

Good Government as the Foundation of Democracy and Social Justice in Indonesia

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Abstract: *This study aims to analyze the concept of good government as the main foundation in building substantive democracy and social justice in Indonesia. Through a descriptive qualitative approach with a literature study method, this study explores the principles of good governance such as accountability, transparency, the rule of law, public participation, and bureaucratic effectiveness, as well as the challenges of their implementation in Indonesia. The results of the study show that although Indonesia has a supportive normative and institutional framework, the implementation of good government still faces structural obstacles, including inertial bureaucracy, transactional political culture, weak law enforcement, and minimal substantial public participation. This study also highlights the strategic role of the younger generation, especially students, in driving government transformation through the use of digital technology and social advocacy. Therefore, good government needs to be understood not only as a technocratic mechanism, but as a collective democratic project that demands ethical commitment and active participation from all elements of the nation.*

Keywords: Good Government, Substantive Democracy, Social Justice.

Abstrak: *Studi ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis konsep pemerintahan yang baik sebagai landasan utama dalam membangun demokrasi substantif dan keadilan sosial di Indonesia. Melalui pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif dengan metode studi literatur, studi ini mengeksplorasi prinsip-prinsip tata kelola pemerintahan yang baik seperti akuntabilitas, transparansi, supremasi hukum, partisipasi publik, dan efektivitas birokrasi, serta tantangan implementasinya di Indonesia. Hasil studi menunjukkan bahwa meskipun Indonesia memiliki kerangka normatif dan kelembagaan yang mendukung, implementasi pemerintahan yang baik masih menghadapi hambatan struktural, termasuk birokrasi yang lamban, budaya politik transaksional, penegakan hukum yang lemah, dan partisipasi publik substantif yang minimal. Studi ini juga menyoroti peran strategis generasi muda, khususnya mahasiswa, dalam mendorong transformasi pemerintahan melalui penggunaan teknologi digital dan advokasi sosial. Oleh karena itu, pemerintahan yang baik perlu dipahami tidak hanya sebagai mekanisme teknokratis, tetapi sebagai proyek demokrasi kolektif yang menuntut komitmen etis dan partisipasi aktif dari semua elemen bangsa.*

Kata kunci: Pemerintahan yang Baik, Demokrasi Substansial, Keadilan Sosial.

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Pendahuluan

In a modern state system, the concept of good government is a crucial foundation for the realization of substantial democracy and equitable social justice. Good government is not just administrative jargon or political rhetoric, but rather an ethical, legal, and structural construction that represents clean, transparent,

accountable, participatory, and responsive governance to the needs of the people (Mukri & Waspiyah, 2023). In the context of a democratic country like Indonesia, the existence of good governance is not only demanded by the development of the times, but is also a constitutional mandate and the spirit of reform that wants to reorganize the relationship between the state and citizens in a more just and civilized manner.

As emphasized by (Effendi et al., 2022), good government implies the presence of a state that not only carries out electoral mandates, but also guarantees public trust through policy performance that is pro-people, impartial law enforcement, and efficient and non-discriminatory public service management. This concept combines the principles of procedural democracy with substantive ethics in government, so that harmony is created between power, law, and human rights.

In Indonesia, the narrative of good government is increasingly relevant in the context of the crisis of public trust in state institutions. Data from various surveys show that corruption, weak law enforcement, and low transparency are still the main issues that erode the foundations of democracy and create structural inequality in society (Murniati, 2015). In many cases, governments that fail to manage public resources fairly have given rise to inequality, marginalization of weak groups, and widespread social resistance.

In fact, good governance is an absolute requirement for the success of deliberative democracy and the redistribution of social justice. Democracy that only relies on elections without good governance will only produce a fragile "procedural democracy". As stated by (Marwah, 2012), the euphoria of electoral democracy in post-reform Indonesia did not immediately improve the quality of public services and social justice, because the bureaucracy is still dominated by patrimonialism and transactional culture.

The context of Indonesian citizenship further emphasizes the importance of implementing the principles of good government. In a democratic state of law, citizens have the right to obtain quality public services, access to government information, and fair and equal legal protection. Therefore, good government is not only important for the effectiveness of the bureaucracy, but also becomes a fundamental instrument in realizing the constitutional rights of citizens, as guaranteed in Article 28D paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution.

Normatively, the principle of good government in Indonesia has been stated in various regulations such as Law No. 28 of 1999 concerning the Implementation of a Clean State Free from Corruption, Collusion, and Nepotism, and Law No. 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Transparency. However, the reality in the field often shows a paradox. Many policies that are progressive on paper fail in implementation due to weak integrity, bureaucratic resistance, and low public literacy regarding their own rights.

Comparison with other countries shows that the success of good government does not lie in economic progress alone, but in moral commitment and institutional integrity. Finland, for example, has succeeded in building public trust through transparency and strong oversight of state apparatus. New Zealand shows that leadership with integrity can create inclusive and humanistic public services. Meanwhile, South Korea is an example of how digitalization of government can drive efficiency while reducing the space for corrupt practices.

Indonesia, unfortunately, is still lagging behind in implementing these principles. Although various efforts have been made such as bureaucratic reform and digitalization of services, their implementation is not yet systemic and is often hampered by feudal culture in government institutions. This has a direct impact on the quality of democracy and social justice at the grassroots level. When the state fails to carry out its service functions fairly, democracy will only become a meaningless procedure, and social justice will become a mere constitutional illusion.

Furthermore, the role of civil society especially students is crucial in overseeing the principles of good governance. Students are not only the beneficiaries of good governance, but also agents of change who can criticize and intervene in the public policy process. However, ironically, student participation in political discourse is often marginalized by academic pressures and social pragmatism. In fact, a healthy democracy requires the active participation of critical and politically literate citizens.

Thus, the formulation and implementation of good government cannot be separated from the paradigm of substantive democracy and sustainable development. The government needs to go beyond rhetoric and truly make good government a policy that is oriented towards results and people's welfare. On the other hand, civil society must rise as a balancing force, by strengthening the capacity of social supervision and critical civic education. Thus, the formulation and implementation of good government cannot be separated from the paradigm of substantive democracy and sustainable development. The government needs to go beyond rhetoric and truly make good government a policy that is oriented towards results and people's welfare. On the other hand, civil society must rise as a balancing force, by strengthening the capacity of social supervision and critical civic education.

Metodologi Penelitian

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a library research method. This approach was chosen because it is appropriate for exploring normative and theoretical concepts of good government, as well as its relevance to democracy and social justice in Indonesia (Yusuf, 2017). The focus of the study is on exploring scientific literature and official documents to gain an in-depth understanding of the principles, implementation, and challenges of implementing good government in the context of Indonesian constitutional law.

The data sources in this study consist of two main categories, namely primary and secondary literature. Primary literature includes academic books, accredited national and international journals, such as the Journal of Asian Public Policy, Journal of Financial Crime, and publications from Harvard University Press. In addition, legal documents are also used such as the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Law No. 28 of 1999 concerning the Implementation of a Clean and Corruption-Free State, and Law No. 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure. Meanwhile, secondary literature includes scientific articles, seminar proceedings, previous research results, reports from government institutions such as the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), Ombudsman, Audit Board of Indonesia (BPK), and international publications from institutions such as Transparency International.

The data collection technique used in this study is the documentation technique, namely through the process of identification, classification, and selection of library materials that are relevant to the research topic (Sugiyono, 2019). The selection of sources was done purposively with certain criteria, including: sources must contain discussions on the principles of good government, be relevant to the context of governance in Indonesia, and be published within the last ten years to maintain data actuality. However, in certain cases, classic sources that have high theoretical value are still used as a conceptual basis.

Data analysis was carried out using content analysis techniques, namely examining the substance of documents to identify and map the conceptual structure of good government and its relationship to democracy and social justice. This analysis also includes a study of the practices and challenges of implementing good government in Indonesia, as well as a comparison with governance practices in several developed countries such as Finland, New Zealand, and South Korea. The analysis process was carried out through three main stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions, as referred to by (Huberman, 1992). Researchers carried out thematic categorization based on the main indicators of good government, such as accountability, transparency, public participation, the rule of law, and service effectiveness, which were then linked to indicators of substantive democracy and social justice in the Indonesian context.

Hasil Penelitian

A. Good Government as a Paradigm of Substantive Democracy

Conceptually, good government cannot be separated from substantive democracy, namely democracy that does not stop at the five-yearly electoral procedure, but reaches the quality of everyday life of citizens. Substantive democracy requires the presence of a government that is not only legitimately elected, but also exercises power responsibly, openly, fairly, and in the public interest. In this framework, good government functions as a moral and institutional infrastructure that bridges electoral legitimacy with performance legitimacy (Permana, 2020).

The main principles of good government such as accountability, transparency, rule of law, efficiency, responsiveness, and public participation are not just administrative jargon, but are fundamental values that determine the direction and quality of the relationship between the state and its citizens. Accountability, for example, is not just about financial reports or internal audits, but includes the government's ability to respond to and correct failed policies, as well as open itself to criticism and correction from the public (Khasanah & Paryanto, 2023).

In Indonesia, the spirit of good government has been accommodated in a number of important regulations, including Law Number 28 of 1999 concerning the Implementation of a Clean and Corruption-Free State, Collusion, and Nepotism, and Law Number 14 of 2008 concerning Openness of Public Information. These two regulations are the state's efforts to strengthen the principles of transparency and accountability. However, in practice, the application of these principles still tends to be administrative-formalistic and has not touched on the structural transformation needed to realize substantive and socially just democracy (Ridwan, 2017).

The results of this study found that when good governance is implemented

comprehensively, it will strengthen three fundamental aspects of Indonesian democracy: protection of civil and political rights, equal distribution of social justice, and the emergence of ethical and responsible leadership. These three aspects are interrelated and mutually reinforcing in creating a democratic and inclusive national life.

1. Protection of Civil and Political Rights

One of the main contributions of good government in democracy is the guarantee of civil and political rights of citizens. Transparency in the decision-making process allows the public to know what policies the government is or will implement, who is involved, and how they will impact public life. This creates a healthy space for participation and social control.

With high accountability, the public can also demand accountability if there is a deviation of power or violation of rights. This is important because in an unhealthy democracy, citizens often do not have access to demand justice, while political elites continue to reproduce power through manipulative electoral mechanisms. In a good government system, the right to know and the right to participate become an integral part of active citizenship.

2. Social Justice and Equity in Public Services

Good government contributes significantly to the realization of social justice, namely a condition in which public resources and services are distributed fairly and evenly without discrimination. The principles of efficiency and responsiveness require that the public bureaucracy works by prioritizing the needs of the people, especially vulnerable groups who have been marginalized in development.

Public services that are oriented towards efficiency do not mean cutting people's rights, but rather maximizing the benefits of policies at the lowest possible cost. In this context, the principle of efficiency cannot be separated from the principle of equity. A good government is a government that is able to target policies based on inequality data and carry out affirmations for the poor, women, the disabled, and indigenous peoples.

Unfortunately, the practice of public services in Indonesia still often shows spatial and social inequality. Access to education, health, and social security is still unequal between cities and villages, Java and outside Java, and between elite groups and the poor. This shows that the principle of social justice has not really been used as an orientation in the planning and implementation of public policy.

3. Ethical Leadership and the Rule of Law

Healthy democracy requires leaders who not only have formal legality, but also moral and performative legitimacy. The supremacy of law that is consistently enforced becomes an instrument to prevent abuse of power, strengthen the integrity of public officials, and foster public trust in the state.

Within the framework of good government, ethical leadership is born from a bureaucratic and political environment that emphasizes responsibility, integrity, and compliance with the law. Public officials are not only measured by administrative success, but also by the extent to which their policies reflect public ethics and answer the needs of the people. The principle of the rule of

law also emphasizes that no one, including high state officials, is above the law. Therefore, the supremacy of law is the main guard against the possibility of abuse of power that often arises in a democratic system that is institutionally weak. The implementation of a strong supremacy of law also creates a predictable, fair, and stable governance ecosystem.

4. Transformation from Procedural Democracy to Substantive Democracy

One of the important findings of this study is that procedural democracy, which has been the focus of the Indonesian political system, is not enough to guarantee social justice and people's welfare. Electoral democracy only creates a circulation of power, but does not necessarily guarantee the creation of a clean and effective government.

Good government can be a bridge to make the transition from procedural democracy to substantive democracy. In substantive democracy, values such as honesty, efficiency, and concern for the people are the main measures of government success. Winning an election is not the end goal, but the beginning of a mandate for quality and people-oriented public services.

For example, countries such as Finland and New Zealand have shown that good government plays a major role in building a healthy democracy. The governments in both countries prioritize public participation, ethical leadership, and efficient and non-discriminatory public services. There, democracy is not only seen from free and fair elections, but also from how much the government guarantees basic rights, social justice, and political inclusion for all levels of society (Transparency International, 2022).

B. Challenges of Implementing Good Government in Indonesia

This study found that the failure or delay in implementing the principles of good government in Indonesia was not caused by the absence of a normative framework or formal institutions, but rather by systemic and multidimensional challenges. These challenges touch on the roots of the country's problems, ranging from patterns of power relations, bureaucratic structures, political culture, to citizen participation. Broadly speaking, these challenges are divided into four main aspects: (1) inertial and unresponsive bureaucracy, (2) patronage and transactional political culture, (3) weak supremacy and law enforcement, and (4) symbolic public participation with minimal substantive impetus.

1. Inertial and Unresponsive Bureaucracy

Bureaucratic reform has been a national strategic agenda since the beginning of the Reformation era. Steps such as regulatory simplification, e-government, and the establishment of public service institutions such as the Public Service Mall (MPP) do show the government's positive commitment. However, at the practical level, the Indonesian bureaucracy still faces serious obstacles in the form of a status quo mentality, dependence on rigid administrative procedures, and resistance to innovation.

Many studies, such as those conducted by Fitriani (2021), highlight that digital transformation in the government sector is often trapped in the spirit of projects, not systemic change. This is due to the low capacity of Human Resources (HR), lack of continuous training, and minimal impact-based evaluation. Instead of reducing service time and costs, digitalization that is not

accompanied by work culture reform actually exacerbates bureaucratic slowness, and opens up opportunities for the emergence of digital extortion practices in the form of unofficial third-party services.

In addition, the Indonesian bureaucracy is still very centralized in decision-making. Many service authorities that should be delegated to regions or technical units remain centralized at the center. This makes services slow and not adaptive to local needs. In countries with responsive bureaucracies such as Estonia and South Korea, the user-centric governance approach has replaced the old hierarchical model with a collaborative and decentralized model, resulting in faster and more participatory services.

2. Patronage and Transactional Political Culture

Indonesian politics since the New Order era until the Reformation era has not been completely free from patronage and transactional politics. This study found that political parties in Indonesia, instead of being drivers of public ethics, often become agents of commercialization of power. The political recruitment process that is full of pragmatism and lacks meritocracy has produced political elites who are not oriented towards public service.

As explained by (Roisuddin et al., 2024), political parties often nominate candidates based on popularity, logistical strength, or patronage connections, rather than integrity or leadership capacity. As a result, the quality of public officials declines, and it is difficult to implement good governance principles such as accountability, effectiveness, and participation.

Furthermore, the pragmatic coalition practices between political parties have eroded the independence of legislative institutions. Many national strategic policies were born through a closed political process with minimal public participation. The case of the revision of the KPK Law and the ratification of the Omnibus Law are real examples of how the legislative process is controlled by the elite without significant public involvement. This phenomenon hinders the creation of inclusive and accountable democratic governance.

3. Weak Supremacy and Law Enforcement

The rule of law is the backbone of good government. Without a consistent and impartial legal system, there can be no accountability, justice, or protection of citizens' rights. However, research findings show that law enforcement in Indonesia still faces serious problems such as legal dualism, intervention of power, and politicization of judicial institutions.

Transparency International's (2023) report places Indonesia at a stagnant Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) score in the last five years, indicating the ineffectiveness of the legal system in providing a deterrent effect. This is exacerbated by light sentences for high-level corruption perpetrators and impunity for officials with strong political connections.

In addition, the legal process in Indonesia still places citizens in an inferior position. High legal process costs, slow resolution times, and minimal access to legal aid make the law a tool of power, not justice. Within the framework of the rule of law, this condition is diametrically opposed to the principle of equality before the law.

In countries like New Zealand or Norway, law enforcement is not only carried out by the judiciary, but is also monitored by the ombudsman, independent media, and a strong civil society. Indonesia still needs to build an inclusive and empowered legal oversight ecosystem.

4. Lack of Substantive Public Participation

The principle of public participation is an absolute requirement in good governance. However, in Indonesia, public participation is still ritualistic and symbolic. Public involvement often only appears during election moments, while in the process of making strategic policies such as regional budgets, drafting regulations, and monitoring performance, the public is often positioned passively.

This study found that the resistance of government institutions to transparency is a major obstacle to the development of an open government culture. Although Law No. 14 of 2008 guarantees the right to public information, many state institutions close access to strategic documents on the pretext of "state secrets" or "technical authority".

According to UNDP (2006), meaningful public participation requires clear consultation mechanisms, access to open data, and responsive channels for aspirations. In countries such as Finland and Taiwan, civil society is not only invited to participate in policy dialogues, but is also involved in the co-creation of government programs, including through digital platforms for e-consultation and e-budgeting.

Indonesia actually has a good example in the Musrenbang (Development Planning Deliberation) mechanism, but its implementation in many regions is still trapped in formality, without any real influence on budget allocation or strategic policies.

C. Good Government as a Prerequisite for Social Justice in Indonesia

One of the key findings in this study is that good government is not only a technocratic prerequisite for increasing bureaucratic efficiency, but is also a major catalyst in realizing sustainable social justice. This is in line with the normative spirit contained in the fifth principle of Pancasila Social Justice for All Indonesian People as well as the constitutional mandate in Article 33 paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution, which emphasizes that the earth, water, and natural resources contained therein are controlled by the state and used as much as possible for the prosperity of the people (Gusmansyah, 2019).

In this framework, good governance becomes an important instrument to ensure that state policies do not only benefit a handful of elites or developed regions, but also embrace the needs of vulnerable groups, underdeveloped regions, and indigenous communities. Good governance that is, transparent, accountable, responsive, and just will ensure that public resources are managed fairly, corruption can be suppressed, and basic citizen rights such as health, education, and employment can be fulfilled equally throughout Indonesia.

However, the results of field studies and literature reviews show that Indonesia's social reality is still very far from the ideals of social justice. Spatial inequality between the center and regions, as well as socio-economic inequality between rich and poor groups, continue to be major challenges. Data from Bappenas

(2022) and the World Bank (2021) show that Indonesia's Gini ratio index is still at an alarming figure, indicating a deep gap in inequality, both in access to income, education, and health services.

One of the main causes of this situation is the public bureaucracy that is not yet responsive and structurally unjust. Adequate public services are still concentrated in urban areas and government centers, while inland areas, islands, and customary areas are still lagging behind in terms of basic infrastructure. For example, health facilities in Papua, NTT, or parts of Kalimantan are still very minimal compared to Jakarta or Surabaya (Mudzakkir, 2016). The same applies to the quality of education, internet access, and the availability of public transportation.

Furthermore, the existing public policy mechanisms are not fully based on needs and inequality data (evidence-based policy). Many policies are still formulated based on an elitist, non-inclusive "top-down" approach, with minimal participation from vulnerable groups such as women, people with disabilities, indigenous communities, and the urban poor. As a result, many social programs are not well-targeted, and the state budget does not reach those who need it most.

In the framework of good government, this is a violation of the principle of distributive justice which should be the moral basis for public budget management. Good governance is not enough to just meet administrative standards, but must actively encourage the redistribution of resources to marginalized groups, either through budget affirmation, local economic empowerment, or strengthening community capacity.

The results of this study indicate that there are three core principles in good government that are closely related to achieving social justice (Marwah, 2012):

1. Kebijakan Publik Berbasis Bukti (Evidence-Based Policy) Pemerintah harus menyusun kebijakan berdasarkan data empirik, pemetaan ketimpangan spasial, dan indikator kesejahteraan sosial yang dapat diverifikasi. Dengan demikian, alokasi anggaran maupun kebijakan intervensi dapat diarahkan secara lebih tepat ke wilayah dan kelompok yang paling membutuhkan. Pemanfaatan big data, survei sosial, dan integrasi data lintas lembaga sangat penting untuk menciptakan sistem pengambilan keputusan yang rasional dan berkeadilan.
2. Partisipasi Kelompok Rentan dalam Perumusan Kebijakan Prinsip partisipasi dalam *good government* bukan sekadar seremoni musrenbang tahunan, melainkan keterlibatan substansial dari kelompok marjinal dalam proses perencanaan, pelaksanaan, dan evaluasi kebijakan. Dengan melibatkan komunitas lokal, masyarakat adat, perempuan, dan penyandang disabilitas, kebijakan negara dapat lebih mencerminkan kebutuhan nyata di lapangan. Ini sekaligus memperkuat legitimasi demokratis dari keputusan publik.
3. Keadilan Distributif dalam Alokasi Anggaran Prinsip keadilan distributif menekankan pentingnya pengalokasian sumber daya berdasarkan kebutuhan yang berbeda. Pemerintah harus berani menerapkan affirmative budgeting, yaitu mengalokasikan lebih banyak anggaran untuk wilayah tertinggal dan sektor layanan dasar seperti pendidikan, kesehatan, air bersih, dan infrastruktur dasar. Hal ini tidak hanya

meningkatkan akses layanan, tetapi juga menciptakan fondasi sosial bagi pertumbuhan ekonomi yang inklusif.

1. Evidence-Based Public Policy

The government must formulate policies based on empirical data, spatial inequality mapping, and verifiable social welfare indicators. Thus, budget allocations and intervention policies can be directed more precisely to areas and groups that need them most. The use of big data, social surveys, and cross-agency data integration are essential to creating a rational and equitable decision-making system.

2. Participation of Vulnerable Groups in Policy Formulation

The principle of participation in good government is not just an annual musrenbang ceremony, but rather substantial involvement of marginalized groups in the process of planning, implementing, and evaluating policies. By involving local communities, indigenous peoples, women, and people with disabilities, state policies can better reflect real needs on the ground. This also strengthens the democratic legitimacy of public decisions.

3. Distributive Justice in Budget Allocation

The principle of distributive justice emphasizes the importance of allocating resources based on different needs. The government must dare to implement affirmative budgeting, namely allocating more budget for disadvantaged areas and basic service sectors such as education, health, clean water, and basic infrastructure. This not only increases access to services, but also creates a social foundation for inclusive economic growth.

D. Potensi Penguatan Good Government Melalui Peran Generasi Muda dan Teknologi

One of the most significant and prospective research results is the role of the younger generation especially students in encouraging the realization of good government in Indonesia. In Indonesian political history, students have a long track record as actors of social and political change. The 1966 student movement that brought down the Old Order and the 1998 reformation that overthrew the New Order showed that the younger generation has the collective capacity to substantively influence the direction of government.

However, contemporary conditions show a paradox. On the one hand, students have much wider access to information than the previous generation, but on the other hand, many of them actually show symptoms of political apathy. This phenomenon is evident from the low participation in campus political discussion forums, weak critical thinking on public policy issues, and the dominance of pragmatic activities that are purely academic or digital entertainment oriented.

However, the development of digital technology has opened up a new, very strategic space for the rise of socio-political activism for the younger generation. Social media such as X (Twitter), Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube have not only become a means of expression, but have also transformed into an arena for citizen engagement and digital advocacy. This platform provides broad opportunities for students and civil society to carry out social control functions against power quickly, massively and participatively.

However, the effectiveness of this digital space is highly dependent on three

main prerequisites (Rasyid, 2008):

1. Critical Digital Literacy

Without adequate digital literacy, social media can actually become a place for disinformation, hate speech, and political polarization. Digital literacy is not only the ability to use technology, but also includes the ability to assess the validity of information, recognize propaganda, and distinguish between legitimate criticism and destructive hoaxes.

The results of a Katadata survey (2023) show that although 85% of Indonesian students actively use the internet, only 37% admit to being able to verify the truth of the political information they consume. This shows that the existence of digital space alone is not enough; there needs to be critical civic education that is systematically instilled through the curriculum and academic culture on campus.

2. Legal Protection for Public Criticism

Amidst technological advances, freedom of expression continues to face challenges. The rubber articles in the ITE Law, such as Articles 27 and 28, are often used to silence legitimate criticism from citizens towards public officials. This creates a chilling effect among the younger generation who want to be involved in public discourse, especially if their criticism is sharp and targets the power elite.

Therefore, good government must be supported by legal policies that guarantee citizens' right to speak out, including the right to criticize the government without fear of criminalization. The state needs to emphasize that constructive criticism is part of democratic control, not a threat to state stability.

3. Data Transparency and Digital Accountability

Technology is only a neutral tool. If digitalization is only used as an infrastructure procurement project without transparency, without interconnection between agencies, and without involving the public in evaluation then e-government will fail to carry out its transformational role. In practice, many public service applications built by ministries/agencies and local governments are overlapping, not integrated, and not responsive to the needs of citizens.

For example, a report from the Indonesian Ombudsman (2022) shows that of the 514 local governments, more than 60% do not yet have a one-stop integrated digital service system. Many digital services actually complicate rather than simplify, due to poor system design and minimal orientation to user needs (user-oriented service)

Kesimpulan

This study confirms that good government is not merely an administrative tool or normative discourse, but rather a fundamental prerequisite for the realization of substantive democracy and social justice in Indonesia. Within the framework of modern democracy, clean, transparent, accountable, and participatory governance not only guarantees the sustainability of a legitimate political system, but also protects citizens' rights, expands access to public services,

and encourages an equitable distribution of social justice.

The concept of good government includes a set of principles such as accountability, transparency, the rule of law, public participation, bureaucratic effectiveness, and ethical leadership. When these principles are implemented consistently, the state not only has legal and electoral legitimacy, but also moral and social legitimacy in the eyes of its people. In the Indonesian context, good government can be a transformational bridge from procedural democracy to substantive and just democracy.

However, the results of this study also show that the implementation of good government in Indonesia still faces serious structural and cultural challenges. Slow and unresponsive bureaucracy, transactional political culture, weak rule of law, and minimal substantial public participation are the main obstacles to achieving good governance. Although various regulations have been passed and institutions have been formed, in reality, government practices are still far from the ideal principles of good governance.

Furthermore, the findings of this study highlight the strategic role of the younger generation, especially students, in encouraging governance reform through digital participation channels. Social media, citizen journalism, and online advocacy spaces are new instruments in social control and mobilization of public opinion. However, the effectiveness of these spaces is highly dependent on the quality of digital literacy, legal protection for freedom of expression, and the state's willingness to open itself to meaningful public participation.

Thus, good governance is not only the government's responsibility, but also a collective project of the nation that demands synergy between the state, civil society, academics, media, and the private sector. For this, a strong political commitment, visionary leadership, comprehensive bureaucratic reform, and strengthening the capacity of citizens to oversee and demand governance that is fair, transparent, and in the public interest are needed.

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