

# YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT ACCELERATION OF KOLAKA UTARA REGENCY

( A Case Study in Forum Anak Koke-koke)

Sirajuddin

Journalistic Department Universitas Halu Oleo Kendari, Indonesia

Sitti Utami Rezkiawaty Kamil

Journalistic Department Universitas Halu Oleo Kendari, Indonesia

[timtam.kamil@gmail.com](mailto:timtam.kamil@gmail.com)

**Abstract—** Proclaimed as a child-friendly regency, Kolaka Utara is seeking a system of development of an administrative area which integrates commitments and resources of the government, society, and business worlds in the fulfillment of children's rights in a planned, comprehensive and sustainable way. The implementation is done by putting children matters in the first and foremost place. Forum Anak Koke-Koke is a platform for youth participation to accommodate their voice aspirations. It is managed by young aged up to 18 years old. It aims to contribute to the planning, monitoring, and the evaluation of program policies and regional development activities in cooperation with the government. Their ability to learn and play allows them to give meaning to their environment. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative research method which aims to explain the description of youth participation in the development acceleration of north kolaka regency, in this case, the researcher takes the descriptive study at Forum Anak Koke-Koke. Raising and encourage young people to be an active citizen in the decision-making process and takes participation in society are the main priority nowadays in Kolaka Utara. Youth participation in the development process in the region is influenced by several aspects, among others: government policy, and socio-cultural conditions. The existence of Forum Anak Koke-Koke aims to reduce the problems of youth participation in Kolaka Utara. This forum made a revolutionary breakthrough related to the participation of young people of Kolaka Utara, such as increasingly appreciated the views of young people, political support, and engaging community.

**Keywords—**Youth; Participation; Development;

## I. INTRODUCTION

As a regency that wants to transform into a child-friendly region, Kolaka Utara needs to seek the fulfillment of basic rights of children such as the right to life, to grow, to be protected, and to participate. One of the indicators measured and strived by Kolaka Utara is to provide space for youth participation in development. It is in line with those mandated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is also in line with the regulation of the ministry of women's empowerment and child protection, number 3 in article 1 paragraph 2 (2011) on the policy of child participation for development. It states that child participation is the involvement of the child in the decision making processes about all things related to them. It also encourages people's awareness, understanding, and willingness so that children can enjoy the results or get the benefits of the decision.

Started in 1989, the United Nations (UN) in the Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes an obligation for governments to ratify and measure the rights of the child. The Convention groups children's rights into 4 (four) basic rights groups: survival rights, development rights, protection rights, and participation rights. In 1990, Indonesia through Presidential Decree No. 36 of 1990 then passed the Child Protection Act No. 23 of 2002, amended to Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection. Indonesia agrees that all children's rights are equal and will make every effort to ensure that all rights are respected, protected and fulfilled. It also shows that children's participation is a basic and a stepping stone that ensures children are the subjects of the same human rights. So, they are not always the object of a development process. Therefore, Kolaka Utara tries to implement the mandate of the regulation especially in the process of planning and implementation of regional development. Some policies are subsequently born to fulfill the obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of the child and not infringe on the rights of the child, and take sides with the best interests of the child in the context of the fulfillment of children's participation rights.

The number of youth in Indonesia according to Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) data in 2014 reached 61.8 million people or

24.5 percent of the total population. This number is expected to continue to rise sharply. In the year 2020-2045, where Indonesia is predicted to get an extraordinary demographic bonus, where the number of productive ages is projected to be more than half the population of Indonesia. The success of utilizing the demographic bonus era is highly dependent on the current preparation, which is to provide policy, socio-economic infrastructure and the capacity and character needed by productive youth at the time, if not to be a losing, weak and divided nation in the era of global competition later. This large amount can be likened to two sides of a coin. On the one side, this large quantity can be a better manifestation of the future of the Indonesian nation, but on the other side if this quantity is not balanced with the development of the quality of the child itself then it could be a barrier to development in Indonesia. Therefore, it is necessary to open up the greatest opportunity for youth to be able to develop their identity and potential so that their existence is good in quantity and quality. Young people need to be given space to do more for the nation. Thus the issue of youth participation becomes a severe issue responded not only in the world but also in Indonesia. The concept of child participation is then initiated. The programs are promoted to accommodate the diverse desires of children. Development not only focuses on infrastructure development but also sharpens the focus on simultaneous and complementary human development.

Forum Anak Nasional (FAN) is a forum to accommodate the aspirations of the child's voice and is managed directly by children up to 18 years old, working with the government and contributing to the process of planning, monitoring and evaluation of program policies and local development activities. FAN has representatives throughout Indonesia, and Forum Anak Koke-Koke (FAKK) is one of the representatives of FAN located in Kolaka Utara regency. Since its formation on 28 November 2013, and then confirmed January 7, 2014. FAKK is a forum that concerns children's participation. Amid the progress of Indonesian democracy, youth emerges with a role as a bearer of change for the country with fresh ideas. Young people are an essential element in the development of a nation, so it is crucial for youth to have space to hold opinions and hear opinions. The transformation of a nation relies heavily on the mobility of generations that leads to prosperity and progress for society in general. So it is crucial to ensure that the potential, quality, and character of each youth can be realized optimally and equally both individually and in the community, for a better Indonesia. Experience at home and abroad shows that engaging youth in neighborhood, community and national development yields an opportunity to harness their energy, enthusiasm, skills, and innovative ideas to increase economic growth, foster social stability, improve civic participation, and ensure healthier, more educated and productive societies. For that, it is essential to let the youth take a role and actively participate in regional development. Youth in Development policy recognizes that young people are both individuals transitioning through life's developmental stages and actors in the development of their countries and communities. As young people, they experience physical,

cognitive, emotional, and social changes that influence their needs, identities, and behavior as well as their opportunities.

## II. RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative research method which aims to explain the description of youth participation in the development acceleration of north kolaka regency, in this case, the researcher takes the descriptive study at Forum Anak Koke-Koke (FAKK). The informant is chosen by purposive sampling. In this study, the researchers interviewed the informants from the forum Anak Koke-koke, consisting of three board members and three child activists from Kolaka Utara who are also advisors of the Forum Anak Koke-koke. The research data was collected in two methods namely, first, non-participatory observation method. The second method is an in-depth interview by asking questions based on research objectives (Kuswarno, 2009). The data analysis of this research is conducted qualitatively. Bogdan as quoted Sugiyono (2007: 244) states that the qualitative data analysis is the process of searching and arranging systematically data obtained from observations so the findings can be easily understood and informed by others. Activity analysis of this research data include data identification / reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusion. (Kuswarno, 2009). *Maintaining the Integrity of the Specifications*

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In line with the spirit of decentralization, with a wider delegation of power and authority to local governments, its open opportunities for every community for participating in regional development. Many activities can transform the personality and skills of the young people, one of the national programs is Forum Anak Nasional (FAN). In North Kolaka, the FAN itself transformed by a slightly different name, Forum Anak Koke-Koke (FAKK). Young people are often in the position of being a pioneer of renewal, the trigger of change as well as the bearers of change. Strategic roles that contribute to the acceleration of regional development become an option that should not pass without contribution from the youth. The mental revolution to build the capacity and character of young people is becoming a major issue. Regarding maturing young people, the government of Kolaka Utara has pioneered several activities that allow youth to mature with an interdisciplinary approach and deal directly with the community and benefit the community. The existence of forum Anak Koke-Koke (FAKK) aims to reduce the problem of participation of children in Kolaka Utara; this cannot be separated with the role of the Regent of Kolaka Utara at that time, Rusda Mahmud. Through FAKK, young people of Kolaka Utara developed their abilities according to their talents. In youth affairs, FAKK made a revolutionary breakthrough regarding the participation of young people of Kolaka Utara, including:

### 1. Respect for Children's View

In Kolaka Utara, the role of children in development is contained in the development planning forum (musrenbang). Children who become FAKK members are included in the musrenbang from village to the district level. The participation

of young people in musrenbang makes little changes that are more oriented to children. the implementation of musrenbang is usually done at night. Since the inclusion of FAKK, the implementation time is adjusted and more child-friendly time so that young people can participate in the discussion and be free to voice their opinions.

## 2. Political Support

The government actively encourages the stakeholders (government itself, parents, society, employers, and investors) to be more child-friendly and more open to the perspective of the rights of children and the fulfillment of the basic rights of the child, it becomes a new standard. Therefore, it is necessary for the child facilitators to work harder to understand the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other child-related regulations in facilitating FAKK. So, the proposed development and the programs of FAKK can be voiced well to the Kolaka Utara government. Because, even if the young people have unlimited ability and creativity, the young people still need counseling with their facilitators from adults to ensure their rights are obtained and fulfilled.

## 3. Engaging Community

Community involvement can not be separated by the development of Forum Anak Koke-koke. As a forum that provides a place for children's participation, the support from all parties is needed. In practice, FAKK was initially in Dinas Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak that were then transferred to Badan Pengendalian Penduduk dan Keluarga Berencana in Kolaka Utara. The Efforts to bring the widest possible participation of children are hampered by the joining of secretariats within the scope of the government service, so that later sparked the idea to separate the secretariat of FAKK itself, something that has not been done at the others Forum Anak. The process of building a secretariat involves the community in Kolaka Utara, because the Funds development are not sourced from the APBN or APBD but purely from the contribution of community and stakeholders in Kolaka Utara. This secretariat is even claimed to be the only secretariat of Forum Anak Nasional in Indonesia that was built separately from the government service and involved the community participation. For this success, FAKK was represented by Rusda Mahmud invited as the keynote speaker of the 8th Child in the City Conference in Belgium.

Also, this naming of Forum Anak Koke-koke has a unique philosophy, the people of Southeast Sulawesi, especially Kolaka Utara has been familiar with the terms "Koke-koke" which is the sounds used by toy sellers to attract the attention of children and it sounds loud. This philosophy is used in the process of creating the name Koke-Koke, the loud voice. The presence of forum Anak Koke-Koke in Kolaka Utara and expected to be a place that voices the aspirations of children aloud and increase the participation of children to develop themselves. The purpose of this forum is for communication

and interaction between local government and children in North Kolaka to fulfill the participation of children. As it is known that every child has the right to express an opinion, to have a voice in the family, to have the right to complain, to choose Education based on his interests and talents. The problem of low participation of children in the development process in the region is influenced by several aspects, among others can be viewed from: government policy, and socio-cultural conditions. The awareness about the importance of children's participation in every development process so far is limited and only understood at the central government level.

## IV. CONCLUSION

Youth participation involves all elements of society. It enables the aspirations of young people so that they can be responsible and enjoy the results of development. The young people can also enjoy the benefit of more stable, democratic, and prosperous communities and nations. Forum Anak Koke-Koke (FAKK) as one of the children's participation forum in Kolaka Utara, should be nurtured and facilitated so that its roles and functions can work well. The role of mentor and facilitator is strategic enough to encourage participation of children and socialize to all stakeholders in Kolaka Utara to involve in program planning and policy making related to the development of Kolaka Utara. Young people are the major stakeholders of today and tomorrow. It is essential that their ambitions and aspirations become part of the current development. Forum Anak Koke-Koke has become a place for young people to participate in development, proactively ensures that the youth can fulfill their dreams for prosperity, freedom, and justice.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Bungin, Burhan. 2011. *Penelitian Kualitatif*. Jakarta: Kencana
- [2] Dereau, Christoper. (2013). *Pembaru dan Kekuatan Lokal untuk Pembangunan*. TT: Australian Community Development and Civil Society Strengthening Scheme (ACCESS) Phase II.
- [3] Hart, Roger. 1992. *Children's Participation: From Tokenism to Citizenship*. UNICEF: Florence
- [4] Kuswarno, Engkus. 2009. *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif Fenomenologi Konsepsi, Pedoman dan Contoh Penelitiannya*. Bandung: Widya Padjajaran K. Elissa,
- [5] Lauer, Robert H. 1993. *Perspektif Tentang Perubahan Sosial*. Jakarta : PT Rineka Cipta.
- [6] *Panduan Partisipasi Anak dalam Perencanaan Pembangunan, Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak*, 2014
- [7] *Pedoman Pengembangan Forum Anak Nasional, Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak*, 2012.