Election Smart House (ESH) as a Pre-Voter Political Education Facility To improve the quality of democracy

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Abstract. This study aims to describe the Election Smart House (RPP) as a means of pre-voting political education in Pekanbaru City and Dumai City. The study uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. Determination of research informants through non-probability sampling techniques with purposive sampling techniques. The data validity testing technique uses triangulation of data sources. The research findings show that pre-voting political education through the use of lesson plans is carried out in two ways, namely (1) a program to disseminate lesson plans to schools. The Election Commission of Pekanbaru City conducted socialization of lesson plans to kindergartens and elementary schools, while junior and senior high schools had not yet done so because of time constraints. While the General Election Commission of Dumai City has never carried out socialization of the RPP to schools, but rather it was carried out in tertiary institutions and; (2) hearings (visits) to the lesson plan. Pre-voter hearing activities have never been conducted in the Pekanbaru City RPP, while the Dumai City RPP has received a one-time visit from the school, namely the Erna City Vocational School in Dumai in December 2019. The RPP as a means of pre-voting political education has not run optimally. This is indicated by the lack of socialization of the RPP to the pre-voters and pre-voter visits to the RPP. In addition, the General Election Commission as the manager of the RPP does not have a special / routine program in educating pre-voters through the use of the RPP. Some efforts are needed to increase the political literacy of pre-voters through the use of RPPs such as the special RPP program that is carried out periodically through the collaboration of the General Election Commission as the manager of RPPs and schools through PPKn teachers as subjects integrated with electoral and pre-voter visits to RPPs.

Keywords: Election Smart House, Political Education, Pre-election, Democracy

Abstrak. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan Rumah Pintar Pemilu (RPP) sebagai sarana pendidikan politik prapemilih di Kota Pekanbaru dan Kota Dumai. Penelitian menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode deskriptif. Penentuan informan penelitian melalui teknik non probability sampling dengan teknik purposive sampling. Teknik pengujian keabsahan data menggunakan triangulasi sumber data. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pendidikan politik prapemilih melalui pemanfaatan RPP dilakukan melalui dua cara yakni (1) program kegiatan sosialisasi RPP ke sekolah. Komisi Pemilihan Umum Kota Pekanbaru melakukan sosialisasi RPP ke taman kanak-kanak dan sekolah dasar, sedangkan untuk jenjang SMP dan SMA belum dilakukan karena terkendala waktu. Sementara Komisi Pemilihan Umum Kota Dumai belum pernah melakukan sosialisasi RPP ke sekolah, melainkan dilaksanakan di perguruan tinggi dan; (2) audiensi (kunjungan) ke RPP. Kegiatan audiensi prapemilih belum pernah dilakukan di RPP Kota Pekanbaru, sedangkan RPP Kota Dumai pernah menerima kunjungan sekali dari sekolah yakni SMK Erna Kota Dumai pada Desember 2019. RPP sebagai sarana pendidikan politik prapemilih belum berjalan secara optimal. Hal tersebut ditunjukkan dengan minimnya sosialisasi RPP kepada prapemilih maupun kunjungan prapemilih ke RPP. Selain itu, Komisi Pemilihan Umum sebagai pengelola RPP tidak mempunyai program khusus/rutin dalam mengedukasi prapemilih melalui pemanfaatan RPP. Diperlukan beberapa upaya untuk meningkatkan literasi politik prapemilih melalui pemanfaatan RPP seperti adanya program khusus RPP yang dilaksanakan secara berkala melalui kerjasama Komisi Pemilihan Umum sebagai pengelola RPP dan sekolah melalui guru PPKn sebagai mata pelajaran yang terintegrasi dengan kepemiluan serta kunjungan prapemilih ke RPP.

Kata Kunci: Rumah Pintar Pemilu, Pendidikan Politik, Prapemilih, Demokrasi.
INTRODUCTION

The Election Smart House (ESH) is a program initiated by the General Election Commission to educate the public about democracy and election. RPP is a voter education concept that is carried out through the use of space from a special building or building to carry out all community education project programs. Besides, the ESH can also be a forum for community election activists to build movements. ESH aims to increase voter participation and become a Centre for electoral information; the target of this program is all segments of society (KPU, 2017). The RPP is operationalized based on KPU Circular No. 220 / KPU / 2016 concerning facilitators for voter education and KPU Circular No.339 / KPU / VI / 2016 concerning the control of the RPP formation program.

The ESH program is aimed at all segments of society in order to get comprehensive political education on democracy and electoral matters. The RPP is important to answer the needs of voters and the general public for a means to educate about democracy in general and elections in particular. As a national strategic program, the formation of RPP is needed to build a democratic life so that a sustainable political education process occurs (Al Rafni & Suryanef, 2019).

Political education is a deliberate and systematic dialogue process between message givers and recipients so that members of society/citizens as recipients of messages know and understand the values, norms and political symbols in their country so that participating citizens can be formed, responsible for achieving political goals, and has a solid political literacy (Ramlan Surbakti, 1999: 117; Kartini Kartono, 1999: 64). Political education through ESH is an effort to increase citizens’ political knowledge so that they can participate optimally in their political system. So, it can be said that political education is aimed at efforts to increase the knowledge, understanding and political awareness of citizens which are expected to lead to the active participation of citizens in the political process. Such political activity describes citizens as having good political literacy to build a participant political culture (Kennet P Langston, 1969 in Sunatra, 2016).

Political education cannot be done instantly but it takes a long time, starting from the time the election series is over to start the next election stage. This means that political education is sustainable (Nugroho & Arsetyasmoro, 2017). ESH as a means of political education is seen as strategic in providing education to the public, especially to pre-voters.

Pre-voters are the age group who have not entered the voting age, but in the next 5 years will enter the voting age. In Indonesia, the age limit for voting rights is at least 17 years old or already married. Thus, Indonesian citizens who are included in the pre-voting category are children whose age is in the range of 12 to 16 years. On average they are currently in junior high and high school classes. Strategic pre-voter groups are the target of political education because they are still in the phase of mental and intellectual growth (Manik & Budhiati, 2015) and to anticipate that in their development pre-voters will not become objects and victims of money politics or political hoaxes (Hariyanti & Filma Alia, 2020).

In this study, the pre-voting group was seen from the kindergarten and elementary school levels. Voter education needs to be provided from an early age. Pre-voters are citizens who still occupy the primary and secondary school levels so that indirectly schools also have an important role in
educating students about the basic values of elections and democracy. In addition, schools should be able to take advantage of the ESH contained in the district / city KPU as a means of political and democratic education. The research was conducted at two Election Smart Houses in Riau, namely ESH KPU Kota Pekanbaru and ESH KPU Kota Dumai because KPU Kota Pekanbaru and KPU Kota Dumai were selected as ESH pilot projects by the Central KPU in Riau Province.

RESEARCH METHODS

Pre-voter political education carried out by General Election Commission (KPU) City of Pekanbaru and General Election Commission (KPU) city of Dumai through the use of ESH is carried out in two ways, namely (1) ESH socialization activity program to schools. The General Election Commission of Pekanbaru City has disseminated ESH to kindergartens and elementary schools, while for the junior and senior high school levels it has not been done due to time constraints. Meanwhile, the General Election Commission of Dumai City has never disseminated ESH to schools but has been implemented in universities and; (2) hearings (visits) to the ESH. Pre-voting hearings have never been carried out in ESH Pekanbaru City, while ESH Dumai City has received a visit from the school, namely SMK Erna Dumai City in December 2019. ESH as a means of pre-voter political education has not run optimally. This is indicated by the lack of socialization of the ESH to pre-voters and pre-voter visits to the ESH. In addition, the General Election Commission as the manager of the ESH does not have a special/routine program in educating pre-voters through the use of RPP. Some efforts are needed to improve pre-voter political literacy through the use of ESH, such as the existence of a special ESH program which is carried out periodically through the collaboration of the General Election Commission as the manager of ESH and schools through PPKn teachers as subjects that are integrated with electoral and pre-voter visits to RPP.

As a means of pre-voter political education, Election smart House (ESH) has two activities to educate pre-voters, namely through socialization activities and audience activities. ESH socialization activities to pre-voters in this case to schools because pre-voters are those who are under 17 years of age, meaning they are still at the school level. The RPP socialization activity is an activity to visit the KPU / ESH manager to schools to introduce the basic values of elections and democracy as well as to inform the existence of ESH in the relevant regional KPU.

Based on the ESH KPU activity report for Pekanbaru City, it was stated that ESH was inaugurated in 2017 along with the implementation of the election stages for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Pekanbaru, from launching until 2018 there had not been any
activity programs targeting pre-voters. In 2019, to be precise, after the simultaneous elections, at the end of the year the general election commission of Pekanbaru City carried out several KPU socialization activities. This activity is not only aimed at pre-voters but also for first-time voters and the younger generation. In pre-voting strategic voter groups, KPU conducted outreach to several kindergartens and conscious schools in Pekanbaru City. At the Rumbai Caliph Kindergarten, ESH socialization was held on December 9, 2019.

Meanwhile, at Kindergarten Tauladan Syafitri Marpoyan Damai it was held on 17 December 2019. At the kindergarten level, ESH managers introduced electoral and democracy through the selection of favourite teachers. The children were given a piece of paper and then managed to choose their favourite teacher, then the favourite teacher who was given a door prize. This was done to introduce the electoral system to children. Meanwhile, at the elementary school level, the socialization was held at MI 01 Muhammadiyah Rumbai on December 10, 2019. The material presented is about what is an election and electoral history in Indonesia. Then, the socialization of the RPP was carried out at the Panam Aviation Vocational School on December 18, 2019.

The ESH manager has not yet carried out the socialization of the ESH at the junior high school level or other schools in Pekanbaru because of the quality of time. According to the Head of the Technical Subdivision of KPU Pekanbaru City as the manager of the RPP, the socialization of the ESH at that time was in line with the school schedule entering the year-end semester holiday so that the school that had been written could not facilitate the activity.

Meanwhile, ESH for Dumai City was established in 2017 based on the general election commission of the Dumai City Decree Number 04 / Hk.03.01.Kpt / 02 / I / 2017 dated January 31, 2017, regarding the order for the smart home creation commission for the General Election Commission for the City of Dumai. The inauguration ESH was opened by the mayor of Dumai.

The Dumai City KPU was originally located on Jenderal Sudirman Street, this is where the Dumai City KPU ESH was established in 2017 but after that KPU of the Dumai City moved to the Bagan Besar area, Bukit Kapur, an office area that was recently opened by the Dumai City government for regional development. This area is quite far from the city centre. At the new KPU Dumai office, The Election Smart House is combined with the technical sub-division room. This is due to limited space in the new Dumai KPU office.

Based on interviews with the head of the technical subdivision and data of the Dumai KPU, it was found that since the establishment of ESH socialization to pre-voters at schools in dumai city there has not
been any, so far the socialization of RPP has only been carried out to universities such as STIA Luncang Kuning Dumai on November 26, 2019, and STT Dumai on November 29, 2019.

Meanwhile, in preparation for the 2019 simultaneous election, the KPU of Dumai City conducts voter education to schools with the KPU Goes to School program such as at SMKN 1 Dumai. However, in this activity, KPU Dumai did not socialize Election Smart House (ESH). The General election Commission Goes To School activity is a voter education activity in preparation for the 2019 simultaneous election so that the activity contains an explanation of the elections to be held, how to vote, the form of ballots and the types of elections that will take place. Socialization is a form of KPU strategy as the manager and communicator of ESH to introduce and invite the public, in this case, pre-voters, to visit the ESH. However, this socialization activity has never been carried out by the KPU of Dumai City.

Second, the program of hearings/visits to ESH. The visit was aimed at observing and obtaining electoral and democracy information through the service facilities provided in ESH. Research findings indicate that pre-voter visit activities to ESH City of Pekanbaru have not existed since ESH was founded. Based on the ESH activity report, during 2017-2019, visits to ESH were dominated by higher education student organizations such as journalists and work visits from other regional KPU. Meanwhile, in the ESH KPU Kota Dumai as long as it was founded in 2017 until now, there was one visit from the school, namely the visit of SMK Erna Kota Dumai on December 12, 2019. Pre-voters were served by a commissioner of General Election commission who explained about electoral material, democracy, election organizers, to the voting process at the TPS through the TPS replica/miniature found in ESH.

The hearing/visit to ESH is a strategic step to introduce the description and process of the election to pre-voters, it is said that because ESH provides several visiting services consisting of an audiovisual room, an exhibition room, a simulation room and a discussion room.

The visit service facilities provided are aimed at providing knowledge about electoral and democracy to pre-voters such as film players about elections, viewing election history, election data from national elections to regional elections, from the first elections in 1955 to the 2019 simultaneous elections. In addition, pre-voters They were also treated to the experience of giving votes in the simulation room, being taught how to vote and how to vote at the polling stations. Then, invited to the discussion room to discuss matters that still make pre-voters confused or want to be questioned.
DISCUSSION

The Election Smart House (ESH) is an innovation of the General Election Commission in providing political education to the public. Pre-voters are groups of people who do not yet have the right to vote but are preparing to become voters in the next few years so that they need to be prepared to become smart, rational and responsible voters in order to improve the quality of democracy. Elections as one of the characteristics of a democratic political system are often tarnished by the dirty and fraudulent practices of a handful of irresponsible people. They use voters to gain votes with the practice of black campaigning so that the results of the election do not reflect the people's voice and change people's lives for the better. This happens because voters are not smart and easily deceived by black campaign practices such as handing out groceries, distributing t-shirts and the lure of other materials. Therefore, voters must be educated. One way is to prepare voters as early as possible with knowledge of electoral and democracy and to instill awareness of the importance of participating in a democratic process.

Based on the research findings above, it can be said that ESH for Pekanbaru City and Dumai City have not been running optimally because they consider the following things (1) ESH activities have not been carried out continuously, such as in the ESH KPU Pekanbaru considering that socialization activities to pre-voters in schools are only carried out in the year 2019 while the socialization activities to schools have never been carried out by the Dumai City Commission. Likewise, pre-voter hearings at ESH have not been carried out at all at ESH KPU Pekanbaru and only once have pre-voter visits to ESH KPU Dumai. The same thing was also revealed in the results of research (Simbolon, 2019) in the ESH KPU Toba Samosir that the introduction of electoral and democracy activities was mostly carried out outside ESH and there were no hearings to the ESH even though The Election smart House (ESH) was provided with various kinds of service facilities that were deliberately designed to increase literacy. Predominantly pre-voting society;

(2) ESH has not been packaged with the introduction of activities that attract pre-voters' attention. Socialization and hearings are carried out classically in schools and in ESH so that pre-voters who get political education from the visit are limited, coupled with socialization activities that are not carried out evenly in all schools in Pekanbaru and Dumai cities. The KPU needs to innovate for the broader development of ESH for pre-voters, not only in the school environment. Other activities such as holding electoral events/competitions that invite pre-voters or taking advantage of other events/activities that present many pre-voters such as festivals, carnivals, or parades. ESH managers can take
advantage of these activities to introduce ESH as well as invite pre-voters to visit ESH and briefly explain the meaning of election and democracy and why citizens should participate in leadership changes. 

Pre-voters as one of the strategic groups in an urgent society get political education through RPP considering the following points (1) pre-voters are a common segment of society with knowledge and experience about democracy and electoral matters; (2) the uniqueness of pre-voters with democratic and electoral values will result in several problems such as being able to increase the number of white groups (abstain), contributing to invalid votes in elections, or becoming victims of money politics (money politics) and political hoaxes which worsen quality. Democracy. In the 2019 elections in Riau Province, the number of invalid votes varied considerably in several election categories. In order from the lowest to the highest rank, as follows: 

Table:1 Percentage of Invalid Votes in the 2019 Election in Riau Province

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>General Election Category</th>
<th>Invalid Vote Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Presidential and Vice Presidential Election</td>
<td>47,530 (1.45%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Riau Province DPRD Election</td>
<td>268,967 (8.27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>DPR RI Election</td>
<td>339,490 (10.49%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>DPD RI election</td>
<td>497,895 (15.27%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: compiled from various sources

The high number of invalid votes in the election is an illustration that the public is not well educated in electoral technical matters; (3) pre-voters are groups that are prepared to enter the beginner novice segment so that they must be equipped with good knowledge and understanding, if this is done then they will become election participants to reap votes without voting from voters with quality voters in a democracy. Efforts to make ESH an optimal means of political education for pre-voters are (1) conducting a special pre-voter political education program through ESH by making regular visits to several schools in all sub-districts in Pekanbaru City and Dumai City. Before the program starts, it is necessary to make the ESH manager with Pancasila and Civics Education (PPKn / Civics) teachers first. This is done to facilitate communication and coordination for outreach and hearings activities as well as other reasons, namely the electoral and democracy material integrated into the PPKn subject. Civics Education is a vehicle for the implementation of political education in schools. Civics Education provides knowledge and understanding to students (pre-voters) to become citizens who see their rights and obligations. Using the right to vote in general elections is the right of every citizen that must be used intelligently to produce quality elections and the right leaders (Hariyanti, 2015).
In the high school / MA civic education (PKn) curriculum, the material on general elections and democracy is studied in class XI. This material contains the legal basis for holding general elections, the definition of general elections, the general election system, election participants, and the relationship between general elections and democracy. Therefore, civic education plays an important role in increasing the knowledge and understanding of students, especially those who have met the requirements as voters to be able to channel their voting rights intelligently and responsibly. Therefore, PKn teachers have an important role in increasing students' understanding of basic electoral and democratic values.

Citizenship Education Subject Teacher Conference (MGMP Civics) is an association of Civics Education teachers. Civics MGMP is formed at the SMP / MTs and SMA / SMK / MA levels in each Regency / City as a forum for communication and sharing of learning between peers. Civics MGMP can collaborate with other parties concerning the development and deepening of Citizenship Education material. This collaboration is carried out considering that the delivery of general election material is an integral part of Citizenship Education.

Schools can collaborate and coordinate with the Regency / City KPU to utilize the RPP as regulated in article 16 paragraph (3) PKPU No.8 of 2017 concerning Socialization, Voter Education and Community Participation in the Election of Governors and Deputy Governors, Regents and Deputy Regents, Mayors and the deputy mayor, that the KPU in implementing voter education can cooperate with educational institutions. The results of the research (Ardiyansyah, 2019) at the Bandar Lampung KPU stated that good communication between the school and the RPP management would result in a condition in which visits from schools to RPP were carried out. Besides, it also requires initiatives from teachers in schools to make visits to lesson plans so that students gain knowledge about electoral and democracy.

(2) ESH managers cooperate with social media activists such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Social media is closely related to the millennial generation, who on average have the status of pre-voters to disseminate information about electoral and democracy, as well as invitations to be active and care about the socio-political problems that exist around them.

Political education through the Election Smart House (ESH) is an effort to increase pre-voter political literacy. As a strategic group, urgent pre-voters get political education because of limited knowledge and lack of experience in the democratic process. Kartini Kartono (2009, p. 65) states that there are several characteristics of political education, namely (a) Political education is an activity that not only aims to build and develop
certain political knowledge in individuals, but also aims to develop a political orientation that includes values, beliefs, and political direction and feelings which become provisions for individuals to cultivate political awareness; (b) Political education does not aim at fostering individual loyalty to the authorities, but rather formulates a process of activities aimed at forming a critical mentality and being able to carry out constructive dialogue and act with a change for the better; (c) Political education is a lifelong continuous process; (d) The goals to be achieved in political education are political personality, political awareness and political participation; (e) Institutions and methods of implementation involve many parties and many ways.

The RPP as a means of political education aims to (a) educate the public on the importance of elections and democracy by introducing the basic values of elections and democracy (Pre-voters), increasing understanding of the importance of democracy (all segments), and instilling an awareness of democratic values (all segments).

Based on this statement ESH can be said to be a means of political education for the following reasons: (1) Political education through ESH is sustainable because it was deliberately established in the form of a special building equipped with audiovisual room service facilities, showrooms, simulation rooms and discussion rooms for visitors who visit come. ESH is designed as an electoral information Centre with a service concept such as in a museum where visitors can enjoy electoral information services in one visit; (2) The establishment of ESH is aimed at increasing the quantity and quality of voters. Quantity is expressed by political participation through voting during elections, while quality is indicated by the presence of electoral knowledge and democracy to the community, the installation of awareness to participate in state administration such as using voting rights rationally by looking at the candidate's vision, mission and programs, not being fooled by various kinds black campaign which aims to influence and direct political decisions, provide constructive criticism of the political system, to follow news on socio-political developments and actively discuss them. This means that ESH is aimed at increasing the political literacy of the community, not only about knowledge about elections. If the community is well educated, it will produce quality democracy.

It can be said that in the process of political education, the ultimate goal is political participation in which a person, armed with knowledge, values, orientation, and beliefs, has an awareness of the condition of society and is willing to change it through political activities and roles he can perform ESH as a means of political education, one of which is aimed at increasing community participation, this is confirmed through several studies such as the results of research (Milan
Alfianni Zega, Indra Muda, Beby Masitho, (2018) in Medan City that there is an influence between the smart house of elections on people's political participation at the General Election Commission of Medan City. Political participation carried out responsibly according to the knowledge and understanding possessed is a prerequisite for the implementation of a democratic political system. ESH is a strategic means of providing political education to the public with several considerations, namely (1) ESH is a national scale program so that its reach is wide; (2) ESH has various kinds of facilities, namely an audiovisual room, exhibition room, simulation room, and discussion room which allows people to learn democracy and electoral more easily and comfortably; (3) The ESH is managed by the General Election Commission so that in its management it has competent and qualified human resources in matters of democracy and electoral matters.

CONCLUSION
Pre-voters as a group preparing to become voters need knowledge and understanding of electoral and democracy to become smart and rational voters to improve the quality of democracy. Pre-voters who do not get adequate political education when they become first-time voters are vulnerable to becoming targets of black campaigns such as money politics and political hoaxes. That is, it only becomes the political object of election contestants to gain votes. This certainly undermines the quality of democracy because it injures democratic values and affects the legitimacy of elected leaders.

Therefore, RPP as a means of political education as well as KPU innovation in increasing the political literacy of the community needs to be developed as a source of sustainable political learning through several efforts to utilize RPP, such as cooperating with related parties such as schools to develop RPP management.

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