibilities seriously and with full commitment. Therefore, this needs to be based on the principles of state administration. Every action of government organisers must always be carried out in accordance with applicable laws, both written and unwritten, without distinguishing groups, ethnicity, religion, or social status. Related to the implementation of government, there are several basic principles that guide

government officials in carrying out administration. To achieve good governance, all actions must not conflict with AAUPB.

The general principles of good governance as norms have been applied in the practice of governance, as stipulated in Article 3 in conjunction with Article 1 point 1 of Law No. 28/1999 on Clean and Free State Administration from Corruption, Collusion, and Nepotism. First, the Principle of Legal Certainty emphasises the importance of legislation, propriety, and justice in every government policy. Second, the Principle of Orderly State Administration serves as the basis for creating order, harmony, and balance in controlling state administration. Third, the Public Interest Principle prioritises the welfare of the community in an aspirational, accommodative, and selective manner. Fourth, the Principle of Openness gives the public the right to access accurate, honest, and non-discriminatory information about state administration, while protecting the human rights of individuals, groups, and state secrets. Fifth, the Principle of Proportionality emphasises the balance between the rights and obligations of state administrators. Sixth, the principle of professionalism prioritises expertise based on a code of ethics and applicable regulations. Finally, the Principle of Accountability requires every activity and result of state administrators to be accountable to the community as the highest holder of sovereignty.

As a guide to governance, AAUPB was originally not a set of legal norms, but rather ethical principles. In other words, AAUPB was originally an ethics in governance. Furthermore, Ridwan HR explained that AAUPB is the general principles that form the basis and procedures for good governance, so that the government can run well, politely, fairly, respectfully, and free from injustice and abuse of authority. Wiarda, quoted by Ateng Syarifuddin, states that AAUPL functions as an ethical tendency that becomes the legal basis for state administration, both written and unwritten, including in government practice. As an ethical guide, the binding force of general principles of governance is weaker than that of legal norms. Ethics lack strong coercion because they are not enforced by state power, but rather by individual consciousness. Although AAUPB are ethical and not legal norms, these principles still have important meanings and functions in government practice. In other words, although AAUPB is ethically normative, the principles can still serve as important guidelines for government and state administration officials in policy making.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on what has been explained above, realising a clean government that is free from corruption, collusion and nepotism (KKN) requires a strong ethical approach in public administration. The ethics of public officials is a key factor in creating a healthy governance environment. Public involvement in oversight and active participation in decision-making is essential to promote transparency and accountability. Ethics education for prospective officials should be integrated in the education curriculum to build character with integrity and increase moral awareness.

In addition, the application of the principles of transparency and accountability in the management of public resources must be enforced so that the public can access accurate and honest information. The use of information

technology can enhance transparency and enable real-time monitoring of government actions. Periodic evaluation of the performance of public officials, which includes aspects of ethics and integrity, is also crucial. With collaboration between government and society and strong ethical enforcement, it is hoped that good governance, integrity, and the ability to fulfil the expectations of society will be created.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

This follow-up study aims to explore further the application of ethics in public administration to achieve a government that is free from corruption, collusion, and nepotism (KKN). In this context, the importance of public ethics as a guideline for government officials is strongly emphasized. This study will analyze how ethics education can be integrated into the curriculum for prospective public officials to build character with integrity. In addition, this research will also explore the active role of the community in monitoring and participating in the decision-making process as an effort to improve government transparency and accountability.

Through in-depth literature analysis, this research will discuss various factors that influence the implementation of ethics in government, including the use of information technology to improve transparency and accessibility of public information. This research will also touch on the need for periodic evaluations of public officials' performance, with a focus on ethical and integrity aspects, as a step to ensure that good governance principles are effectively applied. Thus, it is hoped that this research can provide concrete recommendations for policymakers and practitioners in the field of public administration to create a cleaner and more responsive government that addresses the needs of the community.

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