

ABSTRAK

Pemilihan Kepala Desa (Pilkades) merupakan salah satu bentuk konkret praktik demokrasi lokal yang berlangsung di tingkat desa. Meskipun secara prosedural Pilkades diatur oleh mekanisme hukum dan administratif yang bersifat legal-formal, dalam praktiknya proses tersebut kerap dipengaruhi oleh dinamika sosial, budaya, dan struktur otoritas yang hidup dan berkembang di tengah masyarakat. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis dinamika otoritas politik dalam kontestasi Pilkades Desa Mekarwangi, Kecamatan Cisayong, Kabupaten Tasikmalaya Tahun 2019 dengan menggunakan kerangka teori otoritas Max Weber yang meliputi otoritas legal-formal, otoritas tradisional, dan otoritas kharismatik. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif dengan teknik pengumpulan data melalui wawancara mendalam, observasi, dan dokumentasi. Informan dipilih secara purposive yang melibatkan calon kepala desa, tokoh masyarakat, tokoh agama, perangkat desa, serta warga masyarakat. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dinamika Pilkades Mekarwangi tidak hanya ditentukan oleh mekanisme pemilihan yang bersifat formal, tetapi juga sangat dipengaruhi oleh keberadaan berbagai bentuk otoritas politik dari calon kepala desa maupun di luar para calon kepala desa. Otoritas legal-formal terlihat dari peran aktor yang memiliki jabatan struktural dalam pemerintahan desa dan lembaga keagamaan resmi, seperti Sekertaris Desa, Kepala Kepunduhan, Ketua BPD dan Ketua MUI Desa. Otoritas tradisional terutama melekat pada tokoh militer, kalangan intelektual, pengajar, agama dan pimpinan pesantren yang memperoleh legitimasi dari adat, nilai religius, dan kepercayaan yang diwariskan secara turun-temurun. Sementara itu, otoritas kharismatik tercermin pada calon kepala desa maupun tokoh masyarakat yang memiliki pengaruh personal kuat, rekam jejak sosial panjang, serta kepercayaan emosional dari masyarakat tanpa adanya paksaan. Ketiga tipe otoritas tersebut saling berinteraksi dan membentuk preferensi politik masyarakat dalam menentukan pilihan pada Pilkades. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa teori otoritas Max Weber masih relevan untuk menjelaskan sumber legitimasi kekuasaan dalam konteks Pilkades di Desa Mekarwangi, namun penerapannya bersifat dinamis dan kontekstual. Klasifikasi otoritas Weber tidak berdiri secara kaku, melainkan berkembang seiring perubahan sosial dan sangat bergantung pada pengakuan serta legitimasi yang diberikan oleh masyarakat. Dengan demikian, otoritas politik terbukti memiliki dampak signifikan terhadap cara pandang, penilaian, dan pilihan politik masyarakat dalam Pemilihan Kepala Desa.

Kata kunci: Otoritas Politik, Max Weber, Pilkades, Demokrasi Lokal, Desa Mekarwangi.

ABSTRACT

The Village Head Election (*Pemilihan Kepala Desa* or *Pilkades*) constitutes a concrete form of local democratic practice at the village level. Although procedurally regulated through legal and administrative mechanisms of a legal-formal nature, in practice the electoral process is frequently influenced by social dynamics, cultural factors, and authority structures that exist and develop within the community. This study aims to analyze the dynamics of political authority in the 2019 Village Head Election in Mekarwangi Village, Cisayong District, Tasikmalaya Regency, using Max Weber's framework of authority, which includes legal-formal authority, traditional authority, and charismatic authority. This research employs a qualitative descriptive approach, with data collection techniques consisting of in-depth interviews, observation, and documentation. Informants were selected purposively and included village head candidates, community leaders, religious figures, village officials, and local residents. The findings reveal that the dynamics of the Mekarwangi Village Head Election were not solely determined by formal electoral mechanisms, but were also strongly influenced by various forms of political authority held both by the village head candidates and by actors outside the group of candidates. Legal-formal authority was evident in actors holding structural positions within village governance and formal religious institutions, such as the Village Secretary, the Head of *Kepunduhan*, the Chairperson of the Village Consultative Body (BPD), and the Chairperson of the Village Indonesian Ulama Council (MUI). Traditional authority was primarily attached to figures from military backgrounds, intellectual circles, educators, religious leaders, and Islamic boarding school (*pesantren*) leaders who derived legitimacy from customs, religious values, and trust passed down through generations. Meanwhile, charismatic authority was reflected in both village head candidates and community figures who possessed strong personal influence, extensive social track records, and emotional trust from the community without coercion. These three types of authority interacted with one another and collectively shaped community political preferences in determining electoral choices. This study concludes that Max Weber's theory of authority remains relevant in explaining the sources of political legitimacy in the context of village head elections in Mekarwangi Village; however, its application is dynamic and contextual. Weber's classification of authority does not operate rigidly, but rather evolves alongside social change and is highly dependent on recognition and legitimacy granted by the community. Consequently, political authority is proven to have a significant impact on public perceptions, evaluations, and political choices in the Village Head Election.

Keywords: Political Authority, Max Weber, Village Head Election, Local Democracy, Mekarwangi Village.