

CONFLICT OF INTEREST : SOCIO-ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Causes of corruption may be various. One which is commonly regarded as substantial cause is conflict of interest. The prevalence of interest among people who have access to distribution of power and resources may result in the form of biased or even wrong decision or policy. Other name used for that biased decision is corrupted one primarily if whether it directly or indirectly benefits people who produce that decision or policy.

However, drawing a clear demarcation on who has conflict of interest and who hasn't never becomes an easy task. Similarly, proving that somebody having a conflict interest situation will surely produce a self-benefited decision or policy is always difficult.

The fact that Indonesians tend to develop social ties and informal network surrounding him/herself will always produce a difficult situation if it is seen through the conflict of interest perspective. It is also common to see Indonesians depend upon social ties or informal network due to get a job or other social benefits. In this regard, socio-anthropological point of view may not always be in line with anti-corruption perspective since the latter emphasizes upon living principle that social ties and network may be positive and supportive. Simply preventing people to develop or relying upon ties and network in order to prevent conflict of interest can be assumed contradictory with Indonesian culture.

This paper will argue the above thesis by confronting such position that conflict of interest is true factor of corruption in Indonesia and another notion that simply restricting social ties and network is not a good solution.