Natural Resource Dispute Resolution in Majalengka Regency: The Case of Cisambeng Tofu SMEs and the Community

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<td>Received: 2023-11-20 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>Law cannot be separated from the culture of a society because it affects the law. In social life, as human social beings, interaction is a necessity in fulfilling their life needs, however, in fulfilling this life, disputes often occur, including those concerning natural resources. Many disputes and their resolution take place around the world, including in culturally diverse areas. Majalengka Regency, which has developed into an industrial area, is no doubt decorated with various industrial businesses, ranging from MSMEs to large-scale industrial companies, all of which are closely related to environmental problems, including environmental pollution. The research method discussed in this research is socio-legal which examines the culture of the community in the application of alternative dispute resolution over natural resources and the environment. The purpose of this paper is to determine the efficacy of alternative dispute resolution. The results of this study indicate that disputes, especially related to natural resources in the community, can be resolved through consensus deliberation between the parties by prioritizing good faith, as a form of consensus deliberation as a form of local wisdom supported by the government’s political will to encourage and ensure all disputes within the community. can be resolved through an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process and performed its duties properly in this case. Although the effectiveness of ADR was initially lacking, when stakeholders were involved in the mediation process, the dispute resolution process could be carried out properly, as evidenced by the results of initial negotiations and initial mediation, which were less influential.</td>
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I. Introduction

The government of President Jokowi has a Trisakti and a Development Trilogy, one of which is an independent economy. In reality, the emphasis on self-sufficiency frequently trumps environmental concerns. Sustainable development, as one of the guiding principles of an independent economy, does not even consider the primary goal of environmental protection. The economic sector that promises developing countries will provide for their citizens’ welfare, in fact, ignores and contributes to numerous environmental problems.

The establishment of new industrial sectors and their growth over time has raised our concern about the environmental consequences that will follow. Environmental protection regulations frequently do not apply to industrial activities, particularly those pertaining to the principles that serve as guidelines for environmental management, particularly in industrial activities. Ignorance about the environment’s importance has several negative consequences for life, including issues related to climate change and global warming. Other minor negative consequences of environmental neglect include numerous industrial activities that are completely unaware of the environmental consequences of their operations, such as waste that is simply thrown into rivers, resulting in pollution of the river ecosystem, pollution that results in damage to the water’s pH, and others.

The problems discussed in this paper are related to environmental disputes between Cisambeng Tofu MSME and the surrounding community that pollutes water and rivers. Tofu industrial waste that is not treated properly pollutes water and rivers around residential areas located around the factory. Residents demand good waste management from the Cisambeng Tofu MSME and evaluate the waste management tools used so that environmental pollution that occurs can be repaired and overcome. Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in the case taken in this study is analyzed on how environmental cases are resolved and the effectiveness of the dispute resolution process between the two parties through alternative dispute resolution.

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The incident occurred in Majalengka, West Java, in 2020, due to the growing number of industrial activities ranging from medium to large industries. There are business licenses that are granted solely based on the district office’s licensing provisions, and there are also large industries that the central government grants permit. Its territory is divided into several zones within the Majalengka district, some of which are residential zones and others industrial zones. One of them is by Cisambeng Tofu MSME as one of the tofu producers in Majalengka Regency.

Due to the fact that the tofu MSME activities have been conducted continuously for the last five years, they have had an adverse effect on the environment, resulting in numerous environmental complaints from the affected community surrounding the tofu MSME area. Public complaints against the tofu MSME are related to the issue of environmental pollution/damage and/or disturbances in the form of physical, chemical, and biological environmental changes (soil, water, air, and plants) that occur in the vicinity of the tofu MSMEs, most notably changes in the surrounding river water.

The negative environmental impacts that the community complained about in the pollution/damage and disturbance narratives vary by location and are closely related to the types of activities described in the tofu MSME operational series. The MSME management is aware that it is located in the middle of a residential zone, and it still dumped industrial waste into the river without prior management, which results in seasonal variations in environmental incidents. It is associated with waste disposal activities during the rainy season, including improperly treated tofu waste, which results in mixing of the surrounding soil and tofu waste, as well as the presence of rain, which results in an extremely pungent odor and water in the area around tofu MSME. The wells surrounding the industrial area become smelly, while during other seasons, specifically the dry season, environmental issues arise due to the tofu MSME’s activities. These include air pollution in the form of a distinctive smell caused by dry air, well water that smells like well water, and polluted rivers. Since waste is disposed of directly into the river, the dry riverbed becomes a waste storage area, infusing the surrounding area with an odiferous odor.

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Disputed cases in this area include air and water pollution, as well as surface water run-off (run-off that transports spilled tofu waste material to rice fields/plantations via river flows).

Table 1. Dispute Chronology

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<th>TIME</th>
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<td>December 2015</td>
<td>Many residents protested the opening of the Cisambeng Tofu MSME because they thought that the opening of the Tofu MSME in their village would have an environmental impact on their territory.</td>
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<td>July 2016</td>
<td>The owner of the Cisambeng Tofu MSME negotiated with the surrounding residents, demonstrating that he already has a business license from the department and ensuring that there will be no environmental pollution in the area, as evidenced by the existence of permits for residents surrounding the MSME.</td>
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<td>January 2017</td>
<td>After six months of operation, local residents began to notice a negative impact, but they did not raise a complaint because there was still a lot of rain, and the impact was not readily visible.</td>
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<td>March 2018</td>
<td>Residents living near the MSME were aware that they began to feel a different impact each season and reported this to village officials but did not receive an answer that validates their experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2018</td>
<td>After more than two years of operation, farmers in the watershed used to dispose of tofu waste began to experience problems. The tofu waste dumped into the river without being processed caused several problems for farmers when irrigating their fields, including itching - this itching was unusual and suspected to be caused by the presence of tofu waste that was carelessly dumped into the river.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2018</td>
<td>The affected farmer then complained to the MSME owner. It was resolved by negotiation in the form of payment for medical treatment.</td>
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October 2019
The community felt the difference in the environment around the tofu MSME area. Therefore, they deliberated with the local village apparatus to find solutions to win all parties.

July 2020
The community was renegotiating

August 2020
The community believed that the Tofu MSME had failed to adhere to the agreement and that their efforts had been fruitless.

Residents’ representatives and local officials then agreed to report the problem to the appropriate agencies, as it had been five years and no significant change had been made to protect the polluted environment.

September 2020
Field verification was carried out with an Assignment Order Number: 660/313.Sekre/IX/DLH dated September 2, 2020, on the complainant and the location of the complaint. During the verification process, it was discovered that wastewater was discharged directly without treatment, resulting in a pungent odor and water quality exceeding the surface water quality standard. Meanwhile, following the water test, it was determined that:
1. pH = 3.51
2. Temperature = 31.4 °C
   TDS = 768 ppm

After confirming the pollution results index, the Environmental Office requested that the Cisambeng Tofu MSME manage waste environmentally friendly and compensate the community for losses in the form of treatment for affected farmers.

2. Research Methods
This study employed a socio-legal research method that examines law as a human action through an interactional approach. This approach focuses on the reactions and interactions that occur due to the legal norm system’s operation in society. This is intended to explain the problems that arise as a result of legal considerations and social reality.

3. Results and Discussion

Theoretical Basis and Discussion
Brenda E. Holzinger reviewed by Dennis L. Soden "Environmental policy is one of the most dynamic and intellectually diverse fields in contemporary policy analysis, administration, and management. Not only does environmental policymaking span every governmental level from the local to the global, it also transcends a variety of very different jurisdictional boundaries,
including political, intellectual, socioeconomic, cultural, and philosophical”\(^8\). The application of this environmental policy is in line with Parsons’ opinion that laws that live, grow and develop in the midst of society apply social control to the parties concerned.\(^9\)

The application of environmental policy is the most dynamic and contemporary in nature, both in analysis, administration, and management. The environmental policy also covers local policies in an area and is global or comprehensive, including political, social, economic, cultural, and philosophical aspects. The nature of such environmental policies is due to the comprehensive environmental system, and it is stated that there is recognition of rights to the environment and natural resources, which we usually know as natural rights.

Humans in an area as supporters of the implementation of nature rights will react if there are environmental problems in the surrounding area. “Die politische oder/und gesellschaftliche Wahrnehmung und Verarbeitung der zunehmenden Umweltzerstörung ein ökologisches Problem in einen politischen oder gesellschaftlichen Konflikt transformieren kann, der dann - unscharf - als Umweltkonflikt bezeichnet wird”.\(^10\) Political or social views related to processing and increasing damage can then turn ecological problems into social disputes which are commonly referred to as environmental disputes.\(^11\) In addition, in relation to the influence of economic reciprocity between regions, the theory of feudal statutes can also emerge as an obstacle to conflict resolution.\(^12\)

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, disputes are squabbles, conflicts, and hassles.\(^13\) The dispute is divided into one-sided and two-sided disputes. One-sided disputes include internal disputes, namely disputes that occur to oneself due to differences in the conscience. In contrast, two-sided disputes are often referred to as references, namely disputes as a picture of conflicts, squabbles, tensions, or disputes resulting from the differences that arise in social life.\(^14\)


\(^{12}\) Christina Bagenda and others, Hukum Perdata (Bandung: Penerbit Widina Bhakti Persada Bandung, 2023).

\(^{13}\) KBBI Online, “‘Konflik’ in KBBI, Arti Kata Konflik - Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia’ (Pusat Bahasa Kemendikbud, 2021), p. accessed on 06 June 2021 at 16.00 WIB.

\(^{14}\) Endah R. Chotim Irwandi, ‘Analisis Konflik Antara Masyarakat, Pemerintah Dan Swasta (Studi Kasus Di Dusun Sungai Samak, Desa Sungai Samak, Kecamatan Badau, Kabupaten Belitung)’, JISPO, 7.2 (2017), 24–42. P. 24
Naturally, any resulting disputes must be addressed immediately, as they will only grow bigger if left unresolved. Another critical decision is how the dispute will be resolved and the forum.\textsuperscript{15} How to handle disputes is also very important. For this reason, alternative dispute resolution can also be used as a solution before the dispute is brought to the realm of litigation. Moreover, environmental conflicts are seldom resolved through the courts, even though the prevention and resolution of environmental pollution is prioritized.\textsuperscript{16}

Dispute resolution between the Cisambeng Tofu MSME and the community requires several theories of solving environmental disputes as analytical tools supported by the relevant literature.

\textbf{a. Types or Patterns of Dispute}

Fisher classifies disputes into three categories based on their nature or pattern: latent dispute, open dispute, and surface dispute. A latent dispute exists in nature but needs to be brought to light to be resolved effectively; Surface dispute has shallow or no roots and arises solely as a result of a miscommunication about something that can be resolved through communication.\textsuperscript{17}

Disputes that occur between Cisambeng Tofu MSME and the surrounding community are categorized as an open pattern, clearly due to deep-rooted disputes (problems of environmental pollution), missing or reduced rights to health, right to health, right to security, and the right to a good environment and following the Article 28H paragraph 1: “Everyone has the right to live in physical and spiritual prosperity, to have a place to live, and to have a good and healthy living environment and have the right to obtain health services.”

The conclusion of this article can be seen in the next element, namely the sociological and health aspects of how the community is restless about existing environmental problems, ranging from the stench caused by tofu waste to other consequences that arise in the form of pollution in the surrounding areas, thereby causing havoc in the social order that exists and causing disputes that are awaiting a resolution.\textsuperscript{18}


\textsuperscript{16} Baren; Sipayung and others, ‘Environmental Law Enforcement In Indonesia In Terms Of The Concept Of Sustainable Development’, \textit{Jurnal Hukum Dan HAM Wara Sains}, 2.03 (2023), 197–203.

\textsuperscript{17} Sue Fisher, Simon, Ludin, Jawed, Williams, Steve, Dekha Ibrahim Abdi, Smirth, Richard, Williams, \textit{Mengelola Konflik: Ketrampilan Dan Strategi Untuk Berindak} (Jakarta: The British Council Indonesia, 2001). P.30

\textsuperscript{18} Sardjana Orba Manullang, ‘Understanding the Sociology of Customary Law in the Reformation Era: Complexity and
The next element requires the affected community to collaborate on actions to address the causes and various effects, accompanied by local government officials (Environmental office) who then jointly look for solutions to problems. This is because the MSME did not follow up on the outcomes of the deliberations between the local community and the Cisambeng Tofu MSME. All environmental issues should be addressed immediately to avoid them becoming worse. After a long period, the government of the Environmental Office has finally agreed to assist in resolving this issue. As has also been stated by Chhotray and Stoker who stated that conflict and differences of opinion are important elements for a governance process.19

b. Forms of Disputes

The Nature and Function of Dispute

Depending on their nature and function, disputes can be classified as functional/constructive or dysfunctional/destructive. The distinction between the two types of disputes arises from criticism of the traditional view, which emphasizes that conflict is harmful and should be avoided. The dispute is viewed negatively and is linked to violent, destructive, and irrational behavior. The dispute results from a breakdown in effective communication, a lack of transparency and trust between the parties, and managerial failures. A more moderate view asserts that dispute can also be used for positive/constructive purposes, such as generating new discourse for discussion and assisting certain groups in achieving their goals.

Functional/Constructive Dispute

This resolves disputes to advance the parties’ objectives and improve their performance. By providing policymakers with alternative options, a healthy constructive dispute will aid in decision-making. The discourse will be built on the premise that differences of opinion, arguments, and disagreements of thought are necessary for problem-solving. In the case of Cisambeng Tofu MSME and the community, the dispute may be constructive if the community rallies in support of citizens’ right to health. This is demonstrated by the presence of representatives from the surrounding community who have consistently objected to the existing pollution from the start.

Human rights education and the value of maintaining one’s health are critical. Such conditions can be considered beneficial in fostering a sense of community solidarity. The constructive connection between the vertical disputes and the Cisambeng Tofu MSME is that the government is aware that citizens’ rights to clean air and a healthy environment have been lost or weakened. Following that, the government took legal action to resolve the Dispute. Meanwhile, business actors or MSMEs can use the dispute to learn and evaluate how they conduct business that must protect the health of the surrounding environment.

Dysfunctional/Destructive Dispute
This dispute is inversely proportional to the dispute above. This dispute will hinder the achievement of the goals of the parties. A real dysfunctional Dispute is seen when one of the parties does not want to solve the problem or instead allows the problem to persist and grow bigger. In its development, three indicators cause dysfunction: (1) Task Dispute, related to the content and goals of the work (2) Relationship Dispute, focus on interpersonal relationships (3) Process Dispute, related to how work can be resolved. It can be concluded that the existing indicators can be used to assess a dispute between an organization and other organizations, namely the Cisambeng Tofu MSME and the Community.

Cisambeng Tofu MSME, which conflicts with the community, must understand that they are the source of the conflict, as it begins with environmental problems caused by their tofu waste pollution. The dysfunctional dispute will benefit no party and will almost certainly result in a total loss for Cisambeng Tofu MSME and the surrounding community. The disadvantage is that Cisambeng Tofu MSME will lose revenue if the dispute resurfaces and is resolved in the future. The community will suffer setbacks in achieving their right to a good and healthy environment. Thus, this dispute may result in a constructive or destructive dispute in the future, depending on the analysis used.

c. Dispute Handling Style

Dispute resolution in the environment between parties occurs in various ways, including Thomas Kilmann's description of it in terms of a person's habits or behavior along two basic dimensions: assertiveness/self-confidence, which refers to the degree to which a person or party. Each style has distinct characteristics that contribute to the effectiveness of dispute
resolution, including the following: Avoidance; Accommodating; Compromise; Competing or Forcing; Collaboration.21)

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<th>Avoiding</th>
<th>Accommodating</th>
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<td>This style is used by one party who denies the existence of the dispute, prefers to change the subject, and avoids discussion to reach a resolution. Of course, with this approach, the root of the problem will remain unresolved, potentially enlarging the fireball. When viewed through the lens of the style chart, this style falls into the unassertive and uncooperative category, implying that the parties are unwilling or unable to resolve the issue. This style is effective when one party wishes to maintain a relationship with the other; however, it is frequently counterproductive because it results in internal conflict on the side that is avoiding.</td>
<td>To reach a dispute resolution process in this style, the self or one of the parties must forego their interests to allow the other party to pursue their own. Unassertive and cooperative styles are beneficial and effective when the wearer of the style has few opportunities to advance their interests.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Compromising</th>
<th>Competing or Forcing</th>
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<tr>
<td>This is a style that merges assertiveness and cooperation. This is highly appropriate when resolving a dispute quickly; however, the result is that each party receives only half of the total interest. This compromising style is extremely effective when the other party refuses to collaborate, and the other party’s goals are also irrelevant, so there is no reason to be concerned if not all of their interests are met.</td>
<td>This style is the opposite of the accommodative style in that the parties focus on their interests and tend to be aggressive towards the opponent. This style is assertive and uncooperative, shows the nature of power, and always tries to win disputes.</td>
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Collaboration

Collaborative style is used on one party to find a solution that benefits both parties to foster satisfaction and ensure that neither party’s interests are overlooked. This style is characterized by active communication and a focus on issues. This style enables the root of the problem to be identified quickly, preventing it from dragging on. Situations lend themselves to integrative solutions when both parties’ interests are at stake. The advantage of a collaborative approach is that it frequently results in the best resolution of disputes.

Furthermore, all types of risk response mentioned above are one of the risk management processes carried out including strategy, action, decision making, scheduling, analysis, and planning updating.22) For this reason, risk management is proven to significantly reduce the

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uncertainty that arises in the process of governance and conflicts that occur in order to present solutions to solving problems together.\textsuperscript{23}

d. Dispute Resolution

Dispute resolution between Cisambeng Tofu MSME and the community needs to be resolved in a dispute resolution style based on the common good and becomes a distinctive part of everyday life in Indonesia. This is known as the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in law. Based on the chronology above, the settlement of this dispute is carried out by an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) scheme or non-court. Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) scheme is important to be implemented before going to court. Indonesia adheres to this ADR scheme in its positive law, namely in Law Number 30-year 1999 concerning Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution.\textsuperscript{24}

The ADR concept is implemented to achieve a win-win outcome so that its implementation does not require a court process with a win-lose outcome. When a decision based on a win-win solution is reached, it is hoped that all parties will feel no harm, both material and non-material.

The types of options in ADR implementation consist of negotiation, mediation, conciliation, and arbitration. In the context of the Cisambeng Tofu MSME and the community, it will be seen how the scheme built by both parties in resolving natural resource disputes, in this case, is environmental pollution due to tofu waste which causes the right to a good and healthy environment to be threatened. Referring to the chronology of the existing problems, several stages of dispute resolution have been carried out between the MSME and the community.

The negotiation process was predicated on a compromising approach and was repeated three times. When they felt they were not getting the best results, the community agreed to participate in mediation mediated by the local government, but this failed to resolve the existing issues again. Exhausted with the lack of a clear win-win solution, the community agreed to file a complaint with the Environmental Office hoping that the Environmental Office would act as a mediator and one of the government representatives with authority in the environmental sector. The Environmental Office’s dispute resolution style was accommodative, in which all parties were asked to give in for the greater good. Finally, the Environmental Office rendered a fundamental and just decision for all parties. If that


\textsuperscript{24} Law No . 30 of 1999 Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolutions (State GAZette of The Republic of Indonesia of 1999 No. 138), 1999, pp. 5–22.
happens, then this agreement is similar to land acquisition in the new State Capital which seeks to fulfill aspects of justice, namely prioritizing business processes for industrial growth/construction speed, but not eliminating environmental rights that need to be restored.  

4. Conclusion  
   a. Until now, the issues confronting Cisambeng Tofu MSME and the community have been successfully resolved, and the Majalengka Regency Environmental Office has closed the case. That disputes, especially related to natural resources in the community, can be resolved through consensus deliberation between the parties by prioritizing good faith, as a form of consensus deliberation as a form of local wisdom supported by the government's political will to encourage and ensure all disputes within the community can be resolved through an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process and performed its duties properly in this case.  

   b. Although the effectiveness of ADR was initially lacking, when stakeholders were involved in the mediation process, the dispute resolution process could be carried out properly, as evidenced by the results of initial negotiations and initial mediation, which were less influential.

Suggestions  
   a. If the ADR scheme, particularly negotiations, cannot be used properly, then complaints should be filed immediately, as environmental problems, particularly those involving pollution, can spread quickly and require proper handling.  

   b. The placement of zoning according to the RT/RW provisions needs to be considered since environmental problems often start from this.

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