

The Golden Role of the Islamic Students Association (HMI) in the Development of Democracy in Indonesia

Muhammad Mas Davit Herman Rudiyanah

Open University of Surabaya, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author: muhammadmasdavith98@gmail.com

|| *Submitted: 25-08-2024* || *Accepted: 15-09-2024* || *Published: 25-09-2024*

Abstract: Indonesian political history records the transition from authoritarian rule to a civil democracy system after the fall of President Soeharto on May 21, 1998. This change, which marked the end of the New Order regime and entered the Reformation Era, brought significant changes in national politics, including political liberalization. This study aims to analyze the role of the Islamic Student Association (HMI) in the development of democracy in Indonesia. HMI, as one of the largest and most historic student organizations, has contributed significantly to political education, public policy formation, leadership development, and social movements. The methodology used is a normative legal approach with secondary data analysis. This study includes a literature review, analysis of legal documents, and relevant library materials to evaluate HMI's contribution to democratic principles. Secondary data, including laws, regulations, and related literature, are used to analyze how HMI applies democratic norms in practice. Content and normative analysis are conducted to assess the relevance and impact of HMI's role. The results of the study indicate that HMI plays a strategic role in political education by increasing political awareness and student participation. In addition, HMI is also actively involved in the formation of public policy and leadership development, and plays a role in social movements such as the 1998 reform. Despite facing challenges related to independence and relevance amidst global change, HMI has managed to maintain its role as an important platform in democracy. The conclusion of this study confirms that HMI is an important pillar in the development of democracy in Indonesia. Through its contributions to political education, policy formation, and leadership development, HMI plays a significant role in shaping the socio-political dynamics of Indonesia. Although challenges remain, HMI must continue to adapt to changing times and remain focused on the core values and goals of the

The Golden Role of the Islamic Students Association (HMI)

Muhammad Mas Davit Herman Rudiyanisah

organization to continue to contribute to the progress of the nation. Keywords: Islamic Students Association (HMI); Indonesian democracy; role of organizations; democratic development.

Keywords: HMI; Indonesian democracy; role of organizations; development of democracy

Abstrak: Sejarah politik Indonesia mencatat peralihan dari pemerintahan otoriter ke sistem demokrasi sipil pasca-kejatuhan Presiden Soeharto pada 21 Mei 1998. Perubahan ini, yang menandai akhir rezim Orde Baru dan memasuki Era Reformasi, membawa perubahan signifikan dalam politik nasional, termasuk liberalisasi politik. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran Himpunan Mahasiswa Islam (HMI) dalam pengembangan demokrasi di Indonesia. HMI, sebagai salah satu organisasi mahasiswa terbesar dan bersejarah, telah berkontribusi secara signifikan dalam pendidikan politik, pembentukan kebijakan publik, pengembangan kepemimpinan, dan gerakan sosial. Metodologi yang digunakan adalah pendekatan yuridis normatif dengan analisis data sekunder. Penelitian ini mencakup kajian literatur, analisis dokumen hukum, serta bahan pustaka yang relevan untuk mengevaluasi kontribusi HMI terhadap prinsip-prinsip demokrasi. Data sekunder, termasuk undang-undang, peraturan, dan literatur terkait, digunakan untuk menganalisis bagaimana HMI menerapkan norma-norma demokrasi dalam praktiknya. Analisis konten dan normatif dilakukan untuk menilai relevansi dan dampak peran HMI. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa HMI memainkan peran strategis dalam pendidikan politik dengan meningkatkan kesadaran politik dan partisipasi mahasiswa. Selain itu, HMI juga terlibat aktif dalam pembentukan kebijakan publik dan pengembangan kepemimpinan, serta berperan dalam gerakan sosial seperti reformasi 1998. Meskipun menghadapi tantangan terkait independensi dan relevansi di tengah perubahan global, HMI berhasil menjaga perannya sebagai platform penting dalam demokrasi. Kesimpulan penelitian ini menegaskan bahwa HMI merupakan pilar penting dalam pembangunan demokrasi di Indonesia. Melalui kontribusinya dalam pendidikan politik, pembentukan kebijakan, dan pengembangan kepemimpinan, HMI berperan signifikan dalam membentuk dinamika sosial-politik Indonesia. Meski tantangan tetap ada, HMI harus terus beradaptasi dengan perubahan zaman dan tetap fokus pada nilai-nilai inti serta tujuan organisasi untuk terus berkontribusi pada kemajuan bangsa.

Kata Kunci: Himpunan Mahasiswa Islam (HMI); demokrasi Indonesia; peran organisasi; pembangunan demokrasi.



Copyright© 2024 by Author(s)

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International License.

Introduction

Indonesian political history records the transition from an authoritarian government dominated by the military to a civilian democratic system. This change of power occurred after the end of President Soeharto's leadership on May 21, 1998, after more than 32 years of leading Indonesia. Soeharto's resignation marked the end of the New Order regime and entered the Reformation Era. This transition also brought significant political changes, introducing a period known as political liberalization.

The process of transition towards reform to create a more democratic political system received widespread attention from the Indonesian public, including from intellectuals and the general public. Among intellectual groups, students became one of the most active in supporting democracy, with their involvement not only limited to higher education but also on political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental issues of society (Anwar, 1981: 28).(Hidayat & Taufikurrahman, 2020) The development of democracy in Indonesia is a complex and dynamic process, involving various actors and institutions. One organization that plays an important role in this process is the Islamic Students Association (HMI).

The Islamic Student Association (HMI) is one of the largest and most historic student organizations in Indonesia, founded on February 5, 1947. Since its inception, HMI has been closely connected to the world of politics. Its role is reflected in various important moments in the nation's history, where HMI functions as a driver and trigger for change. From opposing communism in the 1965 Incident to voicing reform during the New Order era, HMI has always been at the forefront of national political dynamics.(Wekke, 2024) With the vision of realizing a just and prosperous society that is blessed by Allah SWT, HMI has taken various initiatives to develop a culture of democracy in Indonesia. Since its inception, HMI has been committed to creating cadres who have high intellectual capacity and moral integrity. This organization believes that a healthy democracy requires the active participation of its citizens, especially from young intellectuals who are critical and competitive. In the post-

independence era, the Islamic Students Association (HMI) actively participated in various discussions and debates on the direction of national development. Through these forums, HMI tried to ensure that democratic principles remained the foundation of the policy-making process in Indonesia.

The Islamic Students Association (HMI) played an active role in defending Indonesia's sovereignty by participating in the battle against Dutch military aggression between 1947-1949, including in crushing the PKI rebellion in Madiun on September 18, 1948. Although many HMI cadres were involved in the battlefield, organizational development was neglected. Therefore, after that period, HMI returned to focusing on internal consolidation and continuing the education of its members after being involved in the battle. (Efendi, 2024)

The slogan "HMI Bersuara" is more than just a rhetorical expression; it reflects the great challenges and responsibilities carried by HMI leaders in facing the dynamics of the times. Effective leadership in HMI must be able to transform this jargon into real actions that are relevant and have a positive impact. However, the implementation of this jargon often faces various challenges, such as how HMI leaders can remain relevant in the current of global change, maintain integrity and idealism amidst the temptations of pragmatism, and align the internal interests of the organization with the aspirations of the wider community (Desri, Noverlin, & Nabila Prisca, 2023). (Dalimunthe, 2023)

The 'HMI Bersuara' jargon has a significant impact on the motivation of HMI members. This jargon functions as a driver of intrinsic motivation, motivating members to be more actively involved in organizational activities. By being repeated and internalized frequently, this jargon makes members feel that they have a greater and noble purpose in their activities in HMI. They do not only participate because of obligation, but also because of personal motivation to support the vision and mission of the organization. The impact of this motivation can be seen from the increasing enthusiasm and dedication of members in various HMI programs and activities, both at the local and national

levels. In addition to being motivating, the 'HMI Bersuara' jargon also helps improve member performance. When members internalize the values of this jargon, they tend to show higher performance in their tasks. They become more proactive in proposing initiatives, more diligent in completing work, and more synergistic in collaborating with other members. This jargon forms a mindset that is oriented towards achievement and shared success, creating an environment that supports productivity. This increase in performance is seen not only in the internal activities of the organization, but also in the contributions of members to the community and society at large. (Dalimunthe, 2023)

The Islamic Students Association (HMI) also played an important role in fighting authoritarianism, especially during the New Order era when freedom of expression and political rights were severely restricted. The student movements pioneered by HMI and other student organizations in 1966 and 1998 are clear evidence of HMI's strategic role in the struggle for democracy in Indonesia. In addition, HMI has become an important platform for the development of political leadership in Indonesia. (Arifridho, 2018) Many national figures, including presidents, ministers, and members of the legislature, are HMI alumni. This shows that this organization does not only focus on political education at the campus level, but also has significant influence at the national level. HMI alumni often become agents of change who bring the spirit of democracy to various government institutions and social organizations. HMI also has a wide network, both domestically and abroad, which allows them to learn from the experiences of democracy in other countries and apply them in the Indonesian context. Through cooperation with various international organizations, HMI has broadened the insights of its members about the importance of global democracy and human rights. However, HMI's journey in fighting for democracy has not always gone smoothly. Internal challenges, such as differences of opinion, and external challenges, such as political pressure, often test the consistency and commitment of this organization. Nevertheless, HMI continues to adapt and

innovate to remain relevant to the existing political and social dynamics. With the various contributions that have been made, HMI shows that they are one of the important pillars in the effort to build and strengthen democracy in Indonesia.

The focus of this research is on the role of HMI in the development of democracy in Indonesia, emphasizing how HMI plays a role as an organization in the process of building democracy. This research aims to analyze in depth the contribution of HMI to strengthening the principles of democracy, evaluate the impact of various initiatives and movements led by HMI, and identify the challenges faced by HMI in carrying out this role in various historical periods and current political contexts. The formulation of the problems in this research includes: (1) What is HMI's contribution to the development of democracy in Indonesia, both historically and contemporary? (2) What is the role of the HMI organization in shaping and strengthening democracy in Indonesia? (3) What are the challenges faced by HMI in carrying out this role and how does HMI adapt to political and social changes? The main argument in this article is that HMI plays a strategic role in the development of democracy in Indonesia through various initiatives and movements it leads. This article argues that HMI not only functions as a political education institution at the campus level, but also contributes significantly at the national and international levels in strengthening democracy. Thus, HMI is an important pillar in efforts to build democracy in Indonesia, although its role and contribution are often tested by ever-evolving political and social challenges.

Method

This study uses a normative juridical method with a focus on secondary data analysis to explore the role of the Islamic Student Association (HMI) in the development of democracy in Indonesia. The normative juridical approach in this study refers to a study that focuses its object of study on indirect data, often referred to as secondary data. (Effendi & Handoko, 2023) This method was chosen because it focuses on the study of existing legal norms and principles, and how HMI applies these norms in

practice. This research is descriptive analytical,(Farhan, 2008) meaning that it not only describes the role of HMI but also analyzes its contribution to the democratic system based on available library materials.

The data used in this study are secondary data, which include primary and secondary legal materials (Novita & Imanullah, 2020). Primary legal materials consist of laws, regulations, and official documents related to democracy and student organizations. While secondary legal materials include books, journal articles, and research reports that discuss the role of student organizations, especially HMI, in the context of democracy. Although this study prioritizes secondary data, interviews with HMI members, administrators, or relevant figures can also be conducted if necessary to gain additional perspectives. Data collection was carried out through literature review and document analysis. Literature review involves searching and reviewing books, journal articles, and previous research that are relevant to the topic. Document analysis includes examining laws, regulations, and other official documents related to HMI and democracy.

This process aims to identify and collect information relevant to the principles of democracy and the role of HMI. Data analysis was conducted using content analysis and normative analysis. Content analysis evaluates the content of legal documents and literature to identify key themes and assess the suitability between the principles adopted by HMI and applicable democratic standards. Normative analysis was conducted to assess how norms and regulations are applied in HMI's practices and their impact on the development of democracy in Indonesia. Researchers compare and assess the relevance and impact of HMI's role based on applicable norms and principles. The validity of the study was maintained by triangulating data, namely comparing information from various sources to ensure consistency and accuracy of findings. The reliability of the study was obtained by using a systematic analysis methodology and ensuring that all data and documents used were relevant and up-to-date. This research method aims to provide in-depth insight into the role of HMI in the development of democracy through a study of secondary data and comprehensive normative analysis.

Result and Discussion

Political Education

In the constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, namely the 1945 Constitution Article 31 Paragraphs (1) and (3), it is stated that every citizen has the right to education and the government is required to provide and organize a national education system. This shows how important education is for the Indonesian government, because education is a primary need to form good citizens and understand everything needed to realize a prosperous country. Therefore, a deep understanding of education is very important. Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System Article 1 Paragraph (1) explains that education is a deliberate and planned effort to create a learning environment and learning process, so that students can actively develop their potential to have spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, good morals, and skills needed by themselves, society, nation, and state (Sanusi, 2016). In an ideal education system, political education should begin at an early age, with the goal of forming a solid understanding of how political decisions affect everyday life. For example, lessons on history and political theory provide an overview of how countries were formed and how political decisions can affect the economy, society, and culture. Literally, political education focuses on the delivery of information and the process of changing knowledge aimed at changing behavior (Nasiwan, 2005; Berlian et al., 2023)

Political education essentially aims to improve public understanding of the political system, political awareness, and political participation. In the reform era, many parties hope that with a better quality democracy, the problems of corruption, collusion, and nepotism that plagued the previous era will be resolved. However, in reality, these hopes are still far from being realized. Corruption, collusion, and nepotism are even more difficult to overcome. The spirit of autonomy and decentralization that was expected to reduce corruption at the central level, actually turned around and moved the problem of corruption to the regional level. With the increasing financial authority given

to regional governments, the adage "power tends to corrupt" is proven by the emergence of many cases of corruption involving perpetrators at the regional level. (Bashori, 2018) Education is very important for every country because it is a process that can produce change, development, and a person's ability to show self-confidence and innovative attitudes and behaviors. Education is organized based on a mature, solid, clear, complete, and comprehensive plan, by preparing students to face real life through guidance, teaching, and training, so that they are able to carry out roles in the future (Sunardi et al., 2019). As a means to increase the political understanding of the community with the aim of having high political awareness and participation in political life, political education should not be ignored.

Kartono (in Hartono, 2016, p. 10) states that political education is also known as political formation or *Bildung*. It is called formation because it aims to form individuals who are aware of their political status or position in society. It is called *Bildung* (formation or self-education) because this term is related to the activity of forming oneself with full awareness and responsibility to become a political individual. Political education in general aims to form individuals who understand and are aware of their political status in society, showing that political education has an important role in forming the mindset and responsibility of a citizen. In addition, political education is an important element in efforts to renew political life. Pasaribu (2017, p. 56) states that political education is an effort made by society to achieve renewal in everyday political life, in order to create a prosperous society that is accepted both formally and informally. The importance of political education is an absolute must in a country. Sukarna (in Pasaribu, 2017, p. 56) said that political education is a *conditio sine qua non* (an absolute requirement) because in political education there is learning about national and state awareness (Sutrisman, 2019).

The Islamic Students Association (HMI) has played a role as a political education platform for the young generation of Indonesia. Through various activities such as discussions, seminars, and training, HMI has helped increase

political awareness and active participation of students in the democratic process.

Public Policy Formation

Public space functions as a forum for aspirations that represent the condition of civil society in a representative manner. In this context, public space becomes a means for extra-campus organizations to carry out their activities, especially in strengthening movements at the grassroots level in the campus environment. Public space also functions as a place for communication between students in addressing various issues on campus that require direct responses. Extra-campus organizations utilize public space to discuss and align views on campus bureaucratic policies that are considered not in accordance with the interests of students at the grassroots level. (Amin & Handoyo, 2014)

According to Habermas, public space plays a crucial role in the ongoing democratic process. Public space functions as a democratic area or place for public discourse, where citizens can express their opinions, interests, and needs openly. Public space also functions as a communication bridge between various extra-campus organizations in discussing the opinions, interests, and needs of students on campus. In addition, public space becomes a forum for student aspirations and statements of attitude in monitoring campus policies. Public space also plays a role in building civil society on campus, which can be called civil students (Amin & Handoyo, 2014).

The Islamic Students Association (HMI) plays an important role in the formation of public policy in Indonesia, both at the local and national levels. HMI members are often involved in the policy formulation process through direct participation in government and policy advocacy. By utilizing discussion forums and seminars, HMI formulates policy recommendations that are in accordance with the values of justice and welfare. As an agent of social change, HMI strives to ensure that the resulting public policies reflect the interests of Muslims and the wider community. Despite facing challenges such as political pressure and diversity of internal views, HMI continues to build effective

communication with stakeholders and strengthen the intellectual capacity of its members. Through data-based advocacy strategies and in-depth studies, HMI can contribute significantly to the process of forming more inclusive and equitable public policies. Anggota HMI sering terlibat dalam perumusan kebijakan publik, baik di tingkat lokal maupun nasional. Pengaruh HMI dalam pemerintahan tampak jelas dari banyaknya alumni yang menduduki posisi strategis di pemerintahan dan lembaga legislatif.

The establishment of this public space aims to build student opinion on issues in the campus environment that require attention from students at large. This initiative is an initial step for extra-campus organizations to implement deliberative democracy movements in the campus context. The process of establishing this public space is the foundation for future extra-campus organization movements. Public space is built through intensive communication with other extra-campus organizations in responding to campus policies that are considered not to accommodate student interests. Several extra-campus organizations establish public spaces as a means to strengthen their position in responding to every policy issued by the campus bureaucracy (Amin & Handoyo, 2014).

The Islamic Student Association (HMI) has external relations with other organizations and other parties. Although HMI is not very active in communicating with organizations, they are often involved in activities held by other organizations. This communication is an important capital for HMI to move together in supporting the creation of a democratic campus. In addition, HMI maintains a communication space with the rectorate, and its cadres are given the freedom to communicate. This communication is very important to maintain HMI's existence as an extra-campus organization. HMI's communicative actions are also reflected in the discussions and writings on social media that they do (Amin & Handoyo, 2014).

Leadership Development

When discussing leadership, we will find various different definitions. This is because many people try to define the concept of leadership. However, all of these definitions have some elements in common. According to Sarros and Butchatsky (1996), "leadership is defined as the purposeful behavior of influencing others to contribute to a commonly agreed goal for the benefit of the individual as well as the organization or common good". Based on this definition, leadership can be interpreted as behavior that aims to influence the activities of group members to achieve common goals that benefit individuals and organizations. Meanwhile, according to Anderson (1988), "leadership means using power to influence the thoughts and actions of others in such a way that achieve high performance" (Rahmat, 2021).

According to Rivai in Herlinda Ewiseba Nainggolan (2017:3), the term leadership comes from the word "leader," which describes someone who has skills and excellence, especially in one specific area. These skills and excellence allow the individual to motivate others to work together to carry out certain activities in order to achieve the desired goals and objectives. (Imran et al., 2023) The Islamic Students Association (HMI) has been a place of development for many national leaders. HMI organizations can offer leadership training, self-development activities, and social work to help students develop into individuals with integrity, ethics, and dedication to social good (Miswar et al., 2023).

The Islamic Students Association (HMI) has been prepared as a leadership incubator that produces leaders in various professions and levels by prioritizing Islamic and Indonesian values. This role makes HMI one of the main pillars of leadership in this country, by supplying the best cadres to hold strategic mandates in various sectors, including politics, economics, culture, civil society, and religion. Although the development of digital technology is often rejected, criticized, or hated because of the negative impacts that sometimes arise, it cannot be denied that this technology has revolutionized the way humans live. Digital technology is able to overcome obstacles that previously disrupted human activities, make access to knowledge and

information easier, expand economic choices, and encourage the dynamics of social movements to be more creative (Miswar et al., 2023).

The scientific society is a group that utilizes science to shape civilization. Those who play the most important role in this society are those who continue to develop their knowledge, such as academics, students, or individuals with high intellectual levels. The greatest potential in the scientific society is usually possessed by individuals who are still of productive age, especially those who hold youth status, such as Muslim students. Muslim students are a young group who have idealism, intellectual, integrity, and moral values, are expected to be able to respond to change sensitively and critically and produce solutions to problems that arise due to advances in science and technology. Our hope is that Muslim students can become the backbone of the development of civilization. Although currently there is a view that students are increasingly dull and unable to provide solutions to problems, or are even considered part of the problem itself, this response cannot be accepted.

Students have a major function in society and must act as a balancer and driver of sustainable change. The characteristic of the student movement is to apply the essence of being educated, so that students are expected to become fighters for change, moral fighters, and controllers of the social life of society. Without the active contribution of the youth, this nation is at risk of decline over time. The youth are the generation that is expected to be able to fix the problems that may be caused by the older generation. They must be well prepared so that they can carry out their roles effectively, so that new leaders who are better at leading this country emerge. According to Sutjipto Wirosardjono, leadership is a very important collective responsibility. It requires individuals who care about the progress of society and the welfare of their people. With challenges that will be increasingly complex in the future, a different type of leadership is needed to face them. Our society will be increasingly critical and aware of its rights, not wanting to just be an object that is constantly regulated. They want leaders who are able to persuade and understand them. Otherwise, the potential for social conflict will increase. The

worst impact of this situation is the possibility of national disunity and the collapse of the pillars of our country's unity.(Ridwan, n.d.)

According to Nurcholish Madjid (1999), the leadership needed after the reformation must have several important characteristics. First, leaders must demonstrate authenticity, especially in terms of morals and ethics, because the prevention and eradication of corruption, collusion, and nepotism (KKN) require this. Second, leaders must have a democratic outlook on life both in personal and social contexts, understand and support democratic principles such as community participation, social checks and balances, deliberation, tolerance, pluralism, the rule of law, and equality at all levels of society. In addition, they must have rational, open, and contract-based relationships, and realize the importance of sustainable development. Leaders are also expected to develop a patriotic national economy for the welfare of the people and social justice. Third, leaders must have insight into the concept of a modern nation-state and understand the importance of developing constitutional aspects in Indonesia. This awareness includes the readiness to consider amendments to the 1945 Constitution to ensure that there are firm constitutional guarantees.(Kartakusumah, 2023)

The role of student leadership involves activities that encourage society towards development and common interests. Students are required to be involved in community life by realizing ideas and plans for the public interest, without ignoring customary and cultural aspects. Student organizations function as a forum for self-development, both in terms of character, intellectual, and quality, influencing students' lives through the organizational environment. If globalization brings positive values and impacts without conflicting with local, national, and religious cultures, this is a challenge for Indonesia to absorb it. In other words, how can positive values from other countries be applied in our society.

Previous research on this matter, such as that conducted by Thahir Fadillah (2015), compared two major Islamic movements, Muhammadiyah and the Gulen Movement, in terms of the internationalization of Islamic thought.

The study showed that the Gulen Movement has many advantages, especially in the field of education based on the ethos of *hizmet* (voluntary service), which emphasizes mastery of cutting-edge science and Islamic studies. Gulen Movement members have spread throughout the world, including countries outside Turkey. In this context, the Gulen Movement can be a reference for religious organizations in Indonesia, including Muhammadiyah, to introduce unique Islamic thought, such as tolerant, friendly, and moderate Islam. The difference between the terms student and student is also important. In the Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language, students refer to elementary to high school students, while college students are individuals who study at college. Students are expected to have greater potential in various aspects of science, including education, economics, social, and politics. As students, they are expected to be able to adapt and carry out sociological control independently in various situations.

Udijo (2002) quoted by Sholichin (2008) defines public policy as a sanctioned action directed at certain interrelated goals and affecting most of society. The role of students in accordance with the Tri Dharma of Higher Education includes Education, Research, and Community Service. In education, students do not only attend and go home, but are also expected to be able to analyze the development of educational policies and government reforms through ideas and concepts conveyed through the media, not just through demonstrations. As stated by John Lims in his book *Just Money*, a person's change occurs through Action and Now (Saleh et al., 2022).

Social Movements and Advocacy

The Islamic Student Movement (HMI) is included in the type of social movement defined by Nan Lin as a collective effort to encourage or resist change in society or a group. Rudolf Heberle describes social movements as various collective efforts to make certain changes to social institutions or create a new order. Meanwhile, Eric Hoffer sees social movements as efforts to make changes. (Akbar, 2016) HMI has participated in various social movements and

advocacy, including the reform movement in 1998 which became a crucial point in the history of democracy in Indonesia. HMI's role in fighting for social justice and human rights issues also illustrates the organization's dedication to democratic principles. In his work, Agussalim Sitompul outlines the long history of HMI's involvement in the national political arena. He emphasizes that since its inception, HMI has been active in the Indonesian political scene, from the Soekarno era, the New Order, to the Reformation era. Budiman states that HMI's involvement in politics is not limited to demonstrations and social movements, but also involves participation in practical politics, such as elections. Agussalim Sitompul also discusses HMI's involvement in practical politics, acknowledging that it has produced many influential political figures in Indonesia, such as Nurcholish Madjid, Akbar Tanjung, and Amien Rais. However, he also highlights criticism regarding the potential loss of HMI's independence due to its closeness to certain political interests.

Responding to these criticisms, Sidratahta Mukhtar (2004) examined HMI's efforts to maintain its independence in the national political situation. Mukhtar highlighted HMI's commitment to focus on its primary role as a student organization, which includes educational activities, research, and scientific development. He saw these steps as an important strategy for HMI to remain relevant and contribute to the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia, in accordance with HMI's initial vision (Wekke & Arsyam, 2024).

Based on literature studies and analysis of various data sources, there are several important findings regarding the dilemma faced by HMI in relation to politics. HMI has a long history in national politics, which includes not only social movements and advocacy, but also involvement in practical politics, such as general elections. This involvement has produced several influential political figures in Indonesia, including Nurcholish Madjid, Akbar Tanjung, and Amien Rais. However, HMI's involvement in politics has also drawn criticism, especially related to threats to the organization's independence and the possibility of disrupting HMI's function as a student organization that focuses on education, research, and scientific development.

To maintain its independence, HMI tries to limit its involvement in practical politics, only participating at a strategic level such as in elections, to avoid influence from certain political interests. HMI faces a complex dilemma between the desire to be active in politics for justice and change, and the need to maintain its independence as a Muslim student organization with integrity. Although involvement in practical politics can provide benefits such as fighting for political issues and producing political cadres who are committed to Islamic values, this also risks plunging HMI into certain political interests and disrupting its main function. To overcome this dilemma, HMI needs to strengthen its commitment to independence, focus on its main role as a student organization, and be critical of various political issues in Indonesia. Concrete actions that can be taken include limiting involvement in practical politics and strengthening its role in education, research, and scientific development, so that HMI remains relevant and can contribute to the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia. With these steps, it is hoped that HMI can continue to play an important role in the life of the nation and state, while maintaining the identity and basic principles that are the basis for its founding (Wekke & Arsyam, 2024).

As an organization that has a long history and significant influence in the socio-political development of Indonesia. With a strong foundation in Islamic values and intellectuality, HMI plays a role as a guardian of morality and social justice in society. Through various activities and programs, HMI is expected to be able to educate and form cadres who are not only competent in academics, but also have high integrity and social awareness. As an organization rooted in students, HMI has great potential to become a pioneer of change and an agent of renewal in various aspects of national life. HMI is expected to continue to encourage its members to be actively involved in public dialogue, advocacy of social issues, and development of policies that are oriented towards the interests of the people. By maintaining independence and focusing on the main goal as a student organization, HMI can make a real contribution to creating a just, democratic, and prosperous society.

In addition, in the current era of globalization and digitalization, HMI is also expected to be able to adapt to changes in the times without losing its identity. Prioritizing education, research, and scientific development that is relevant to the needs of the times, HMI can continue to produce a young generation that is critical, innovative, and ready to face future challenges. Thus, HMI not only plays a role in strengthening national resilience, but also in bringing the Indonesian nation towards sustainable and equitable progress.

Conclusion

Political Education: HMI plays an important role in political education by providing a platform for the younger generation to understand the political system and increase political awareness and participation. Effective political education, which begins at an early age, is essential to forming informed citizens who are actively involved in political life. Although reform brings hope to overcome the problems of corruption, collusion, and nepotism, challenges remain. Political education is an important tool for creating new leaders who are able to face the complexity of future challenges with democratic understanding and high integrity.

Public Policy Formation: HMI also plays a strategic role in the formation of public policy through advocacy and participation in the political process. Public spaces on campus are a means to convey aspirations and build communication between students and the campus bureaucracy. With HMI's experience and participation in various discussion forums and seminars, this organization contributes to formulating more inclusive and equitable policies. Challenges include maintaining independence and strengthening intellectual capacity to positively influence policy.

Leadership Development: HMI functions as a leadership incubator by preparing cadres with integrity and dedication. Through training and self-development activities, HMI forms future leaders who not only understand their responsibilities but also have broad insights into democratic and ethical leadership. The leadership qualities needed include authenticity, understanding democracy, and the ability to adapt to changing times.

Social Movements and Advocacy: HMI is involved in various social movements and advocacy, including political reform and social justice issues. Although HMI's involvement in practical politics often faces criticism regarding independence, the organization continues to strive to maintain its basic principles while contributing to positive social change. HMI is expected to remain focused on its primary role in education, research, and scientific development, and adapt to changes in globalization and digitalization. Overall, HMI is an important force in advancing political education, shaping fair public policies, and developing leadership with integrity. By continuing to maintain independence and adapt to changing times, HMI can continue to contribute to the progress and welfare of the Indonesian nation.

References

- Akbar, I. (2016). Demokrasi Dan Gerakan Sosial (Bagaimana Gerakan Mahasiswa Terhadap Dinamika Perubahan Sosial). *Jurnal Wacana Politik*, 1(2). <https://doi.org/10.24198/jwp.v1i2.11052>
- Amin, L., & Handoyo, P. (2014). Gerakan Demokrasi Deliberatif Organisasi Ekstra Kampus Unesa. *Paradigma*, 2(2), 1-9.
- Arifridho, D. (2018). Pengaruh Organisasi Kepemudaan Hmi Terhadap Partisipasi Politik Anggota Hmi Bandar Lampung (Studi Pada Anggota Hmi Di Bandar Lampung).
- Bashori, K. (2018). Pendidikan Politik di Era Disrupsi. *Sukma: Jurnal Pendidikan*, 2(2), 287-310. <https://doi.org/10.32533/02207.2018>
- Berlian, M. F., Juwandi, R., & Bahrudin, F. A. (2023). Media dan Pendidikan Politik oleh Badan Pengawas Pemilu. *Journal of Civic Education*, 6(1), 14-20. <https://doi.org/10.24036/jce.v6i1.889>
- Dalimunthe, A. R. (2023). Jargon “HMI Bersuara” dan Tantangan Kepemimpinan Modern: Studi Kritis Atas Efektifitas dan Penerapannya. *Hijaz: Jurnal Ilmu-Ilmu Keislaman*, 3(1), 8-15. <https://doi.org/10.57251/hij.v3i1.1340>
- Efendi, H. (2024). Eksplorasi Sejarah Hmi: Dari Awal Berdiri Hingga Era Modern. *HarianHMI*.
- Effendi, E., & Handoko, T. (2023). Pendidikan Kader Himpunan Mahasiswa Islam Sebagai Upaya Pencegahan Tindak Pidana Terorisme Di Kalangan

- Mahasiswa. *Jurnal Usm Law Review*, 6(3), 1124. <https://doi.org/10.26623/julr.v6i3.7579>
- Farhan, Y. (2008). Gerakan Mahasiswa Di Simpang Jalan; Potret Gerakan Sosial Di Era Jokowi-Jusuf Kalla. *Academia.Edu*, 78, 1–14.
- Hidayat, W., & Taufikurrahman, T. (2020). Aktivisme Politik Mahasiswa Islam Membangun Demokrasi Pasca Orde Baru. *SANGKÉP: Jurnal Kajian Sosial Keagamaan*, 3(2), 129–144. <https://doi.org/10.20414/sangkep.v3i2.1934>
- Imran, A., Parawangi, A., & Yusuf, M. (2023). Peran Kepemimpinan Kepala Desa Dalam Meningkatkan Partisipasi Masyarakat Dalam Pembangunan Desa Balle Kecamatan Kahu Kabupaten Bone. *Kajian Ilmiah Mahasiswa Administrasi Publik (KIMAP)*, 4(6), 1323–1335.
- Kartakusumah, B. (2023). Insan Kamil 5.0: Kaderisasi HMI untuk Kepemimpinan Nasional Era Society 5.0 (p. 294).
- Miswar, M. D., Sofyan, E., A., I. R., Wibowo, Y. A., Asri, S., Hajriana, & Darwis, M. A. (2023). Peta Jalan Kepemimpinan HMI (pp. 1–209).
- Novita, W. S., & Imanullah, M. N. (2020). Aspek Hukum Peer to Peer Lending (Identifikasi Permasalahan Hukum dan Mekanisme Penyelesaian). *Jurnal Privat Law*, 8(1), 151. <https://doi.org/10.20961/privat.v8i1.40389>
- Rahmat, A. (2021). Kepemimpinan Pendidikan. In *PAKAR Pendidikan* (Vol. 12, Issue 1, pp. 1–12). <https://doi.org/10.24036/pakar.v12i1.131>
- Ridwan, M. K. (n.d.). Strategi Pengembangan Model Kepemimpinan Efektif Sebagai Modal Pembangunan Umat dan Bangsa. *Ilmu Al-Qur'an Dan Tafsir IAIN Salatiga*, 1–16.
- Saleh, N. A., Rauf, M. A. J. A. I., Lahabu, I., Nurimansyah, M., Santoso, B., Zuhriah, S., BA, M. K., Rudini, Ayyuby, S. Al, Syamsumarlin, Maskur, Ardi, M., Tais, R. H., Kahfi, A., Anzari, R., Hakam, A., Saomole, A. M., Hamzah, Hariyani, N., ... Harahap, W. R. (2022). Transformasi Kepemimpinan HMI (p. 160).
- Sanusi, A. R. (2016). Peranan Organisasi Kemahasiswaan Ekstrauniversiter Sebagai Sarana Pendidikan Politik Mahasiswa dalam Menumbuhkan dan Meningkatkan Partisipasi Politik Warga Negara Indonesia (Studi Deskriptif Terhadap Organisasi Hmi, Kammi, dan Gmni Komisariat Universitas . *Civics*, 1(1), 1–21.

- Sunardi, S., Sunaryo, W., & Laihad, G. H. (2019). Peningkatan Keinovatifan Melalui Pengembangan Kepemimpinan Transformasional dan Efikasi Diri. *Jurnal Manajemen Pendidikan*, 7(1), 740-747.
- Sutrisman, D. (2019). *Pendidikan Politik Persepsi Kepemimpinan* (p. 76).
- Wekke, I. S. (2024). 75 tahun Himpunan Mahasiswa Islam?: Ketika Organisasi Kemahasiswaan di Simpang Jalan. January. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.27461.22246>
- Wekke, I. S., & Arsyam, M. (2024). 75 tahun Himpunan Mahasiswa Islam: Ketika Organisasi Kemahasiswaan di Simpang Jalan. January. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.27461.22246>