Prevention And Resolution Of Social Conflict In Coastal Communities In Indonesia

Pande Made Rony Kurniawan, Pujo Widodo, Herlina Juni Risma Saragih, Panji Suwarno, Endro Legowo, Trismadi

Faculty of National Security

Republic of Indonesia Defense University

Bogor, Indonesia

pande.kurniawan@bmkg.go.id

Abstract – **There have been several social conflicts in coastal communities in Indonesia. These conflicts have been violent and have had quite negative effects. There are social roots that underlie the realization of a conflict. For this reason, this study aims to examine social conflicts that occur in coastal communities and seek opportunities for prevention and resolution. The method used is descriptive analysis and literature review. Data for this analysis is based on various secondary data and scholarly sources. This study found that conflicts in coastal communities are in the form of vertical and horizontal conflicts, which are dominated by fishermen conflicts with a background of interests, regulations, also social and economic problems. Preventing social conflicts is done by improving governmental policies and regulations as well as developing communities. Conflict resolution is carried out in stages and the involvement of social elites.**

Keywords – prevention; resolution; social conflict

I. INTRODUCTION

There have been many social conflicts in Indonesia since its independence until now. Some of them that had quite a big impact and resulted in many victims were the social conflict in Poso in 1998 [1], then in May 1998, in Ambon in 1999, and in Sampit in 2001 [2]. Even at the beginning of 2022, there was a social conflict that occurred in Haruku Island, Central Maluku Regency, as many as 300 houses were damaged and 9 people died because of this incident [3].

Several social conflicts have occurred in coastal communities, such as the conflict between traditional and modern fishermen in Bengkulu [4] and in Riau Islands [5]. This shows that social conflict can occur anytime and anywhere in any social life, including in coastal communities. Several studies [6], [7], [8] have examined conflicts that occur in coastal communities. For example, a study conducted by Nulhaqim et al. [7] on the north coast of Cirebon, West Java, found several cases of conflicts, including conflicts between groups of fishermen and conflicts between the community and the government. Rusmilyansari and Mahreda [8] also examined social conflicts that occurred in the territorial waters of Kotabaru, South Kalimantan, where social conflicts occurred between fellow fishermen.

Social conflict may result in significant negative consequences including harm, loss of property, physical injury, and fatalities [9]. Resolving conflict in Indonesia is not easy due to the diversity and heterogeneity of Indonesian society [10]. Moreover, the underlying causes of conflict add complexity of resolving conflict in Indonesia. Thus, the following problems arise: (1) What are the causes of social conflict in coastal communities? (2) What can be done to prevent social conflict in coastal communities? (3) How is conflict resolved in coastal communities? For this reason, this paper aims to examine social conflicts in Indonesia, especially those that occur in coastal communities. It also aims to seek ways of prevention and resolution.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

The method used in this research is descriptive analysis method and literature review. Data from various secondary data and scholarly sources are used as the basis for this analysis. The discussion is focused on the "body of social conflict" in coastal communities. Then the source of the cause is identified and then a possible solution is sought.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Social Conflict in Coastal Communities

As in [2], conflict can be interpreted as a contradictory relationship between individuals or groups who have or feel they have certain goals but are filled with thoughts, feelings or actions that are not in line. Fisher et al. (in [11]) also state that social conflict is a situation in which two or more groups have conflicting interests or goals and feel that only one party can gain an advantage over the other. Based on this understanding, social conflict can be interpreted as a conflict relationship in which each party has different interests and thoughts. In fact, it is impossible to separate social life from conflict because conflict is indispensable in social life [9].

The important thing to understand before discussing social conflict in coastal communities is the concept of coastal communities themselves. Nikijuluw [12] defines coastal communities as group of people living in coastal areas who directly depend on the use of marine and coastal resources as a source of economic livelihood. As in [13], coastal communities are types of rural communities. They are ordinary people who do not belong to elite or high-status groups.

Coastal communities consist of various groups, such as fishery owners, fishery workers, fish farmers, fish traders and processors, and suppliers of fishery production inputs. In addition, in the non-fishery sector, coastal communities may also consist of providers of tourism services, providers of transportation services, and other community groups that use marine and coastal non-living resources to support their livelihoods [12]. However, in professional contexts, narrower definitions are often used, focusing on fishers, fish farmers, traders and seafood processors. This group is directly engaged in fishing and aquaculture. They dominate coastal areas throughout Indonesia, settlements on the shores of both large and small islands.

Most of these coastal communities are small and medium entrepreneurs, but more of them live simply. They run small-scale businesses and economic activities to meet their families' needs [12]. Satria [13] also stated that coastal communities are vulnerable to social, political and economic change, and often marginalized, poor, low-income, and poorly educated, who are often subject to exploitation by those in power

Coastal communities do not always have harmonious social relations, both among themselves and with other parties outside their community. In Indonesia, conflicts between coastal communities and other parties are quite common [6], [7], [8], [14]. As an example, the conflict between fishermen in Balikpapan that occurred due to the dominance of large fishermen [14], then the conflict between fishermen and businessmen in Pasuruan area, East Java that occurred due to fraud committed by businessmen [11].

Social conflicts in coastal communities in Indonesia are dominated by conflicts between fellow fishermen and between fishermen and non-fishermen [14]. These conflicts take the form of resource conflicts, policy and regulatory conflicts, fishing gear conflicts, business conflicts, and environmental conflicts [6], [7], [14]. The conflicts that occur generally involve violence and destruction [7] because the conflicts that occur are problems that pile up and are not properly resolved [6], [14]. This was explained by Satria [13] that a repressive legal system is still in effect in coastal communities, meaning that there is still no enforcement of formal law in the communities, as evidenced by the rampant burning of ships or boats by local fishers as a form of collective rage. All these perspectives are the basis and analytical tool for understanding the conflicts and violence that occur in society in a deeper way. There are broader social "roots" that underlie the creation of a conflict [9].

3.2. Causes of Conflict in Coastal Communities

Conflicts that occur in coastal communities take the form of vertical and horizontal conflicts. Horizontal conflicts are conflicts among coastal communities and conflicts between coastal communities and outsiders. Vertical conflict is a conflict that occurs between coastal communities and the government. Based on several studies [6], [8], [11], the causes of vertical conflict are, among others, due to unclear government policies and regulations and not paying attention to the socio-economic aspects of the local community, law enforcement that is not maximum, lack of government involvement in each conflict, government

assistance that is not targeted and transparent, and facilities and infrastructure that are not built by the government. In the context of horizontal conflict, according to several researchers [6], [7], [14], it occurs as a result of unclear sea space management between modern and traditional fishermen, the use of fishing gear that does not comply with regulations and zones, the existence of manipulation and discriminatory acts against small fishermen, as well as unfair treatment and economic competition.

Furthermore, a study conducted by Kinseng [15] found that conflicts in coastal communities are often related to issues of access and control over natural resources as a source of livelihood for fishers. For example, conflicts between fellow fishermen over fishing grounds and fish resources, conflicts between fishermen, government and entrepreneurs over coastal reclamation, and conflicts between fishermen and mining companies. While not directly related to access to resources, conflicts can also arise between fishermen and the government over the policy of banning the use of fishing gear such as the cantrang, which is related to fishermen's access to natural resources. In the context of the relationship between social change and social conflict, Kinseng [15] also found that social change is an important factor that triggers social conflict, not the other way around. Changes in the social structure, both vertical and horizontal, lead to social conflicts between fellow fishermen, between fishermen and the government, and between coastal communities and companies. Changes in government policies or the presence of companies create conditions that trigger social conflict. It is therefore important to understand the relationship between social change and social conflict to identify root causes and develop effective conflict management strategies.

An example is the research conducted by Rusmilyansari and Mahreda in 2019 [8] on the case of fishing conflicts in the territorial waters of Kotabaru Regency, South Kalimantan, which shows that the causes of the conflicts were due to the division of zones for fishing areas and also differences in the fishing gear technology used. In their research, Rusmilyansari and Mahreda [8] show that there were at least several fishing conflicts that started from 1980 to 2009, where the peaks of conflicts that led to anarchic actions were in 2000, 2005-2006, and 2007-2008. This shows that protracted and unresolved conflicts will increasingly lead to violent actions.

Kinseng [14] also explains that inter-fishermen conflicts in Indonesia have the same characteristics, they occur due to different ability to exploit natural resources and dominance of fishermen groups over other fishermen groups. Furthermore, for external conflicts that occur between fishermen and non-fishermen, Kinseng [14] states that these conflicts occur due to the marginalization of fishermen by the dominant power of outsiders. All of this leads to the disruption of fishermen's livelihoods, which results in a decrease in fishermen's income, and this is the core of why conflicts often occur in fishing communities. Furthermore, Kinseng [14] explains that the level of conflict violence in fisheries is more influenced by the problem factors and the resolution process. Economic factors are more likely to lead to violent conflicts. In addition, if the conflict resolution process takes a long time and the peace process is not successful, the conflict will tend to worsen.

3.3. Conflict Prevention in Coastal Communities

To prevent social conflict in coastal communities according to [6] there are several ways that can be done, including strict supervision and law enforcement, optimizing government institutions, government fairness and transparency, empowering coastal communities through conflict resolution training, and conducting business management training as well as individual expertise to the coastal communities. Based on the factors that cause conflict in coastal communities, which are generally due to economic problems and competition for natural resources, Amanah [16] emphasizes the importance of implementing development programs with a balanced, participatory, and sustainable approach. This is done by paying attention to development in the aspect of human resources according to the needs of the community and transformed through methods that are relevant to local situations and conditions. This development must involve the community in its planning and implementation, as well as maintaining good coordination between the community and relevant stakeholders. With this approach, it is expected that the implemented development program can provide benefits to the coastal communities both in terms of economy, individual competence, and social relations among communities. Razali [17] also states that development with a cultural perspective that pays attention to the socio-economic and cultural conditions of coastal communities can increase social justice, community participation and community income so that conflicts can be minimized.

By paying attention to the root causes of conflict, according to [14], prevention of social conflicts that occur in coastal communities, especially among fishermen, can be done by regulating fishing zones to reduce the domination that occurs between small fishermen and large fishermen. In addition, there is a need for legal recognition of the "traditional use rights" of local fishermen in each region, as well as the establishment of a fishing supervisor that will act as an "judge" to regulate fishing

activities at all levels of government.

In a broader context, Gunawan and Rante [10] state that conflict prevention can be done by local and national norm. For example, philosophy in religious and ethnic teachings, according to [10], can be used to provide understanding and problem solving to resolve conflicts. National wisdom such as Pancasila and "Sumpah Pemuda" can also be used as a way of life and a spirit of community unity that prevents society from potential conflicts that may arise at any time.

In line with Astri [18] who revealed that local wisdom can be an alternative problem solving in social conflict resolution. A cultural approach and using local values and culture that are already owned by the community can directly involve the community in planning, implementing and evaluating social conflicts. This is very important to address the causes of conflict and potential areas of social conflict. However, in order to be effective and successful, its implementation must be neutral and not involve political and military forces when a conflict occurs. In order to grow and maintain trust, togetherness and leadership, the community must also be placed as a driving force in local wisdom.

3.4. Conflict Resolution in Coastal Communities

Conflict resolution is an approach taken voluntarily by individuals to resolve problems that arise between them and other individuals. This approach encourages the use of more democratic and constructive ways to resolve conflicts by providing opportunities for the parties involved to find solutions on their own or by involving a wise, neutral, and impartial third party as a mediator to help resolve the problem [19].

In conflict resolution, it is important to provide space for each party involved to actively participate in the problem-solving process. This allows them to formulate solutions that are mutually beneficial and acceptable to all parties. Engaging a wise, neutral, and fair third party as a mediator is a step that can help create a safe and supportive environment for conflicting parties to communicate, negotiate, and reach a fair agreement.

This approach to conflict resolution emphasizes the importance of dialogue, empathy, and understanding among the parties involved. This allows them to understand each other's perspectives, seek common ground, and work together to find solutions that meet the interests and needs of all parties. In this way, conflict resolution promotes the creation of more harmonious relationships, strengthens communication, and minimizes the possibility of greater conflict in the future.

Sudarnoto [19] states that in resolving conflicts, it is necessary to analyze the conflict with the following indicators: 1). Interaction, i.e. social relations that occur between individuals or groups that can cause conflict. 2). Sources of conflict, including physical differences, different interests, different treatments, different identities, disappointments, limited resources, language, communication breakdown, different perceptions. 3). Conflicting parties (actors), that is, all actors who are involved in or interested in the conflict, including individuals, groups, and third parties (mediators, freeloaders, etc.).

According to [18], there are at least four stages involved in resolving a conflict, namely:

1. Conflict De-escalation

   The conflict resolution process at this stage is carried out when it is indicated that the conflicting parties will reduce the level of conflict escalation. Since conflicts at this stage are generally still dominated by armed conflict, the conflict resolution process is carried out in cooperation with the security forces.

2. Humanitarian Intervention and Political Negotiations

   The resolution of the conflict with humanitarian intervention is carried out in the center of the conflict with the efforts to open the possibility of negotiations between the community leaders.

3. Solving the Problem

   In this phase, the root causes of a conflict are thoroughly analyzed. Then the conflict is transformed towards a solution. Each of the parties in dispute must recognize the legitimacy of the other, give the right explanation, and make peace.

4. Peace Building

   The peace-building stage consists of three phases: transition, reconciliation, and consolidation. Because it involves the structural and cultural aspects of society, this phase is the most difficult and lasts the longest. Reconciliation must take

place when the underlying potential for conflict has to do with the fragility of social cohesion in society because of various structural violence that has taken place. The consolidation phase requires continuous intervention by related actors to promote peace between the conflicting parties, with two main objectives: to prevent the recurrence of conflict and to build a sustainable peace that can be implemented by the conflicting parties.

Kinseng [14] states that conflict resolution should be taken seriously by the government and mediators and should be done as soon as possible and not prolonged to prevent the conflict from worsening and becoming violent. Sudarnoto [19] notes that interpersonal conflict is generally more manageable. However, conflicts that involve a group of people are relatively more difficult to handle and require a special mechanism to resolve the conflict.

From the conflict incidents that have occurred, Alganih (2016) states that the role of social elites such as religious leaders, traditional leaders, and local community leaders is very important to be involved in establishing peace and conflict resolution. This is in line with the statement of Annisa et al. [11] who also stated that the involvement of the government, community leaders and religious leaders is necessary in the conflict resolution process because they have great influence and can reconcile the conflicting parties.

In a study conducted by [2], the mass media also plays an important role in reducing conflict and has the potential to be part of the solution by providing news aimed at building peace, promoting dialogue, and educating the public about the importance of resolving conflict peacefully. Santosa [2] states that the mass media can play a role in raising awareness of the consequences of conflict. By focusing on reporting on the negative effects of conflict, it is hoped that the parties involved will realize the importance of a peaceful resolution and move towards a better solution.

In the context of conflicts that occur in coastal communities, according to [11], conflict resolution can be carried out through mediation by involving fisher community leaders and religious leaders, as well as by promoting and disseminating applicable laws and regulations. Rusmilyansari and Mahreda [8] also stated that social conflict resolution in the context of coastal communities should be done cooperatively by prioritizing outcomes that are acceptable to all parties involved. This approach considers long-term interests and produces sustainable solutions. In addition, the institutional network that has been formed needs to be improved by using existing communication technology. This will facilitate more effective communication between the various parties involved in dealing with social conflicts. Timely and accurate information will support effective conflict management and facilitate the exchange of views and the efficient resolution of problems. It is expected that through a cooperative approach, the establishment of appropriate regional regulations and the use of effective communication technology, conflict resolution in coastal communities and small islands can be improved. This will promote sustainable resource management, balance the interests of different parties, and achieve better results in the long term.

IV. CONCLUSION

Conflicts in coastal communities are in the form of vertical and horizontal conflicts which are dominated by fishermen conflicts with a background of interests, regulations, and social and economic problems. Prevention of social conflicts that occur can be done by making several improvements in government policies and regulations as well as the community itself using local wisdom and national wisdom. To overcome the conflicts that occur, it is necessary to have stages as an effort to negotiate and work towards peace. Conflict resolution is a shared responsibility, so the government and society need to work together and build good communication and cooperation to maintain security and order for unity of Indonesia.

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