

B. Research Project Description

Topic :

The Founder of “Ikatan Petani Pancasila”, His “Musyawarah” Democratic System, and Its Impact on the Leadership Formation of the Catholic Lay Activists in Indonesia.

Question addressed :

The post colonial Indonesian farmers’ movement named “Ikatan Petani Pancasila” was founded in 1950s by John Dijkstra, SJ, a Jesuit priest. From this farmer movement then was born “Bina Swadaya” Agricultural Institution, the biggest NGO in Indonesia (Eka Budianta, 2007), where many Catholic lay activists had been trained to shape the various agriculture related movements in rural areas in Indonesia. One of the founder’s most inspiring democratic system adapted was “musyawarah”. The question likely to be addressed in relation to this Catholic lay formation long-term strategy : How such a democratic system inspired by the founder had impact on the leadership formation of the Catholic lay activists in Indonesia?

Objectives :

1. To describe the self-reflection (perception, insight, and adaption) and personal development of the Catholic lay activists trained by Bina Swadaya in relation to the “musyawarah” democratic system inspired by its founder and practiced by all members.
2. To identify the kinds of competence in the areas of reasoning and performance achievement required for those Catholic lay activists in trying to promote and implement the “musyawarah” democratic system among the agriculture related movement groups in rural areas.
3. To design some leadership training models which can help the various social movement groups in Indonesia be able to strengthen their movements through implementing the “musyawarah” as their democratic core system.

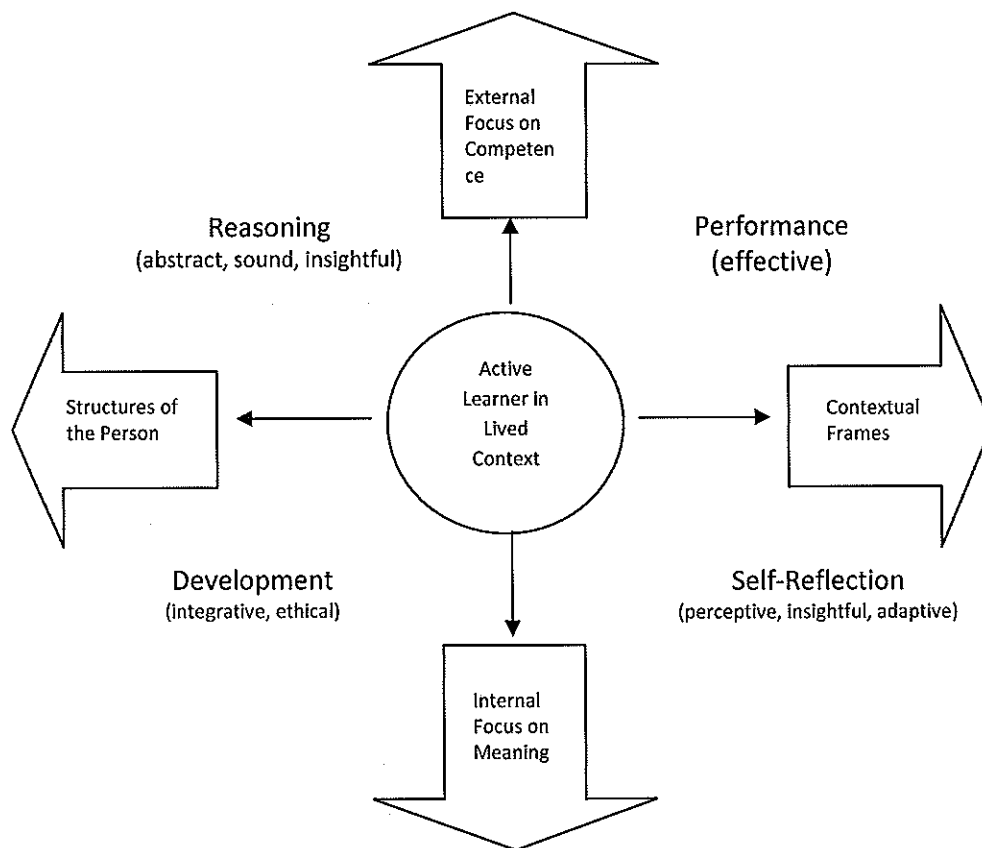
Methodology :

This research is designed as a case study consisting of two phase research activities : qualitative and quantitative. The qualitative research activity includes a combination of semi-structured, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions involving a selected Catholic lay leaders who know personally Father John Dijkstra SJ, his “musyawarah” democratic system, and considered influential figures. This first phase research activity is intended to construct a valid and reliable questionnaire which will be used to collect information and data needed to answer question addressed through the second phase research activity. The quantitative research activity takes the form of a field survey using a questionnaire constructed previously. Individuals under this field survey will be the Catholic lay activists who had been trained by Bina Swadaya

Agricultural Institution and have been involved in various kinds of agriculture related movement in rural areas in Indonesia.

“Musyawarah” or called “tradisi berembug” (Emil Salim, 1994; Nurcholis Madjid, 1994; and Umar Kayam, 1994) means a traditional system of mutual consultation, deliberation and decision making process based on consensus. It will be treated as the main independent variable along which this study is developed. As a locally adapted democratic system containing cultural worldviews, values, and practices, it has been shaping the whole learning processes of the activists during the trainings, their follow-ups, and the continued related activities. The learning processes became more locally contextualized. Musyawarah since its origin experienced modification and transformation in order to be locally accepted. The name might be same as the original one, yet its meaning might be changed. Yet it can be assumed that along these various kinds of learning process “musyawarah” likely to be treated as local democratic system powerful enough to shape the development of an organization, determined the characteristic and quality of democracy practiced by these Catholic activists, their influenced colleagues, and their respective movement organizations.

Figure 1. Four Domains of Growth in the Learning Person



Thirty (30) Catholic activists trained by Bina Swadaya Agricultural Institution and involved in various agriculture related movements as leaders, representing the presence of Catholicism within the various local contexts of culture will be chosen as samples for this study. Four locations of samples will be chosen to represent the variety of local cultural contexts in Indonesia. The four locations of samples will be : 1) Archdiocese of Semarang in Central Java representing Javanese cultural context, 2) Archdiocese of Kupang in Timor representing Flores and Timor cultural context, 3) Archdiocese of Medan in North Sumatra representing Batak cultural context, and 4) Diocese of Palangkaraya in Kalimantan representing Dayak cultural context.

The metatheoretical framework of Mentkowski & Associates (Carol Hoare, 2006) related to adult holistic development and multidimensional performance will be used as the grand theory for this study. As shown in Figure 1 above, there are four metatheoretical dimensions characterizing domains of a person growth. This grand theory provides a rather simple picture of the complex geography of an active learning person in terms of the domains pervaded and the relations established between the him/herself and his/her lived world. A broader concept of the whole person can be defined on the basis of these four domains: development, reasoning, performance and self-reflection, and their interactions (Glen Rogers, Marcia Mentkowski, and Judith Reisetter Hart, 2006). Knowing the many possibilities of interaction occurring among these four domains, it can be imagined how far the perspective of personal growth can be achieved.

The four domains mentioned above can be very helpful in composing the open-ended questions related to the independent variable. The questions can be directed toward finding where the “musyawarah” shows its traces in these four domains and how it works to shape Indonesian people to become a more advanced nation with better qualities of life (Roland N. Stromberg, 1996).

Anticipated results :

From this case study some results can be anticipated such as: 1) better understanding and higher appreciation to Fr. John Dijkstra SJ, the original concepthor of “musyawarah” and to Bina Swadaya, the faithful advocator of this local democratic system, 2) an advanced leadership training program inspired by “musyawarah” democratic system, can be proposed to the local Catholic Church leaders to help their activists develop their influential activities through networkings and collaborations at national and global level, and 3) some practical guidelines for developing a basic leadership training program oriented toward empowering any kinds of existing local democratic system in other countries can be learnt from this study.

Academic contributions :

This kind of study might be rarely done in the academic area of adult learning studies. It will be the first time done in Indonesia by a researcher having a study background in Agricultural Education. To a certain degree it can be said as a frontier study for the researcher. Two academic contributions expected from this study will be such as: 1) the development of more

holistic and comprehensive approach in the academic field of adult learning studies, 2) a kind of enlightenment for the academic communities involved in designing various kinds of leadership trainings and human resource development.

Publication Outlet

1. Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education (JIAEE),. Publisher: Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE).
2. Adult Education Quarterly. Publisher: American Association for Adult and Continuing Education.
3. Organization Studies. Published in association with the European Group of Organization Studies. ISSN: 0170-8406.
4. Journal of Organizational Change Management. Publisher: Emerald Group Publishing Limited. ISSN: 0953-4814.
5. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. Publisher: American Psychological Association. ISSN: 0022-3514.
6. Widya Dharma: Jurnal Kependidikan. Publisher: Lembaga Penelitian Universitas Sanata Dharma Yogyakarta. ISSN: 0853-0920.

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Umar Kayam (1994). "Proses Demokrasi dan Budaya Indonesia menghidupkan Kultur Masyarakat Berembuk", dalam Elza Peldi Taher (ed.), Demokrasi Politik, Budaya dan Ekonomi: Pengalaman Indonesia Masa Orde Baru, Jakarta: Yayasan Paramadina, hlm: 145-154