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# Factors Affecting the Victory of Kuwu Election

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**Abstract**—Kuwu is the village head directly elected by the village people. The village people have the freedom to use their right to vote in the candidate of the kuwu in accordance with their wishes. Every kuwu candidate and his supporters try to influence the people's suffrage in order to win the kuwu election. Kuwu candidates who get the most votes are declared as candidates for the election winners. What factors influenced the victory of the Kuwu election? This is an interesting problem that needs to be known. The results of empirical research on the practice of the election of the kuwu show that the family relationship between the voters and the candidate of the kuwu is the factor that most influences the victory of the kuwu election. Achievement and wealth factors of the prospective kuwu are the second and third factors that can influence the victory of the kuwu election in Indramayu Regency.

**Keywords:** factors, kuwu election, victory

## I. INTRODUCTION

Kuwu is the name of the village head in Indramayu Regency, West Java Province. Kuwu election means the election of the village head, that is, the election of village officials who will lead the village government. The village is a legal community unit that has the authority to manage and manage government affairs, the interests of the local community based on community initiatives, original rights, and / or traditional rights that are recognized and respected in the government system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia [1]. The village has a geographical, economic, political, and cultural unity that contains homogeneous, traditional and agrarian characteristics and has its own government called village government [2].

The village government is part of the government of the state which is under the administration of the sub-district, which is located in the

regency [3]. The village government has autonomy authority to develop the village [4] so that the village can regulate and manage its own government affairs [5]. At present Indonesia has 74,945 villages [6], led by a village head (kuwu). The village head (kuwu) is directly and secretly elected by the village people through a village head election process [7], organized by the Village Head Election Committee.

On December 13, 2017 the Regional Government of Indramayu Regency held a simultaneous election of Kuwu in 158 villages [8]. The villagers have used their vote, both the right to be elected and the right to vote for the candidate of kuwu. Candidates for kuwu are individual candidates, not in pairs, who are nominated by the village people. Kuwu election uses a direct election system, meaning that the village people directly choose one of the available kuwu candidates. The election process is carried out directly, freely, confidentially, honestly and fairly in a place that has been provided by the committee. The kuwu selection committee determined the kuwu candidates who won the most votes as the winning kuwu candidates, who then submitted more slowly to the Regent to be elected as the elected kuwu.

The practice of selecting kuwu in Indramayu Regency is very interesting to study, considering that many villagers want to become kuwu, the people welcomed the election of kuwu as an enthusiastic democratic party, there was a tight and hard competition of candidates for kuwu, and the emergence of various factors that influenced the victory of the prospective kuwu. This also happened to the two sample selection of kuwu in Lelea Village and Tamansari Village, Lelea District. Both villages have high homogeneity because they originate from one village divided into two villages, have the same social and cultural structure as Sundanese society and culture, have the same livelihood as some rice farmers and traditional traders, and the community has a high competition style, so competition between Kuwu

candidates are very strict and hard [9].

In the selection of kuwu in the two villages above, several factors emerged that influenced the winning of the kuwu, namely family relations, friendship, wealth, education, and the work program of prospective kuwu. Based on this, the interesting problem to be examined is what factors influence the victory of the kuwu candidate in the selection of kuwu in Lelea Village and Tamansari Village, Lelea District, Indramayu Regency? This problem has been carried out research using empirical research methods, the technique of collecting data through questionnaires and interviews with Kuwu candidates and the voting community.

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. Implementation of the Kuwu election

The election of kuwu in Lelea Village and Tamansari Village refers to Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, Government Regulation Number 43 of 2014 concerning Implementing Regulations of Law Number 8 of 2014 concerning Villages, Minister of Domestic Affairs Regulation Number 112 of 2014 concerning Election of Heads Village, and Regional Regulation of Indramayu Regency Number 5 of 2017 concerning the Implementation of the Kuwu Election. The election of the kuwu was carried out directly by the village people, carried out simultaneously in the entire Indramayu Regency on December 13, 2017. The process was carried out through four stages, namely the preparatory stage, the nominating stage, the voting stage, and the determination of the elected kuwu[10]. All stages of the Kuwu election went well, safely and peacefully and there were no legal issues that arose in this election process.

The committee determined five candidates for Kuwu, namely two candidates for Kuwu in the Lelea Village named Raidi and Sadili, and three candidates for the Kuwu Village in Tamansari named H. Sukarja, Daripan, and Warsono, S.E. The profiles of the five Kuwu candidates are:

- a. Raidi is a candidate for Kuwu Lelea Village with serial number 1, 38 years old, handsome, native of Lelea Village, junior high school education, polite, lacks economic ability, has a small number of families, has good social relations with the community, and is a former Kuwu Lelea Village in the previous period.
- b. Sadili is a candidate for Lwu Village Lelea with serial number 2, 54 years old, medium-

faced, a native of Tamansari Village who moved to become a resident of Lelea Village, high school education, is polite, has enough economic capacity, has more families than the candidate kuwu serial number 1, has poor social relations with the community, and the former kuwu Desa Tamansari in the previous period.

- c. Warsono, S.E. is a candidate of Kuwu Desa Tamansari with serial number 1, 38 years old, medium-faced, native Tamansari Village, bachelor's education, polite, has enough economic ability, has a large number of families, has quite good social relations with the community, and has never be an official or employee of the village administration.
- d. Daripan is a candidate of Kuwu Desa Tamansari with serial number 2, 40 years old, quite handsome face, a native of Tamansari Village, high school education, is polite, lacks economic ability, has a small amount, has good social relations with the community, and has not had been an official or employee of the village administration.
- e. H. Sukarja is a candidate of Kuwu Desa Tamansari with serial number 3, 62 years old, pretty handsome, native of Tamansari Village, high school education, polite, very economic (rich), has a large number of families, has a relationship poor social relations with the community, and the former Secretary of Tamansari Village in the previous period [9].

On the 3rd to the 6th of December 2017 [9], each candidate in Kuwu carries out a campaign in turn to introduce himself, convey the work program, and aim to be kuwu. Campaign activities are going well and do not cause any legal problems. After completing the campaign period, the Kuwu election committee held a voting phase on December 13, 2017 starting at 8:00 AM to 17:00 WIB [9]. The vote in Lelea Village was attended by 3,274 people and in Tamansari Village was followed by 3,896 people [9], which went well, orderly, safe, and was well received by all parties.

After the voting process is completed, the kuwu election committee counts the votes obtained by each candidate. The vote counting is done openly and witnessed by witnesses from each candidate of Kuwu and the general public. Based on the results of the vote count, the kuwu candidate named Raidi with serial number 1 and the kuwu candidate named H. Sukarja

with serial number 3 obtained the most votes compared to other kuwu candidates so that it was determined as the winner of the kuwu election in their respective villages [9]. Then the kuwu selection committee set Raidi as the chosen kuwu for Lelea Village and H. Sukarja as the elected kuwu for Tamansari Village.

#### *B. Factors influencing the victory of the Kuwu election*

The people of Lelea Village and Tamansari Village have used their right to vote in the Kuwu election. Many parties are trying to influence the use of people's suffrage with the aim of winning the candidates they support. Based on the results of the research through questionnaires and interviews, the factors that influence the victory of the election of the kuwu candidate in Tamansari Village are family relations as much as 40.0%, wealth of candidates (giving money and / or goods) as much as 28.0%, friendship relationships as much as 16.5% , education / leadership capacity of prospective Kuwu as much as 8.5%, and work programs as much as 7.0%. The family relationship and the wealth of the prospective kuwu become the winning factor for the candidate Lwu village candidate Lelea sequence number 3, while other factors do not significantly affect the victory of the prospective Kuwu candidate.

The winning factor of the Tamansari Kuwu candidate is very appropriate because the candidate number 3 of Kuwu has a family relationship with 2/3 of the people of Tamansari Village and has a lot of wealth (rich people). The kuwu candidate is able to invite, embrace, and move his family members and use his assets to attract voters. Tamansari villagers doubted the leadership capacity of all kuwu candidates, but in the end made their choice on the richest candidate in the hope that this candidate would not misuse village / community finances, did not seek livelihoods / livelihoods from village finances, and could help economic needs the people.

In the selection of the Lwua village kuwu candidate, the community was also used their vote to have a kuwu candidate. Based on the results of the study, the factors that influence the victory of the Lwua village kuwu are 17.5% family relations, candidate wealth (giving money / goods) as much as 0.2%, friendship relationships as much as 0%, education / leadership capacity of the kuwu candidates as much as 19, 5%, and the work program as much as 61.9%. The work program and the capacity of prospective Kuwu are a factor in the

victory of the Kuwu candidate Lelea Village. Kuwu candidate number 1 is considered to have a work program and leadership capacity that is in line with community expectations, while family relations, friendship and wealth factors (giving money / goods) do not affect the candidate number kuwu's candidate number.

The two factors that influence the number 1 candidate in Kuwu are very precise, because this candidate is considered by the community to have succeeded in building the community and the village of Lelea when it was the Kuwu of the previous period. Even though they don't have much wealth, they don't have much family relations with the community, and they don't have much friendship with the community, but they are considered to have leadership capacity, as evidenced by their success in building the community and the village of Lelea.

### III. CONCLUSION

Factors that influence the victory of the Kuwu election are family relations and the achievements of the Kuwu candidate. The family relationship factor becomes a victory factor for the selection of kuwu for candidates who have large families. Achievement factor becomes a winning factor for the selection of kuwu for prospective kuwu who do not have a large family. The wealth factor of the Kuwu candidate is only a complementary factor to the family relationship factor or the achievement factor for the Kuwu election victory.

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