Conflict Resolution Education for Football Supporters from a Political Communication Perspective

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Abstract
The rivalry and fanaticism of football fans in Indonesia often lead to clashes, both among supporters with police officers and even football players. The purpose of writing this article is to analyze the causes of football fan riots and their resolution from a political communication perspective. The method used is a literature review. The results of the discussion state that integrating conflict resolution education from a political communication perspective provides a holistic approach to overcoming conflict among football supporters. This can be done in several ways, including leadership, the role of the media, community involvement, advocacy campaigns, and training programs.
Keywords: Conflict Resolution, Football Supporters, Political Communication

INTRODUCTION

In the realm of football, conflicts between supporters can arise due to various reasons such as rivalry, ideological differences, or misunderstandings. These conflicts can sometimes escalate into violence, threatening public safety and tarnishing the sport's image (Setyadi et al., 2015). Education regarding conflict resolution plays an important role in addressing this problem among football supporters. When viewed through the lens of political communication, conflict resolution strategies can be improved by understanding the power dynamics, message delivery tactics, and influence mechanisms at play within support groups. (Hapsari & Wibowo, 2019). Power dynamics are important in any conflict resolution process. In a political environment, power can manifest in various forms such as institutional authority, control over resources, or public influence. Understanding these power dynamics is critical for negotiators and mediators to assess the influence each party has and strategize about how to balance power differences to facilitate a fair settlement. The way messages are structured and delivered can have a significant impact on the outcome of conflict resolution efforts. Political actors often use a variety of communication tactics to influence opinion, shape narratives, and garner support for their positions. By mastering the art of persuasive communication, stakeholders can effectively convey their interests, concerns, and proposed solutions during the negotiation or mediation process.

Support groups play an important role in determining the flow of conflict in the political realm. These groups can exert influence through mobilization efforts, advocacy campaigns, or public support. By understanding how various support groups operate and what motivates their actions, political actors can adapt their communication strategies to be acceptable to key stakeholders and build consensus in resolving conflicts. A deep understanding of power dynamics, strategic messaging, and influential mechanisms in support groups is very important to improve conflict resolution strategies in the field of political communication. By effectively leveraging these insights, policymakers, diplomats, and other relevant actors can navigate

complex conflicts more nimbly and promote sustainable resolutions that comprehensively address underlying issues.

In Indonesia, rivalry and fanaticism in football have led to tragic incidents and violent behavior among supporters. Fierce competition between different fan groups often results in clashes, riots, and even fatalities (Lubis, 2024). These incidents have raised concerns about the direction of fan behavior and its impact on sports and society as a whole. Several important incidents highlight the extent of fanaticism among Indonesian football fans. For example, attacks on opposing team buses, physical fights between supporters, intimidation tactics during matches, and even fatalities such as the Haringga Sirla case in 2018 which tarnished the football scene in Indonesia. (Hadi & Nurhadiyanto, 2020). The tragic incident at Kanjuruhan Stadium in 2022, where 135 supporters lost their lives after Arema FC's match against Persebaya, further emphasizes the serious consequences of uncontrolled fanaticism (Sandi et al., 2022).

Figure 1. Football Supporter Conflict

The root cause of fanaticism in Indonesian football can be caused by various factors such as historical rivalries (Supriastut, 2022), the formation of social identity through football clubs, lack of good education and awareness among supporters, sensational media reports that trigger hostility between fan groups, and the influence of online media. Platforms where dangerous behavior thrives.

Conflict resolution education refers to the process of educating individuals on how to effectively manage and resolve conflict peacefully. In the context of football supporters, this type of education may include workshops, training sessions, or awareness campaigns aimed at increasing dialogue, empathy, and non-violent communication between competing groups of fans (Ramadhani, 2020). By equipping supporters with conflict resolution skills, they will be better equipped to address disputes constructively and prevent escalations that could lead to violence. Viewing conflict resolution education for football supporters through the lens of political communication involves analyzing how messages are created, disseminated, and received within the fan community. Political communication strategies can be used to influence attitudes, beliefs, and behavior regarding conflict resolution among fans. This perspective emphasizes the role of leadership, media channels, and group dynamics in shaping discourse around conflict and promoting peaceful resolution.

RESEARCH METHODS

The research method used in this article is a literature review sourced from primary reading material in the form of scientific articles published in national and international journals. The literature review is a research method that involves the analysis of literature or written works that are relevant to the topic or research question being discussed (Maretha et al., 2022). This method is used in various fields of science, including social sciences. Literature reviews are an important method in research because they help identify previous research, provide theoretical context, present supporting evidence, identify appropriate research methods, and identify knowledge gaps in a particular field. By utilizing previous literature, researchers can build a strong theoretical basis, formulate relevant questions or hypotheses, and design effective research methods.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Integrating conflict resolution education into the field of political communication provides a holistic approach to addressing conflict among football supporters. By combining educational efforts with strategic communication tactics based on political dynamics, supporter groups can foster a culture of unity, peace, tolerance, and cooperation within the football community, thereby mitigating riots, clashes, and prolonged conflict. Some concepts and strategies that can be applied include:

1. Education about Tolerance and Diversity. Football supporters need to be given a better understanding of the importance of tolerance and respect for diversity of opinion (Sukarwo, 2017). Political communication can help in conveying these messages through campaigns, seminars, or public discussions.

   a. Education Campaign. Governments, football clubs, or community organizations can carry out educational campaigns that emphasize the importance of tolerance and respect for differences between supporters. This campaign can be carried out through mass media, social media, and live events at stadiums.

   b. Seminars and Workshops. Holding seminars and workshops on tolerance and diversity of opinion can provide a platform for supporters to learn more about these issues. Relevant experts and community figures may be invited to provide their insights and views.

   c. Public Discussion. Organize public discussions among supporters of various teams to discuss issues affecting fan-to-supporter relations. This can help in building shared understanding and reducing stereotypes and prejudice.

   d. Awareness Campaign in Stadiums. Football clubs can use stadiums as platforms to spread messages about tolerance and diversity of opinion through banners, announcements on big screens, or even special performances before or after matches.

   e. Collaboration with Local Communities. Through political communication, interested parties can collaborate with local communities to develop educational programs that suit local needs and culture. By adopting these approaches, football supporters can gradually expand their understanding of the importance of tolerance and respect for diversity of opinion, which in turn can help defuse conflict and promote a culture of harmony in the world of football (Zain, 2016).

2. Formation of Positive Identity. Political communication can help in building a positive identity for supporters, which not only focuses on team rivalries but also on broader values such as unity, justice, and openness.

   a. Positive Identity Campaign. Governments, football clubs, and community organizations can launch political communication campaigns that emphasize positive values such as unity, justice, and openness. These messages can be spread through mass media, social media, and other promotional materials.

b. Underscore Positive Contributions. Political communications can help to highlight the positive contributions made by football supporters, such as charity work, support for local communities, or participation in educational programs. This will help build a positive image of supporters in the eyes of the public.

c. Building Bridges between Supporters. Through political communication, supporters from various teams can be invited to work together on projects aimed at advancing positive values such as unity and justice. For example, they can work together on charity events or environmental campaigns.

d. Encourage Active Participation. Political communication can encourage supporters to actively participate in building a positive identity by participating in club programs that focus on character development, such as leadership training, teamwork, and improving social skills.

e. Respecting Individual Action. Through awards and recognition, political communication can provide appreciation to supporters who have made positive contributions to the football community. This will encourage other supporters to follow in their footsteps. Through these approaches, political communication can play a key role in forming a positive identity for football supporters, which in turn will help create a more harmonious and inclusive environment in the world of football (Arsatadany & Iskandar, 2015).

3. Education about Conflict Resolution. Through a political communication approach, supporters can be taught about various methods of constructive conflict resolution, such as negotiation, mediation, and diplomacy. This can help reduce the likelihood of physical and verbal conflict between them.

a. Conflict Resolution Training. Through training programs organized by the government, football clubs, or community organizations, supporters can be taught about various conflict resolution methods such as negotiation, mediation, and diplomacy. This training may include case studies, role plays, and group discussions.

b. Awareness Campaign. Political communications can be used to launch awareness campaigns that highlight the importance of peaceful and civilized conflict resolution among football fans. Messages about the importance of expressing opinions in a way that respects the opinions of others can be spread through various communication channels.

c. Formation of a Mediation Team. Football clubs or football federations can form mediation teams consisting of supporter members who are trained in handling conflicts. This team can be activated when a dispute occurs between supporters and acts as an intermediary to find a satisfactory solution for all parties.

d. Resource Provision. Through political communications, resources such as conflict resolution guides, contacts of trained mediators, and information about counseling services can be provided to supporters. This will provide additional support for those who wish to resolve conflicts constructively.

e. Rewards for Positive Behavior. Political communications can use its platform to recognize and reward supporters who have demonstrated good abilities in resolving conflicts peacefully and promoting open dialogue. By implementing these approaches, it is hoped that football fans will be more skilled in resolving conflict in a constructive way, which in turn will help reduce the tendency for physical and verbal conflict between them. (Hakim et al., 2018).

4. Use of Social Media. Political communications can also utilize social media to spread messages of peace, gather support for conflict resolution, and promote positive attitudes in support of their team.

a. Peace and Tolerance Campaign. Governments, football clubs, or community organizations can use social media platforms to launch campaigns for peace and tolerance among football supporters. Messages that call for respecting differences, resolving conflicts peacefully, and promoting unity can be spread through posts, videos, and interesting images.

b. Online Discussion Forum. Political communication can facilitate online discussion forums on social media where supporters can share views, experiences, and ideas about how to resolve conflicts and build a more positive environment in and around the stadium.

c. Support Campaign for Conflict Resolution. Through social media, a support campaign for conflict resolution can be launched using relevant hashtags (#). This can help garner broad support from the supporter community and the general public for sustainable conflict resolution efforts.

d. Promotion of Positive Attitudes. Football clubs and related organizations can use their social media accounts to consistently promote positive attitudes such as sportsmanship, respect for opponents, and prioritizing security and order in the stadium.

e. Collaboration with Social Media Influencers. Political communication can work together with the influence of social media which has a large following among football supporters. They can help spread messages of peace and tolerance in a wider and more engaging way. By utilizing social media effectively, political communication can create a positive impact in promoting peace, resolving conflict, and building a positive culture among football supporters (Astuti & Purwanto, 2021).

5. Involvement of Interested Parties. Through political communication forums, interested parties such as football clubs, football federations, governments, and non-governmental organizations can collaborate to develop effective conflict resolution educational strategies. (Fatimarahim & Wijaya, 2019).

a. Collaborative Approach. Interested parties such as football clubs, football federations, governments, and non-governmental organizations can work together collaboratively in developing conflict resolution educational strategies. Political communication forums can be the right platform to facilitate dialogue between all relevant parties.

b. Problem Mapping. Political communication forums can be used to identify the main problems that trigger conflict among football supporters. Through joint discussion and analysis, interested parties can understand the root of the problem and formulate appropriate strategies to overcome it (Fikri, 2022).

c. Educational Program Development. Based on the results of problem mapping, interested parties can work together in developing conflict resolution education programs that suit local needs and contexts. These programs may include training, awareness campaigns, and other activities aimed at changing fan behavior and attitudes.

d. Use of Shared Resources. Political communication forums can be used to share resources and experiences between interested parties. For example, football clubs that have successfully implemented conflict resolution education programs can share best practices with other clubs or community organizations.

e. Evaluation and Monitoring. Political communication forums can also be used to evaluate the effectiveness of programs that have been implemented and to monitor developments in resolving conflicts between football supporters. This will allow interested parties to make necessary adjustments and improvements (Amurwonegoro, 2015).

By actively involving interested parties through political communication forums, it is hoped that the resulting conflict resolution education strategy will be more comprehensive, effective, and sustainable in creating a more peaceful and harmonious environment in the world

of football. By implementing these approaches, it is hoped that football supporters can become agents of positive change in football culture, bringing peace and harmony between them and encouraging constructive dialogue in resolving conflicts.

Conflict Resolution Education in the Football Supporter Community

In the context of football support communities, conflict resolution education plays an important role in increasing understanding, empathy, and constructive dialogue between individuals with diverse backgrounds and opinions. Through structured educational programs that focus on conflict resolution techniques, advocates can learn how to manage disputes peacefully, address underlying issues effectively, and build harmonious relationships within their communities (Wibowo, 2018).

Political Communication Strategy for Conflict Transformation

Political communication strategies serve as powerful tools for influencing perceptions, shaping narratives, and mobilizing collective action within support groups. By utilizing communication channels such as social media platforms, public speeches, and community events, advocates can spread messages of unity, peacebuilding, and mutual respect. Additionally, by aligning their communications efforts with key political principles such as inclusivity, transparency, and accountability, advocacy groups can increase their credibility and influence in driving positive change (Gunanto, 2018).

A Holistic Approach to Conflict Resolution in Community Football

The integration of conflict resolution education with strategic political communication offers a comprehensive framework for addressing conflict within the football community. This holistic approach recognizes the interrelationship of individual behavior, group dynamics, societal norms, and political structures in shaping conflict dynamics. By adopting a multi-faceted strategy that combines educational initiatives with targeted communications campaigns aimed at promoting shared values and goals, support groups can create an environment conducive to sustainable peacebuilding and conflict transformation (Ulfah & Dkk, 2019).

Integration of Conflict Resolution Education in a Political Communication Perspective

When integrating conflict resolution education with a political communication perspective for football fans, several key considerations need to be taken into account:

1. Leadership. Effective leadership in support groups is essential to promote a culture of peace and dialogue. Leaders can set an example by engaging in constructive conversations with opposing fan representatives and emphasizing the importance of resolving conflicts peacefully (Junaedi, 2014).
2. Media Message. Utilizing media channels such as social media platforms or fanzines can help spread messages that promote conflict resolution education among supporters. Crafting a narrative that highlights the benefits of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect can influence the perception of the fan community (Athalarik & Rusadi, 2023).
3. Community Engagement. Organizing joint events, forums, or initiatives that bring together fans from different clubs can foster understanding and empathy. By creating opportunities for interaction and dialogue, fans have the opportunity to humanize their rivals and find common ground beyond their team loyalties (Athalarik & Rusadi, 2023).
4. Advocacy Campaign. Launching advocacy campaigns that advocate non-violence and conflict resolution within football fandom can mobilize support for peaceful initiatives. Collaborating

with relevant stakeholders such as clubs, leagues or governing bodies will amplify the reach and impact of this campaign (Prahesti et al., 2019).

5. Training Program. Implementing a structured training program on conflict resolution skills equips advocates with practical tools to defuse tensions and resolve disputes effectively. These programs can cover topics such as active listening, negotiation techniques, and mediation strategies adapted to the context of football-related conflicts (Utama et al., 2022).

CONCLUSION

Integrating conflict resolution education within a political communication perspective offers a holistic approach to addressing conflict among football supporters. By combining educational efforts with strategic communication tactics based on political dynamics, supporter groups can foster a culture of unity, peace, tolerance, and cooperation within the football community so that there will be no more riots, clashes, and prolonged conflicts.

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