

# *Cooperation Between State High School 2 Balige and Soposurung Foundation in Increasing the Quality of Education in Toba Samosir District, North Sumatra, Indonesia*

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**Abstract**—Law No. 20, 2003 regarding the National Education System mandates that the management of education is the responsibility of the government and the public. Private Public Partnership is a strategy to push for increased public participation in the management of public services. The cooperation between State High School 2 Balige and the Soposurung Foundation is a partnership collaboration that aligns both parties in managing the education at State High School 2 Balige. The government provides teachers, authority and legality in providing education while Soposurung Foundation provides technology, education management, budget and teaching innovation in an effort to increase the quality of education. The continuity of Private Public Partnership will be guaranteed if there are common vision and commitment to achieve a goal.

**Keywords**—Public Private Partnership; Cooperation; Quality of Education

## I. INTRODUCTION

Chapter III, Article 4 of Law No. 20, 2003 regarding the National Education System mandates that education is held by empowering all components of society through participation in the provision and control of education management. Public participation is a requirement to guarantee a quality education service. One of the government regulations to attain this participation is through partnership between the government and the private sector. Objective conditions show that the provision of public service is still expected from a government system that is not yet effective nor efficient and inadequate human resources. In that regard, it is sought to increase the quality of sustainable public service in order to provide quality public service. There are several strategies to increase the quality of public service. First is the development of institutional organisation within the government. Second is the change of behaviour and character to the bureaucrats. Lastly, is to design a process in which the enforcement of government's obligation to provide public service (Surjadi, 2009).

Savas (1994) purposes a model relationship among government and public in service, including Government

Services; that is, government in whole implements policies, budgets and provision services. Government Vending where government provides service but the policies and consumption comes entirely from the consumer, public or public organisation. Slightly different from the two models, this paper evaluates a public service model from government to public through the concept of partnership between public and private sectors that is collaborative in nature (Dwiyanto, 2012). Collaborative partnership places government and private sectors on equal grounds. Both parties collaborate because of a common vision and destination to achieve together. The benefits to improving the quality of the service include a wider scope and better quality. This can be understood as the existence of a partnership means merging of resources and optimal utilisation of competency and information technology from both parties.

Quality is included in the service with the main to fulfil the needs to the consumers, attain for hope or perception of quality of service that is measured by consumer satisfaction or also known as ServQuel (Parasuraman, et al, 1985). A case study is regarding the services partnership between State High School 2 Balige with Soposurung Foundation in Toba Samosir District, North Sumatera. State High School 2 Balige is located in a rural area whose quality education is below other state schools located in urban area. Soposurung Foundation was established to push for increased quality education and provide scholarship funds to high achieving students. The collaboration between State High School 2 Balige and Soposurung Foundation is a form of collaborative partnership in order to increase the quality of education in Toba Samosir District. This partnership is established due to limited financials from the government. The Soposurung Foundation is able to provide a better and faster level of service in order to reach the destination with the support from the local public.

## II. METHOD

This study was done on the research performed by the writers and secondary data including documents related to the

Foundation, partnership documents, profile of State High School 2 Balige and partnership development. The focus of this study is to provide a depiction on the type and benefit of collaboration and the relevance of such collaboration to increase the quality of education. The result of the research will be used as research material to determine the success of the collaboration and the prospect of future development. Secondary data such as documents and photographs were used to complete the result of this research. Writers have analysed using theories on public and private collaboration to come to a conclusion and provide recommendation on the partnership between State High School 2 Balige and Sposurung Foundation in Toba Samosir District.

### III. RESULT

The partnership between Sposurung and the Department of Education and Culture is agreed upon No.7184/105/7/91.1 NO 91116/YYS/X/VL dated 10 October 1991. The partnership between State High School 2 Balige and Sposurung Foundation is entered into due to concerns on the quality of life of pole in Tano Batak and the low quality of the area. Hence, increasing the quality of education become the choice and pinnacle to resolving the issues of poverty and increase the quality of life for the community. Increasing the quality and competitiveness of the young in Bonapasogit can only be achieved if there is a capable medium to form students with characters of high discipline and integrity, both personally and academically. On the other hand, the facilities and quality education in Tapanuli is alarming. It is obvious that this situation must be addressed with creative solution that can bring the young people in the area out of low quality education. (<http://yasop.org/?about=sejarah>)

The next steps it to divide the responsibilities between the government, through the Department of Education and Culture, and Sposurung Foundation. The Government is responsible for the provision of education, facility and other educational resources in accordance with their budget availability as well as the provision of teachers as state schools. Sposurung Foundation is responsible for providing scholarship funds for high potential and adaptable students, building and management of dormitories and the provision of other facilities if the Foundation's budget permits, increasing professionalism, skills and welfare of teachers, extracurricular activities and assisting graduates in the workforce.

### IV. DISCUSSION

Sposurung Foundation has a common vision with that of national education, which is the realisation of quality education as a basis to increase human resources, quality of life and national dignity. The advantage and strength of each institution provides comparative advantage to society as it is managed through collaborative management. In the beginning, Sposurung Foundation only provided scholarship funds to underprivileged students with high academic records, building dormitories and educated students' characters. However, State High School 2 Balige has developed into a favourite school with keen interests from students across North Sumatera. Since about 2010 even though become a favourite school in Indonesia.

The implication of the partnership between government and the private sector is to increase the trust between the collaborative parties (Dwiyanto, 2012). The level of government trust in the civil society will improve because of the critical actions of the civil society on the management of public services often cause tensions. The increased sense of citizenship as a result of increased involvement from the civil society in solving public problems is the a sense awareness that public problems are no longer only the government's but also becomes a shared problem between the government and the public. Partnership also increases the accountability of public service where government bureaucracy as the manager of public services must accommodate the aspiration and needs of the public as the user of those services. The ignorance of government bureaucracy towards the needs of the public will cause groups outside of government to be reluctant to cooperate. Hence, collaboration between government bureaucracy and non-governmental organisations mainly civil society can guaranty the existence of public accountability.

The advantage of partnership for district governments is the development of educational facilities and infrastructure in State High School 2 in Balige in order to have their status changed to become featured school. Limitation of budget by the government to public schools does not become an obstacle for the development of the school. As a public school, the teachers are considered public servants while Sposurung Foundation, as a government partner, proactively provides budget to increase the quality of the teachers by providing incentives to the teachers through extracurricular programs and housing facilities. In order to increase the quality of the teachers, in 1993 Sposurung Foundation flew in 10 (ten) teachers from Java. These are the finest teachers from IKIP (Teachers' College) with ten years of teaching experience. This innovation received appreciation from the government that State High School 2 Balige was given by the President of the Republic of Indonesia the status of pilot school in respect of the partnership between the private sector and the government as well as the discipline and character of its students. In the several last years, this school had been done abroad teachers recruitment, for an example from Singapore.

The management has designed future programs which include increasing and developing facilities and infrastructure. All of this will be done to increase supporting facilities for a quality teaching process. In addition, the establishment of TB Silalahi Center in April 2008. The Centre has complete educational facilities and cultural recreation which can be utilised by the students in conducting their learning activities. In the end, it will provide significant contribution to the success of the learning institution to provide quality individuals with honourable character and high competitive advantage. Transfer of technology, efficient education service, performance-based management and risk management are other benefits enjoyed by the government as a partner in its efforts to increase quality education.

Several challenges are faced in the partnership between State High School 2 Balige and Sposurung Foundation. The challenges include limited understanding by several officers in the district that the partnership is limited to building physical projects resulting in limited support towards the success of the

partnership. Other challenges include public perception that the relationship with the government has financial consequences such as the increase in costs which causes reluctance in providing education services. These challenges can be overcome by having a common commitment to the importance of developing education, both physically and non-physically in order to realise quality education.

#### V. CONCLUSION

Efforts done by the government to increase public service with respect to education sector through Private Government Partnership provides significant impact which include giving access to education to citizens living in remote areas, increase quality education and the development of rural areas into urban

areas. The partnership can be a collaboration on human resources, technology and management.

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