

## **BAB V**

### **KESIMPULAN**

Media massa cetak, elektronik maupun internet mempunyai peranan dan kekuatan yang sangat besar kaitannya dengan usaha mencapai keberhasilan pelaksanaan kampanye pemilihan Presiden di Amerika Serikat (AS) tahun 2008 khususnya dalam kasus Presiden Obama. Para kandidat dan tim Presiden AS dapat memaksimalkan komunikasi dengan calon pemilih melalui media massa. Media memainkan peran untuk mengubah opini masyarakat mengenai kriteria Presiden yang harus sesuai dengan *White Anglo-Saxon Protestant* (WASP) menjadi kriteria yang semua rakyat dapat terima tanpa memandang ras, agama, warna kulit dan keturunan. Hak-hak asasi manusia memungkinkan kapabilitas, kemampuan untuk memimpin Negara, dan dukungan langsung masyarakat, sudah tidak dipertanyakan lagi apakah seorang Presiden harus berkriteria WASP untuk menduduki jabatan tersebut.

Kekuatan media massa dalam kampanye kepresidenan di AS juga terletak pada dukungan dan antusias masyarakat. Ketika Obama yang berasal dari Senat Partai Demokrat memenangkan hasil sebagai kandidat Presiden. Sebagai seseorang keturunan Afro-Amerika berhasil mendobrak pemikiran negatif mengenai ras. Keberhasilan Obama terlihat ketika memenangkan pemilihan umum Presiden melawan John McCain pada tahun 2008. Dengan slogan kampanye *Change We Can Believe In*, Obama memperlihatkan bahwa tidak hanya kandidat yang memenuhi kriteria WASP saja yang dapat menduduki

kekuasaan tertinggi di AS, tetapi keturunan Afro-Amerika pun dapat menjabat kekuasaan tertinggi tanpa membeda-bedakan ras dan keturunan.

Fungsi media dipaparkan menjadi empat bagian, yaitu memberi informasi, sosialisasi, edukasi dan hiburan tersampaikan dengan baik kepada masyarakat dalam membentuk opini publik. Opini publik terbentuk ketika masyarakat mulai memahami dan menyerap informasi baru mengenai hak-hak asasi manusia tidak terbatasi terkecuali menyangkut ras, keturunan, agama dan warna kulit. Tanggapan dan pemikiran baru dari masyarakat mulai terbuka karena media memaparkan setiap berita positif yang ditunjukkan pada Obama.

Media dapat memberikan informasi mengenai awal mula karir Obama yang berasal dari Senator. Obama pun mulai mendapat perhatian nasional saat berkampanye mewakili Negara Bagian Illionis di Senat AS melalui kemenangannya pada pemilu pendahuluan Partai Demokrat. Media menyiarkan berita tentang kinerja Obama sehingga masyarakat akan lebih menaruh atensinya. Terlebih lagi ketika Obama memenangkan mayoritas suara delegasi melawan Hillary Clinton dalam pemilu pendahuluan Demokrat untuk dijadikan calon Presiden. Keunggulan Obama terus diliput media dengan menampilkan sosok baru yang berpotensi besar memimpin Negara. Informasi yang dipublikasikan media tidak habis untuk membuat masyarakat mengakui keberadaan Obama karena kapabilitasnya yang tinggi sebagai Presiden hingga mendapat dukungan dari berbagai pihak.

Obama pun melakukan pendekatan pada masyarakat untuk lebih menarik perhatian mereka dalam memilih kandidat Presiden salah satunya sosialisasi

melalui media massa. Obama tahu betul bagaimana memanfaatkan media massa masyarakat akan terus bergantung pada pemberitaan. Obama melakukan publikasi dengan membuat *website* khusus kampanye, melalui *Facebook* dan *Twitter*. Obama memanfaatkan sosial media tersebut untuk dapat bersosialisasi ‘langsung’ dengan masyarakat AS. Hal ini juga menguntungkan karena tidak sedikit masyarakat yang menggunakan sosial media sebagai alternatif mendapatkan berita baru.

Obama telah berhasil menarik perhatian masyarakat dengan kinerjanya sebagai Presiden AS dan terpilih kembali dalam pemilihan keduanya. Obama dapat terpilih kembali, melalui dukungan media dengan menampilkan berbagai sudut pandang untuk kembali menarik perhatian masyarakat. Media memberikan edukasi pada masyarakat tentang hak-hak yang ditunjukkan dengan terpilihnya Obama menjadi Presiden. Secara tidak langsung ketika masyarakat memperhatikan kebijakan yang diputuskan Obama salah satunya mengenai *Obama Care*, masyarakat turut andil dan berpartisipasi di dalamnya.

Media tidak hanya berperan memberikan informasi, sosialisasi dan edukasi, tetapi sebagai sasaran hiburan. Ketika menyimak debat calon Presiden, secara tidak langsung masyarakat dihibur dengan penampilan kedua kandidat dengan gayanya masing-masing. Termasuk bagaimana cara kandidat Presiden berorasi, menyampaikan pendapat, bahasa tubuh, bahasa, dan lainnya. Tidak hanya berhubungan dengan debat calon Presiden, yang menarik lainnya adalah kehidupan Obama selama menjabat sebagai Presiden yang juga memperoleh simpati masyarakat. Ketika media memberitakan Obama membuka Gedung Putih

untuk perayaan *Halloween*, banyak masyarakat antusias berbondong-bondong merayakan bersama Presiden Obama. Selain itu tidak sedikit yang membuat parodi-parodi lucu berhubungan langsung dengan Obama, ketertarikan masyarakat dengan Obama semakin tinggi.

Media berperan dengan baik dalam mengubah opini masyarakat dengan melalui empat pendekatan tersebut. Media massa terbukti mempunyai kekuatan dan pengaruh yang besar, bahkan jika Obama tidak disorot oleh media, ia tidak akan memperoleh banyak dukungan masyarakat. Masyarakat enggan memilih calon Presiden keturunan Afro-Amerika mengingat sejarah AS yang tidak terlalu ramah pada ras kulit hitam. Media mengubah sudut pandang dengan memberitakan hal positif bagi pendatang baru di panggung politik Washington tersebut. Obama bertekad bahwa ia menjadi pemimpin AS bukan karena sekedar ingin meraih gengsi sebagai orang keturunan Afro-Amerika dan tokoh muda, tapi ia bertekad ingin membawa perubahan bagi AS.

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