

Shaping of Moral People Towards Law Compliance from A Western Theory Perspective

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Abstract

A moral person is a personal characteristic in terms of good and bad behavior that is prominent and accepted in a community context. Law compliance is a necessity in an individual's life that is surrounded by various codes of conduct and ethics to create a perfect life. Shaping moral people from various perspectives is a basis and guide to life. This article discusses the view of the western theoretical perspective in shaping law compliance. As a bibliographic study, this paper presents qualitative findings based on detailed references from journals, articles, books and newspapers. The findings are then elaborated thematically with narrative writing. Based on the findings of the study, shaping moral people towards law compliance can be practiced through the perspective of three western theories, namely utilitarianism, personality virtue and deontology theories. Research findings are also discussed based on examples and descriptions.

Keywords: Moral Person, Law Compliance, Western Theory

I. INTRODUCTION

A person means a creature created with forgetfulness or negligence. Morality refers to a teaching or belief about the good or bad of an act (Kamus Dewan, 2005). Therefore, a moral person is an individual who practices all three dimensions of morality, namely thinking, feeling and behavior (Abdul Rahman, 1999). These three dimensions of morality must be possessed by each individual to enable that person to reach a high level of maturity in morality from all aspects (Hairul Faiezi, 2020). In terms of the moral thinking dimension, a person who is able to reason morally will be able to make judgments using universal moral values such as rationality, justice and so on. The moral feelings dimension will enable a person to express negative feelings such as shame, worry or guilt if they are in a critical situation. By exhibiting a combination of three dimensions, namely moral thinking, moral feeling and moral action, a comprehensive model of a moral person can be shaped (Thambu, 2014).

According to the Western perspective, morality is a social product resulting from habits, human self-interest, and is driven by sensitivity about what is right and what needs to be done (Nawi & Othman, 2018). In addition, individual behavior and actions from the Western perspective are guided by certain sources such as religion, customs, and beliefs. This is clearly contradict from the Islamic view that the personality and noble actions of an individual are subjective and emphasize the interests of various parties. Thus, the Western perspective that is guided by sources, such as the type of belief, religion, and customs, will definitely influence the means of an individual thinking and action, especially in law compliance. Moreover, the source of values that can shape a moral person is also based solely on human thought and can change due to dispute among them.

According to Yahaya and Baik (2008), humans need regulations and laws that can control and constraint their own behavior so that they are not too free to act which can threaten the freedom and fundamental rights of others. Law compliance is desired in society to create a harmonious atmosphere and free from all forms of threats. Therefore, the purpose of establishing rules of life is for people to be more inclined to obey the rules and customs as well as the normality of life when socializing with other people. A practice that is not an offense for most Western countries is same-sex relationships which is not considered a violation of any law and the moral values of those involved will not be criticized at all. This is in contrast to the rules in Malaysia which are indeed guided by an Islamic perspective that strongly opposes same-sex relationships and marriages as it is outside of human nature (Chalid & Yaqin, 2021). This action is also against and violates existing rules as the society will not tolerate same-sex marriage in Malaysia.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

This study was conducted to explore the shaping of moral people towards law compliance from the Western theoretical perspective. This study used a qualitative bibliographic research design by sourcing bibliographic references such as journals, articles, presentation papers, newspapers, theses and books. Through these bibliographic references, the researchers screened the findings to describe the research objective in relation to several western theoretical perspectives in shaping moral people towards law compliance. The selected theories are seen as relevant and compatible with the concept of

law compliance in human life. The research findings are described in depth through narrative writing.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the bibliographic research, there are three theories from the Western perspective that can shape a moral person with regard to law compliance. Figure 1 presents the theories.

Figure 1
Theories From the Western Perspective



The subsequent section explains the Western theories in detail regarding the shaping of moral people through compliance with the law. The theory of utilitarianism is a concept based on the principle of maximum satisfaction. This theory views that humans need to perform all actions that will contribute to the maximum good, benefit, satisfaction or joy for many parties (Maiwan, 2018). In fact, all the goodness will not only be savoured by oneself but should be appreciated and felt by the surrounding community. Therefore, this theory is very appropriate if applied in complying with the law either law on the road, school or others. The reason is that the value of tolerance and living together peacefully can definitely be established if the community is being good to each other. For example, a society that practices utilitarian theory will generally control noise and voice tone at night as it is not for fear of being reported to the authorities but also for fear of disturbing the comfort of other neighbors to rest. This example proves that if the community can understand the conditions and needs of other communities, it is certain that a living atmosphere full of tolerance will be able to be created, especially in the norms of living in the neighborhood (Irfan, 2021). In addition, the community will also take care of each other's interests not only to obey the rules but also not to affect the comfort of other people's lives.

In the same context, it is admittedly that the theory of utilitarianism will be able to create justice, especially in compliance with the law. The rights and interests of each

individual in society will definitely be prioritized as this theory emphasizes actions that benefit many people (Irfan, 2021). Thus, there will not be any distortions, abuse of power, and exceptions in the law as all communities are at the same levels. For example, individuals who take the rights of others without permission need to be reported and fined in order to teach a lesson to the perpetrators and others (Maiwan, 2018). Most importantly, it is to provide justice to the victims while teaching the public to better comply with existing laws. As a result, every individual in the society will definitely receive benefits as being free from danger if existing laws can be obeyed.

Simultaneously, good and disciplined compliance with the law will not only provide justice to all parties but will also help to prevent cases of discrimination in society. A society that always takes into account the interests of others and always acts fairly will indeed reduce the level of oppression against weak people such as the poor, the elderly, people with disabilities (OKU) and children (Tah, 2014). In accordance with the theory of utilitarianism that emphasizes actions that can benefit the public, the attitude of discriminating against the rights and interests of others is a condemned act and must be avoided as much as possible. There is concern that it will affect the well-being of other oppressed communities as according to the theory of utilitarianism, the more people who receive benefits, then the action is considered moral and should be emulated (Tah, 2014). Indirectly, the community will make the practice a habit and form a harmonious society. In conclusion, all actions that lead to satisfaction and maximum benefit to oneself and others are considered practitioners of utilitarianism theory in their daily lives.

Based on the noble personality theory, positive moral values can be shaped. According to Nurul Hudani and Baharudin (2018), Aristotle (384-322 BC) founded the personality virtue theory which was the oldest ethical theory. A large number of supporters of this theory have asserted that a noble personal nature is a requirement for a person to act rationally in a noble way, instead of acting according to emotion or instinct alone. In fact, rational action will form a moral person (BBC, 2014). A person's rational nature will also distinguish himself from animals and will subsequently put himself in equitable position (Siti Fatimah Mohamed Anwar, 2019). Actually, it is a rational action to comply with the law. Law-abiding people can distinguish between good and bad actions by scrutinizing the effects and consequences of those actions. For example, a person will think before acting and then make a good judgment by thinking about the positive effects on himself and society. In this context, an action that complies with the law is the best action based on rational thinking.

In addition, people with personality virtue theory will provide kindness generally to themselves and society (Nurul Hudani Md Nawawi and Baharudin Othman, 2018). Kindness to oneself is the basis and guide to practice autonomy and perform moral responsibility by emphasizing understanding and concern for moral principles. According to Azizi Yahaya (2008), every individual has desires or aversions that can intrinsically motivate a person to do or not do something with a certain method. In this context, the noble personality theory is closely related to the 'good attitude method' and the qualities of a moral person such as responsibility. Clearly, the act of doing something by obeying the law is a 'good attitude method' as obeying the law is the responsibility of every individual in a society.

Furthermore, the personality virtue theory also prioritizes goodness towards society. According to Nurul Hudani Md Nawawi and Baharudin Othman (2018), this theory emphasizes

justice by respecting the rights of others, especially when it comes to the right to make risky decisions and ensure justice. Justice is essential for the welfare of society as well as creating a conducive environment to increase economic development and national progress (Norma Mansor, 2014). Therefore, a person who obeys the law is a moral person as the law can prevent people from threatening the safety and rights of others. For example, the act of stealing is wrong in the law as it invites danger and takes the rights of others. Thus, the law encourages a person not to harm others in order to maintain the well-being of life in a society in line with the theory of noble personality.

The theory of deontology is found in deontological ethics assessing the ethics of an action or decision based on the motivation of the decision maker. The word deontology comes from the Greek words *deon* (obligate) and *logos* (knowledge) (Bertens, 2014). According to (the principle of) deontology, actions or decisions are ethically allowed not on the basis of positive results or rejected not on the basis of negative effects but on the basis of the motivation of the decision maker or the action that fulfills the obligation. Therefore, obligation is the basis for the good or bad of an act. The obligation is absolute. This theory was founded by a German philosopher named Immanuel Kant (1724-1084) and is also referred to as deontological theory (not consequences). The basis of this theoretical thinking is based on responsibility rather than good consequences. According to Kant, responsibilities that need to be practiced are honesty, fulfil promises, no oppression to others, being fair, sympathetic and others.

The concept of "responsibility" is not bound to the concept of good as the right action is not determined by goodness. On the other hand, what determines whether an action is right or not is the attitude of a committed person or the action required by religious teachings. Therefore, the theory of deontology is very appropriate. For example, an individual as entities in society have a great responsibility to comply with all the rules and laws enacted by the government. As a result, the theory of deontology can shape a prosperous and harmonious society by fulfilling their responsibilities by obeying the law.

This moral obligation is the obligation of humans to practice their morals in order to be responsible for themselves. The theory of deontology also emphasizes the importance of creating individuals who are responsible for themselves. For example, if people take responsibility for their own actions, we can definitely create a law-abiding society. Hence, if each individual applies the theory of obligation in oneself, many moral people can be shaped towards compliance with the law. In addition, the principle of obligation means that an action is considered moral if it is performed willingly or with recognized responsibility. In other words, this principle asserts that responsibility is carried out simply because the practice is an obligation. For example, fulfilling promises is the responsibilities of those concerned. As a Malaysian society, we make our promises via the Rukun Negara of "rule of law" by accepting and defending the sovereignty of the country. With this, we can guarantee the security and stability of the country.

IV. CONCLUSION

Overall, although some people perceive that the law is merely a written record and cannot truly measure a person's character and value, the law is a weapon that can discipline society

(Maharani, 2021). With law behavior and good character, a norm can be shaped in a person's life. Based on this article, there are three ethical theories according to the Western perspective, namely the theory of utilitarianism, personality virtue and deontology that can be used as a basic guide to society in daily life to ensure universal peace and harmony. From these theories, each individual should be able to practice moral values in their lives, especially in relation to compliance with the law.

In conclusion, each individual must obey the law based on a responsible attitude, for the good of the community and awareness of a part of the community that gives a role to a country. The role of each individual in obeying the law will make the country peaceful, harmonious and prosperous. The law will shape a generation of moral people.

V. REFERENCES

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