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The Role of Ethnic Identity in Overcoming Discrimination against Ethnic Minorities and Politics in Indonesia*

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Abstract

Indonesia has a wide variety of ethnic, so it is very vulnerable to various conflicts such as discriminatory treatment of ethnic minorities. Despite laws prohibiting racial and ethnic discrimination, discriminatory acts still occur in some parts of Indonesia. Discrimination against ethnic minorities is a serious and complex problem and can take many forms, such as unfair treatment, negative stereotypes, exclusion, restrictions on access to resources and opportunities, and acts of violence and persecution that harm ethnic minorities. Some ethnic minorities that often experience discrimination in Indonesia include ethnic Chinese, Papuans, Dayaks and several other ethnicities. One of the main causes of ethnic discrimination is due to prejudices and stereotypes that develop in society. These stereotypes often lead to exclusion of ethnic minorities. Ethnic identity plays an important role in shaping perceptions, attitudes, behaviors of individuals and groups, and can provide valuable insights for the management and handling of issues of ethnic discrimination. This can be the focus of research to identify how the role of ethnic identity can provide a deeper understanding of how ethnic identity can be used as a tool in addressing ethnic minority discrimination. The method in this study is qualitative descriptive with data collection techniques through literature studies such as journals, textbooks, handbooks, notes and appendices related to the research topic, and the data analysis using content analysis. The results showed that to overcome the problem of ethnic discrimination, collective efforts from various parties are needed. In this regard, the role of media and education is very important to build awareness about diversity and reduce negative stereotypes. It is hoped that with awareness and cooperation from various parties, ethnic discrimination in Indonesia can be reduced and eliminated gradually.

Keywords: Identity; Ethnicity; Discrimination; Stereotype; Minority

Abstrak

Indonesia memiliki keragaman etnis yang luas, sehingga sangat rentan terhadap berbagai konflik seperti perlakuan diskriminatif terhadap etnis minoritas. Meskipun undang-undang melarang diskriminasi ras dan etnis, tindakan diskriminatif masih terjadi di beberapa wilayah

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Indonesia. Diskriminasi terhadap etnis minoritas merupakan masalah yang serius dan kompleks dan dapat terjadi dalam berbagai bentuk, seperti perlakuan tidak adil, stereotip negatif, pengucilan, pembatasan akses terhadap sumber daya dan peluang, serta tindakan kekerasan dan persekusi yang merugikan etnis minoritas. Beberapa etnis minoritas yang sering mengalami diskriminasi di Indonesia antara lain etnis Tionghoa, Papua, Dayak dan beberapa etnis lainnya. Salah satu penyebab utama diskriminasi etnis adalah karena prasangka dan stereotip yang berkembang di masyarakat. Stereotip ini sering mengarah pada pengucilan etnis minoritas. Identitas etnis berperan penting dalam membentuk persepsi, sikap, perilaku individu dan kelompok, serta dapat memberikan wawasan yang berharga bagi pengelolaan dan penanganan isu diskriminasi etnis. Hal ini dapat menjadi fokus penelitian untuk mengidentifikasi bagaimana peran identitas etnis dapat memberikan pemahaman yang lebih mendalam tentang bagaimana identitas etnis dapat digunakan sebagai alat dalam mengatasi diskriminasi etnis minoritas. Metode dalam penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif dengan teknik pengumpulan data melalui studi literatur seperti jurnal, buku ajar, buku pegangan, catatan dan lampiran yang berkaitan dengan topik penelitian, dan analisis data menggunakan analisis isi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa untuk mengatasi masalah diskriminasi etnis diperlukan upaya kolektif dari berbagai pihak. Dalam kaitan ini, peran media dan pendidikan sangat penting untuk membangun kesadaran tentang keberagaman dan mengurangi stereotype negatif. Diharapkan dengan kesadaran dan kerjasama dari berbagai pihak, diskriminasi etnis di Indonesia dapat dikurangi dan dihilangkan secara bertahap.

Kata Kunci: Identitas; etnis; Diskriminasi; Stereotip; Minoritas

A. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country rich in ethnic, cultural, religious, and racial diversity. However, in this context of plurality, often ethnic minorities are faced with various forms of discrimination that can harm their rights and hinder their participation in social, economic, and political life. Discrimination against ethnic minorities in Indonesia is a complex phenomenon and remains a relevant issue in the social and cultural context in the country. Ethnic identity, which refers to an individual's sense of belonging and identification with a particular ethnic group, is increasingly recognized as an important factor in overcoming such discrimination. Ethnic identity can be a significant resource for individuals in the face of experiences of discrimination, both as a coping strategy and as a foundation for advocating for their rights.⁴ In addition, discrimination against ethnic minorities can come in many forms, such as unfair treatment, negative stereotypes, exclusion, violence, or restrictions on access to resources and opportunities.

Legal protection for minority groups in Indonesia has been regulated in Article 28 D and Article 28 I of the 1945 Constitution and contained in Article 3 paragraph 3 of Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights. Despite being protected, there are still cases of opposition and even violence against minority groups in Indonesia. In addition, human rights are essentially principles of equality and nondiscrimination⁵. The principle of equality is also stipulated in Article I of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 1948 which means that every

⁴ Baumann T. Defining Ethnicity. The SAA Archaeological Record. 2004. Pp.35

⁵ Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia Republik Indonesia. Laporan Tahunan Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia (KOMNAS HAM) Republik Indonesia. Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia Republik Indonesia. 2017.

individual has the same basic rights, regardless of ethnicity, religion, race, sex, or other background, and should interact with mutual respect and fraternity.⁶

According to Anthony David Smith, an expert in sociology says that ethnicity refers to groups of people who have shared traits, such as race, ethnicity, culture, language, or geographical origin.⁷ Ethnicity can be the basis for identifying and classifying human groups based on those differences. The concept of ethnicity involves aspects of culture, identity, and affiliation of human groups that can influence the way individuals or groups behave, interact, and relate to the surrounding society. Ethnicity is usually related to the history, culture, language, and traditions of a particular human group.⁸ Ethnicity can include diverse aspects, such as customs, religion, value systems, language, food, clothing, art, music, and history. A person's ethnic identity is often inherited through cultural inheritance and socialization within their family, community, or social environment. Thus, ethnicity can also influence human groups' access and experience of resources, opportunities, and rights, including education, employment, housing, health, and political participation. Ethnic groups may also face challenges or conflicts related to ethnic identity, such as discrimination, segregation, or interethnic conflict. In other words, the concept of ethnicity is complex and can vary across different cultural, geographical, and historical contexts.⁹ A person's ethnic identity can be flexible and can change over time. Ethnic notions must also be confronted with respect for cultural diversity and avoidance of stereotypes, prejudices, or discrimination against certain ethnic groups.¹⁰

Discrimination against ethnic minorities can have unfortunate impacts, both for individuals and society as a whole. In addition, discrimination can also hinder the active participation of ethnic minorities in social, economic, and political life, and destroy cultural and social diversity in Indonesia. In kompas.com explained that there are several examples of ethnic discrimination that occurred in Indonesia such as racial riots against ethnic Chinese that occurred in Indonesia on May 13-15, 1998 in the context of economic and political crises involving attacks, sexual harassment, arson, and looting of shops, houses, and properties owned by Chinese citizens in various regions in Indonesia such as Jakarta, Medan, and Surakarta. The factors that triggered this unrest ranging from dissatisfaction with authoritarian governments that had been in power for decades, pre-existing ethnic and religious tensions, and dissatisfaction with poor economic

⁶ Rosdianti Y. The Right to Work in Article 27 of The UN Convention on The Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Towards an Inclusive Employment. *Negara Hukum*. 2018. Pp.236

⁷ Anthony D. Culture, Community and Territory: The Politics of Ethnicity and Nationalism. *Wiley Royal Institute of International Affairs*. 1944; 72 (3).

⁸ Baumann T. Defining Ethnicity. *The SAA Archaeological Record*. 2004.

⁹ Wódka M. Anthony D. Smith's idea of the nation. Controversy around definitions. *UR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. 2019; 13 (4).

¹⁰ Verkuyten M., Yogeewaran K., Mephram K., Sprong S. Interculturalism: A new diversity ideology with interrelated components of dialogue, unity, and identity flexibility. *European Journal of Social Psychology*. 2020; 50 (3).

conditions triggered the emergence of racial riots. These riots left deep wounds in Indonesian history.¹¹

In the same year, another inter-ethnic riot case also occurred in the Sambas Regency area involving conflicts between ethnic Malays and Madurese ethnicities rooted in the struggle for economic resources, especially agricultural land. Not only that, the riots were also triggered by various factors, economic issues, ethnic tensions, and dissatisfaction with the government and local authorities. The conflict between ethnic Malays and ethnic Madurese was triggered by issues of land claims and economic resources, which triggered tensions between the two ethnic groups. These riots resulted in many casualties and material losses, and left deep trauma and social consequences for the local community. Therefore, as many as 58,544 Madurese residents fled from Sambas Regency to Pontianak. The decision to move Madurese from Sambas to Pontianak City was taken by the Sambas Regency government as an effort to ease the conflict between the two tribes.¹² Meanwhile, in 2001 there was a case in Sampit, Central Kalimantan caused by riots between Dayak and Madurese that occurred in the region. These riots began in February 2001 and continued for several months, with inter-ethnic violence, house burnings, property confiscation, and loss of life. Then, this unrest was caused by a number of factors, including competition for economic resources, ethnic tensions, land claim issues, and dissatisfaction with the government and local authorities. The conflict between the Dayak, who are an indigenous tribe of Central Kalimantan and the Madurese, who originated on the island of Madura in East Java, was caused by the issue of land claims and economic resources, which caused tensions between the two ethnic groups.¹³

Indonesia is prone to various ethnic-related conflicts, due to Indonesia's diverse population.¹⁴ With these differences, racial and ethnic discrimination that arises in society often causes friction that can trigger social unrest in the community. Therefore, discrimination that arises in society can cause social unrest. This is due to the stigma against a particular group. Previously, there have been several studies related to the role of ethnic identity in overcoming discrimination, such as a study entitled Development of Russian Tourism in the contemporary social and ethnocultural conditions by O.V. Chistyakova which discusses the importance of Russia in economic development and maintaining inter-ethnic and inter-religious balance in the space of Russian culture and values. The author highlights the migration process and its relation to the situation in tourism and hospitality, as well as its development prospects. This article explains the relationship between effective domestic tourism development and progressive

¹¹ Kompas.com. Kronologi Kerusuhan Mei 1998. URL: <https://www.kompas.com/stori/read/2021/11/15/150000579/kronologi-kerusuhan-mei-1998?page=all>.

¹² Kompas.com. Kerusuhan Sambas 1999: Penyebab, Kronologi, dan Dampak. URL: <https://www.kompas.com/stori/read/2021/08/06/150000479/kerusuhan-sambas-1999-penyebab-kronologi-dan-dampak?page=all>.

¹³ Merdeka.com. Mengenang Peristiwa 18 Februari Kerusuhan Sampit, Pertikaian Suku Dayak dan Madura. URL: <https://www.merdeka.com/jatim/peristiwa-18-februari-terjadinya-kerusuhan-sampit-pertikaian-suku-dayak-dan-madura-kl.html>.

¹⁴ Haba J. Etnisitas, Hubungan Sosial dan Konflik di Kalimantan Barat. *Jurnal Masyarakat & Budaya*. 2012; 14 (1).

regulation of foreign labor migration. Later, the researcher emphasized the correlation between the increasing attractiveness of tourist attractions and the stable and peaceful situation in the field of inter-ethnic and inter-religious relations, including between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in multinational Russia.¹⁵

Then, there is also a study entitled gender issues in Confucian ethics in contemporary Vietnam by S.A. Nizhnikov and Pham Tien Bac which discusses these positive and negative processes affecting Confucian ethical norms in Vietnam. This study aims to examine the gendered content of Vietnamese Confucian ideals and their impact on contemporary Vietnamese society. The study also identified general and specific features of gender issues in traditional Chinese and Vietnamese Confucian ethics. Vietnamese ethics can reduce the rigidity and severity of gender roles because the Hong Duc Code restricts men's right to divorce. Feudal laws were also introduced for punishment for those who offended women. The Code of Emperor Gia Long stated that anyone who harassed a woman with vulgar words should be punished.¹⁶ The above examples prove respect for women as guaranteed by some feudal rules. This transformation has a progressive impact and is intended to encourage women's creativity.

Therefore, discrimination against ethnic minorities is a serious problem in Indonesia. This research can provide a deeper understanding of how ethnic identity can be used as a tool in addressing ethnic minority discrimination. Ethnic identity plays an important role in shaping the perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors of individuals and groups in the face of experiences of discrimination. In the context of Indonesia which has rich ethnic diversity, a better understanding of the role of ethnic identity in the face of discrimination can provide valuable insights for the management and handling of ethnic discrimination issues. However, the role of ethnic identity in addressing discrimination among ethnic minorities in Indonesia has not been studied in depth. Therefore, this study will further explore the role of ethnic identity in the context of experiences of discrimination and prejudice faced by ethnic minorities in Indonesia. This research is expected to provide better insight into the complexity of ethnic identity and strategies used by individuals in the face of discrimination, as well as provide a basis for efforts to promote inclusion, diversity, and respect for human rights for ethnic minorities in Indonesia.

B. METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach using data collection techniques through literature studies through journals, textbooks, handbooks, notes, appendices related to the research topic.¹⁷ In the context of this research, literature study will begin by collecting reading sources for research topics. Next, analyzing the data

¹⁵ Chistyakova O. V. Development of Russian tourism in the contemporary social and ethnocultural conditions. *RUDN Journal of Sociology*. 2022; 22 (4).

¹⁶ Nizhnikov S.A., Bac P.T. Gender issues in Confucian ethics in contemporary Vietnam. *RUDN Journal of Sociology*. 2023; 23 (1).

¹⁷ Walidin W., Saifullah., Tabrani. Z.A. *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif & Grounded Theory*. FTK Ar-Raniry Press. 2015.

using content analysis is carried out by identifying and separating data relevant to the research topic, then categorizing and calculating the frequency of each category.¹⁸

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Ethnic Discrimination in Indonesia

Ethnic discrimination in Indonesia is a social phenomenon that is quite complex and requires serious attention from society and the government. This is because Indonesia has a variety of ethnicities, races, languages, and religions, so there is often discrimination against certain minority groups. Not only that, ethnic discrimination can also occur in various forms, such as discrimination in employment, education, access to health services, and political rights.

There are several cases of ethnic discrimination in Indonesia such as neglect of indigenous peoples' rights. Indigenous peoples are often perceived as ethnic minorities who are neglected in development, and their rights are not fully recognized. They are often expelled from their ancestral lands to make room for development projects.¹⁹ Not only that, discrimination also occurs in the field of education, such as the lack of educators and professional teachers, the lack of school facilities in the form of classrooms, laboratories, and school buildings that are not feasible. As a result, students get an inadequate education, the learning process does not run optimally, and lack of understanding of the field of technology. Then, ethnic discrimination can also occur in the workplace. There are companies that prefer to hire people of a certain ethnicity, while ignoring people from other ethnicities who have the same or even better qualifications. This can be detrimental to people from ethnic minorities in finding decent work. In addition to the workplace, discrimination also occurs in social life. Some people who feel great often treat other ethnicities with disrespect.²⁰

The rejection of certain tribes in the job recruitment process is a serious concern for Indonesia's National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM). In 2017, Komnas HAM conducted a survey on recruitment policies in Indonesian companies and found that around 70% of companies in Indonesia have recruitment policies that prioritize certain tribes. This is of course very detrimental to people from ethnic minorities and can reduce diversity in the workplace so that it can lead to inter-ethnic conflicts. Although the Government of Indonesia has issued Law No. 39 of 1999 on Human Rights, many companies still ignore the law and practice ethnic discrimination in their recruitment policies.²¹

¹⁸ Asfar A.M. Analisis Naratif, Analisis Konten, dan Analisis Semiotik (Penelitian Kualitatif). ResearchGate. 2019.

¹⁹ Latuharhary. Alami Kekerasan, Masyarakat Adat Laman Kinipan Mengadu ke Komnas HAM. Komnas HAM Republik Indonesia. 2020.

²⁰ Anam C., Felani M, Nurkhoiron M., Aji N., Firmansyah N., Arianingtyas R., Effendi W., Nainggolan Y. A. P., Abidin Z. Upaya Negara Menjamin Hak-Hak Kelompok Minoritas di Indonesia Sebuah Laporan. Komnas HAM. 2016.

²¹ The Indonesian National Human Rights Commission. Preliminary Research: Strengthening the Position and the Roles of the National Commission on Human Rights in Supporting the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Indonesia. The Indonesian National Human Rights Commission; 2021.

In addition to Law No. 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights, the Government has implemented several policies to eliminate discrimination, including Law No. 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections, which guarantees voting rights for all Indonesian citizens without exception. Some of the things stipulated in this law include: requirements to become a voter, permanent voter list, rights of blind and disabled voters, supervision of elections, sanctions for violations.²² With this law, it is hoped that all Indonesian citizens can enjoy their voting rights without discrimination or exclusion. This is important in ensuring that elections in Indonesia are conducted democratically and benefit society as a whole. Thirdly, Law No. 13 of 2003 concerning Manpower, which prohibits discrimination in all forms in the world of work [18]. Lastly, Law No. 8 of 2016 on Persons with Disabilities, which provides protection and ensures the rights of persons with disabilities to live on an equal footing with the rest of society.²³

Furthermore, there are several programs created by the government aimed at ensuring that everyone in Indonesia has equal rights and avoids discrimination, as well as building an inclusive and fair society, such as the National Health Insurance (JKN) program which provides health insurance for all Indonesians without discrimination.²⁴ Then, there is the Family Hope (PKH) program which provides social assistance to poor families without discrimination, the Free Education program from elementary to high school which provides equal opportunities for all Indonesian children to obtain education, and law enforcement and strict enforcement against all forms of discrimination, be it racial, gender, religious, or gender discrimination.²⁵

Although a policy program has been created to eliminate discrimination, discrimination problems can still occur. This is certainly not in accordance with the conception of Indonesian nationality which refers to the idea that Indonesia as a nation has a common identity, values, and goals inherent in Indonesian history and culture. This conception includes awareness of the unity and unity of the Indonesian nation which is diverse in culture, religion, tribe, and language, and is also embodied in the motto "*Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*" contained in the national emblem and becomes a spirit for the Indonesian people to accept differences and live side by side in unity.

Meanwhile, the conception of Indonesian nationality also contains the values of Pancasila as the basis of the Indonesian state, namely the One and Only God, just and civilized humanity, Indonesian Unity, Peoplehood led by wisdom in consultation / representation, and social justice for all Indonesian people. The values contained in Pancasila are a strong foundation in maintaining the unity and unity of the Indonesian

²² Sekretaris Kabinet Republik Indonesia. Inilah Undang-Undang Nomor 7 Tahun 2017 tentang Pemilihan Umum (2). URL: <https://setkab.go.id/inilah-undang-undang-nomor-7-tahun-2017-tentang-pemilihan-umum-2/>.

²³ Presiden Republik Indonesia. Undang-Undang Republik Indonesia Nomor 13 Tahun 2003. Lembaran Negara Republik Indonesia.

²⁴ Da costa A., Otang A.S., Djamhari E.A., Arfandi H., Harja I.T., Lauranti M., Saleh M. R. M. D., Thabrany H. Mewujudkan Jaminan Kesehatan Nasional yang Inklusif. Prakarsa Welfare Initiative for Better Societies. 2018.

²⁵ Susanto I. Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH). Kementerian Sosial Republik Indonesia. 2019.

nation, as well as being the foundation for advancing Indonesia as a just and prosperous country.

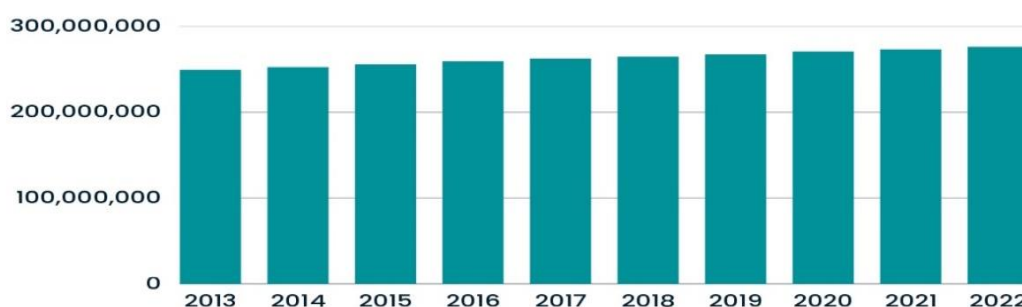
Based on Anderson's theory of the concept of ethnicity that is socially constructed and is the result of historical, political, and cultural processes. The concept of ethnicity does not occur naturally, but is engineered and constructed by specific individuals or groups who wish to create a collective identity and group consciousness.²⁶ However, this concept of ethnicity can change over time and is influenced by factors such as politics, economics, and culture. Then, this theory also emphasizes the importance of mass media in shaping ethnic identity and group consciousness. Mass media play an important role in shaping perceptions and understandings of culture, history, and ethnic identity. In other words, a person's ethnic identity can change over time and be influenced by mass media and other factors. Therefore, the Government of Indonesia and society need to raise awareness and promote the values of unity and unity. In addition, it is also necessary to establish stricter supervision and law enforcement to ensure company compliance with the law and prevent ethnic discrimination in job recruitment.

2. Ethnic Identity in Indonesia

Indonesian residents consist of two types, namely Indonesian Citizens and Foreign Citizens. According to data from BPS-Statistics Indonesia 2023, Indonesia's population is 275.77 million people in 2022. This number increased by 1.13% compared to last year which was 272.68 million people. Here is a diagram of the total population of Indonesia below:

Diagram 1. The Population

INDONESIA POPULATION



of Indonesia

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia, 2023.

²⁶ Krisbintoro R.S., Kurniawan R.C. Etnis dan Perempuan di Aras Lokal. Jurnal Analisis Sosial Politik. 2018; 2 (1).

From the diagram above that there are about 139.38 million people are men and 136.38 million people are women. According to its age, 190.97 million Indonesians are in the age level of 15-64 years. A total of 33.90 million people aged 0-14 years. Then, 8.79 million people aged 65 years and over. As the population increases, the population density also increases. Geographically, the majority of Indonesia's population is on the island of Java with around 154 million people from the total population of Indonesia. Meanwhile, other islands have a smaller population, namely Sumatra with about 59 million people, Sulawesi with about 20 million people, Kalimantan with about 17 million people, Bali and Nusa Tenggara with about 15 million people, and Papua and Maluku with about 8 million people.²⁷

Indonesia has a very rich ethnic diversity. Based on data from BPS-Statistics Indonesia 2020, there are more than 1,300 ethnic groups in Indonesia. The most numerous ethnicity in Indonesia is Javanese who are the largest ethnic group and cover about 40% of the total population. In addition, there are Sundanese, Batak, Madurese, Minangkabau, and Betawi ethnicities which also have significant numbers. Outside Java, Papua has a very high ethnic diversity with more than 250 different ethnic groups. There are also ethnic Dayaks in Kalimantan, Bugis in Sulawesi, and Malays in Sumatra. The distribution of ethnicity in Indonesia is not concentrated in one particular region, but spread throughout the territory of Indonesia.²⁸ However, there are some regions in Indonesia that have a higher population density of certain tribes, such as Java which is dominated by Javanese, West Sumatra by Minangkabau tribes, and Bali by Balinese tribes. The following is a map of ethnic distribution in Indonesia which will be presented below:

Figure 1. Ethnic Distribution in Indonesia



Source: Map of ethnic groups in Indonesia

²⁷ BPS-Statistics Indonesia. Statistical Yearbook of Indonesia. BPS-Statistics Indonesia. 2023.

²⁸ BPS-Statistics Indonesia. Statistical Yearbook of Indonesia. BPS-Statistics Indonesia. 2020.

Based on the figure 1 shows that Indonesia has a variety of ethnicities spread from Sumatra Island to Papua Island.²⁹ On the island of Sumatra, the most dominant tribe in population is the Malay tribe. The history of the Malay tribe can be traced back to prehistoric times. In the 7th century, there were Malay kingdoms that flourished in the regions of Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula, such as the Srivijaya Kingdom and the Malay Kingdom. These two kingdoms became the center of trade and culture in the Southeast Asian region at that time. During colonialism, Malay territories were colonized by Europeans, such as the Dutch, British, and Portuguese. This influenced the development of Malay history, traditions, and culture. Malays occupy coastal areas in Sumatra such as Aceh, Riau, Jambi, North Sumatra, and Bangka Belitung. Malay culture is very rich and open to influences from other cultures. In addition to the Malay tribe, there is also a Batak tribe originating from the Tapanuli area in North Sumatra. The Batak tribe consists of several ethnic groups, such as Toba, Angkola, Karo, Mandailing, Pakpak-Dairi, and Batak Simalungun. Each ethnic group has different languages, customs, and cultures. The Batak tribe is known as one of the largest indigenous tribes in North Sumatra, and has a rich and unique history, traditions, and culture such as Batak customs that cover many aspects of life, such as marriage, death, agriculture, and carpentry. One aspect of Batak customs that is famous is Martumpol, which is a traditional ceremony held after a child is born. Then, the Minangkabau tribe originating from the Minangkabau area in West Sumatra, the Lampung tribe originating from the Lampung area, and the Nias tribe originating from Nias Island in North Sumatra. In addition, there are also small tribes scattered throughout the island of Sumatra.

Then, on the island of Java there are several tribes, namely the Banten Tribe, the Betawi Tribe, the Baduy Tribe, the Sundanese Tribe, the Javanese Tribe, the Madurese, the Tengger Tribe, the Cirebon Tribe and the Osing Tribe. The Javanese are one of the largest ethnic groups in Indonesia domiciled in Java. During colonialism, Java was colonized by European nations, such as the Dutch and British. During this period, there were social, political, and economic changes that affected the development of Javanese culture. In addition, there are also several small ethnic groups scattered in various regions on the island of Java. Each of these tribes and ethnic groups has different languages, customs, and cultures, but side by side and has an important role in the diversity of cultures and communities on the island of Java.

In addition, the most dominant tribe on the island of Kalimantan is the Dayak tribe. The Dayak tribe is an indigenous tribe of Kalimantan spread throughout the island of Kalimantan, both in Indonesia and in Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam. The Dayak tribe has a long history on the island of Kalimantan. In the past, the Dayak tribe was divided into many small tribes that had different cultures, customs, and languages. Not only that, the Dayak tribe was often involved in battles with surrounding kingdoms, be it Malay, Javanese, or other kingdoms. The Dayak tribe is also known as human headhunters, but along with the times, this tradition has rarely been carried out. The Dayak tribe consists of various sub-tribes, such as Dayak Ngaju, Dayak Iban, Dayak

²⁹ On The World Map. Map of ethnic groups in Indonesia. URL: <https://ontheworldmap.com/indonesia/map-of-ethnic-groups-in-indonesia.html>.

Murut, Dayak Bidayuh, and many more. Each Dayak sub-tribe has different languages, customs, and cultures, but still has its own characteristics and uniqueness. In addition to the Dayak tribe, there are also other tribes living on the island of Kalimantan, such as the Banjar tribe, Kutai tribe, Berau tribe, and Kenyah tribe.

However, the most dominant tribes on the island of Sulawesi are the Bugis tribe and the Makassar tribe. These two tribes are the largest and most dominant tribes in South Sulawesi. The Bugis and Makassar have different histories, languages, customs, and cultures, but they also have many similarities and are interrelated. These two tribes have a long history in South Sulawesi. In the past, these two tribes were part of several powerful kingdoms in South Sulawesi, such as the Kingdom of Gowa, the Kingdom of Bone, and the Kingdom of Luwu. Uniquely, these two tribes have different languages, but both belong to the Austronesian language group. Bugis is one of the largest languages in South Sulawesi, while Makassar is the official language in Makassar City and its surroundings. Then, there is also the Toraja tribe which is known for its rich and unique indigenous culture and traditions, and the Minahasa tribe which has diverse natural and cultural wealth. Even so, Sulawesi also has many other tribes such as the Bajo tribe, Gorontalo, Kaili, Mongondow, and others. Each tribe in Sulawesi has unique and cultural wealth that deserves to be maintained and preserved.

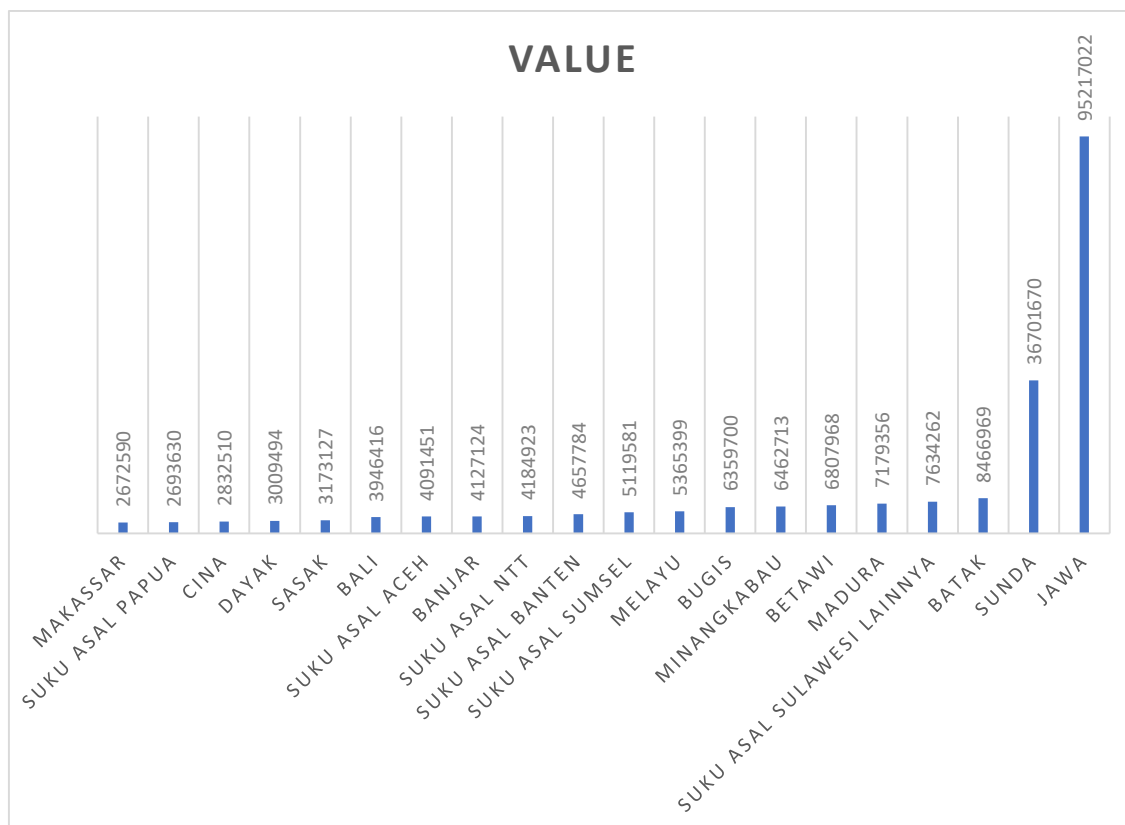
Meanwhile, Bali is a province with the majority of its population coming from the Balinese tribe. Balinese tribes have a very distinctive and famous culture, such as traditional ceremonies, dances, and carving arts. Balinese culture is strongly influenced by Hinduism which is embraced by the majority of the Balinese population. Balinese culture is known for the beauty of art and architecture, which is reflected in the temple buildings and traditional Balinese houses. The uniqueness of Bali's world-famous culture makes it a popular tourist destination in Indonesia. Then, there is the Sasak Tribe which is a native tribe of Lombok Island, West Nusa Tenggara. This tribe has unique cultures and traditions, such as traditional weddings, musical arts, and woven arts. Furthermore, there is the Bima Tribe which is a native tribe of Sumbawa Island, West Nusa Tenggara. This tribe has unique cultures and traditions, such as wedding customs, dance, and carving. Meanwhile, there are several indigenous tribes of Flores Island, East Nusa Tenggara, namely the Manggarai Tribe, Ende Tribe, and Sikka Tribe. The Manggarai tribe is a native tribe of Flores Island, East Nusa Tenggara. This tribe has unique cultures and traditions, such as customs, music, and woven arts. Meanwhile, the Ende Tribe is a native tribe of Flores Island, East Nusa Tenggara. This tribe has unique cultures and traditions, such as traditional ceremonies, music, and carving. In addition to these tribes, there are many other tribes on the island of Bali, West Nusa Tenggara, and East Nusa Tenggara.

Lastly, Indonesia has Papua Island which has a very rich ethnic and cultural diversity, especially parts of West Papua and Papua, such as the Dani Tribe which is a tribe originating from the Baliem region, Papua. This tribe is known for its unique culture, such as traditional clothing, traditional weapons, and traditional ceremonies. Then, there is the Asmat Tribe which is a tribe originating from the southern coastal region of Papua. This tribe is known for its culture and wood carving art that is very distinctive. Furthermore, there is the Biak Tribe which is a tribe originating from Biak

Island, Papua. The culture of the Biak tribe is dominated by activities related to the sea and agricultural activities. The people of Biak also have many arts and cultures that are displayed in various traditional events and ceremonies. Meanwhile, the Yali Tribe is one of the tribes that inhabit the Jayawijaya Mountains, Papua Province, Indonesia. The Yali tribe is known for its traditional life which is still very strong and thick with animist beliefs. During the colonial period, the Yali tribe was also involved in the struggle for Indonesian independence. In addition, there are also Kamoro Tribe and Amungme Tribe. The Kamoro Tribe is a tribe originating from the southern coastal region of Papua and is famous for its wood carving art and culture that is still very thick with nature and the surrounding environment, while the Amungme Tribe is a tribe originating from the mountainous region of Papua.

Thus, Java Island is an island with the largest population and as the center of the largest ethnic distribution in Indonesia. In addition, Java Island was also the center of trade activities and Dutch colonial rule in Indonesia. It attracted people from different tribes and regions to work or settle there. Economic and industrial development in Java Island has also become a magnet for migrants from various regions in Indonesia to work and settle there (Diagram 2). Below is a diagram that describes in detail the number of population by ethnic group as follows:

Diagram 2. Number of Population by Ethnic Group



Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia, 2011.

From the diagram, we can see that the largest ethnic group in Indonesia is the Javanese who precisely come from Java Island with a total of 95,217. 022 inhabitants. The

diversity of tribes on the island of Java adds to the richness of culture and traditions that exist in Indonesia. They coexist in harmony and respect each other's diversity. This shows how important tolerance and diversity are in Indonesian society. In the next order, followed by the Sunda Tribe with a total of 36,701,670 people. The Sundanese tribe is a tribe that inhabits most of West Java and parts of Banten. They have a distinctive culture, such as Jaipongan dance, golek puppets, and Sundanese songs. Then, the Batak Tribe as many as 8,466,969 million people and there are 7,634,262 people for the tribe from Sulawesi. Not only that, in the 5th and 6th places came from the Madurese Tribe and Betawi Tribe with a total of 7,179,356 people and 6,807,968 people. The Betawi tribe is a tribe that inhabits Jakarta and its surroundings. Then followed by tribes from Minangkabau, Bugis, Malay, and South Sumatra with a total of 6,462,713 people, 6,359,700 people, 5,365,399 people and 5,119,581 people. Meanwhile, at the bottom there are tribes from Papua there are 2,693,630 people and Makassar tribes rank last with a total of 2,672,590 people.³⁰

Equitable ethnic distribution can help reduce discrimination because it allows for healthy diversity and mutual respect in society. In a heterogeneous society, individuals of different ethnicities and cultures interact and get to know each other. This can help eliminate negative stereotypes and prejudices against certain ethnicities that often lead to discrimination. In addition, with the distribution of ethnicities evenly, people will also get used to living together in diversity. This can help build a sense of tolerance and respect for differences between individuals. People who are used to living in diversity tend to be more open and accepting of differences than homogeneous societies.

Each ethnic group has its own uniqueness and cultural diversity that needs to be valued and maintained. Therefore, it is important to study the history and culture of ethnic groups that can help understand their backgrounds and experiences, as well as the values and traditions passed down from generation to generation. Then, by improving literacy culture through online platforms such as e-books, articles, videos, and podcasts, and also by supporting the film industry related to ethnic diversity can help broaden our horizons about differences and similarities among ethnic groups and encourage personal reflection on our own ethnic identity.

Efforts are also needed to build awareness and understanding of the importance of respecting differences, such as providing people with an understanding of stereotypes and prejudices that often occur in society which can be done through training, seminars, and cultural exchange experiences. Education and anti-discrimination campaigns can help raise awareness and understanding of human rights and cultural diversity. The campaign should cover all aspects of discrimination, including discrimination against race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and disability. In addition, inter-group dialogue is a good way to reduce tensions and increase understanding between different ethnic groups. Dialogue should be open and honest without a tendency to blame each other. Furthermore, society should be constructed in such a way that everyone, including ethnic minorities, can feel included and respected. It is important to ensure that opportunities, facilities, and resources are available to everyone without exception, and

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the last is strict law enforcement against acts of discrimination. The government should enact laws and regulations that protect the rights of ethnic minorities and prohibit all forms of discrimination. This law must be implemented effectively and fairly.

Furthermore, talking to people from different ethnic groups can help to broaden their horizons about their perspectives and experiences. This can be done through social activities, such as meetings with friends or visits to organizations or groups related to a particular ethnic group. In addition, attending courses or seminars on ethnic identity can provide deeper knowledge and understanding of differences and similarities among ethnic groups, as well as how to deal with issues related to ethnic identity. By making such efforts, it is hoped that the problem of discrimination can be reduced or even eliminated gradually. However, these efforts must be made consistently and continuously to ensure that discrimination does not re-emerge in the future.

D. CONCLUSION

Identity is an important aspect of human existence, and understanding identity can help remove discrimination. In a social context, discrimination occurs when a person or group is treated unfairly because of the differences in identity they have such as race, religion, ethnicity, gender, and so on. Maintaining and respecting individual and group identities is key to removing discrimination. A deeper understanding of identity can help people understand cultural differences, life experiences, and different perspectives. This can reduce the fear, prejudice, and mistrust that usually arise in situations of discrimination.

Then, increasing solidarity with fellow ethnic minority members can help ethnic minority members feel more connected and recognized in communities that may not value their existence. This solidarity can be strengthened through activities that build a sense of community, such as community gatherings, cultural events, and social activities. Meanwhile, cultural symbols can also help strengthen the identity and existence of ethnic minorities. Cultural symbols, such as traditional ceremonies, dances, traditional clothing, and traditional weapons can be a source of pride and identity for members of ethnic minorities. Lastly, a deeper understanding of identity can help build stronger relationships and mutual respect among individuals and groups. People who feel recognized and valued for their identity tend to be more open and accepting of differences than others. This can help strengthen social relationships and reduce tensions that may arise from discrimination.

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