

Analysis of the Influence of the Level of Political Awareness on Political Participation of Young Voter

Jemmy

Fakultas Ekonomi dan Bisnis, Universitas Budi Luhur

Email: jemmysusanto40@gmail.com

Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui bagaimana tingkat partisipasi politik dan kesadaran politik pemilih baru mempengaruhi pemilukada. Dengan menyebarkan kuesioner kepada 100 responden yang merupakan pemilih pemula, penelitian ini menggunakan metodologi kuantitatif. Berdasarkan teori yang digunakan, keterlibatan politik merupakan variabel terikat, sedangkan kesadaran politik merupakan variabel bebas. Kesadaran masukan, kesadaran keluaran, penerimaan informasi dan penyampaian gagasan merupakan indikator kesadaran politik. Skala pengukuran Guttman digunakan dengan skala ordinal untuk variabel keterlibatan politik. Pengambilan sampel secara acak digunakan dalam metode pengambilan sampel. Dengan menggunakan teknik regresi linier dasar, ujilah pengaruh keterlibatan dan kesadaran politik. Hasil tes tersebut menunjukkan tingkat pengetahuan dan partisipasi politik di kalangan pemilih pemula. Partisipasi politik pemilih pemula dipengaruhi secara positif oleh kesadaran politik.

Kata Kunci: Kesadaran Politik, Partisipasi Politik, Pemilih Pemula

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to determine how new voters' levels of political participation and political awareness affect local elections. By delivering questionnaires to 100 respondents who are first-time voters, this study employs a quantitative methodology. According to the theory in use, political engagement is the dependent variable, whereas political awareness is the independent variable. Input awareness, output awareness, receiving information and expressing ideas are all indicators of political awareness. A Guttman measurement scale is used with an ordinal scale for the political involvement variable. Random sampling is used in the sampling method. Using basic linear regression techniques, examine the effects of political engagement and awareness. The test results demonstrate the degree of political knowledge and participation among first-time voters. First-time voters' political participation is positively impacted by political awareness.

Keywords: Political Awareness, Political Participation, New Voters



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INTRODUCTION

This study investigates the impact of political awareness on first-time voters' engagement in local elections. 2018's local and regional elections, the sub-district with the highest level of community political participation (69.5%) was C district. The average level of political participation in eight sub-districts is 67.7%. The four sub-districts that obtained participation rates above the average were (69.5%), (69.3%), (68.8%), and (68.5%). The lowest participation rate was (64.5%), with the number of voting rights users being 4,491 out of 6,965.

Number of voters registered in the DPT (Permanent Voter List), the lowest number of voters in the DPT (6,965 people) was in East Sudimara. Meanwhile, the largest number of voters in the DPT is Sudimara Jaya, with a total of 12,675 DPT voters. The number of voters in the Sudimara Jaya DPT is greater than that in Tajur (10,760 people). Even though the total number of DPT voters in Tajur is less than in Sudimara Jaya, the level of public participation is the highest. The total number of voters in the DPT is 10,760, divided into 5,316 men and 5,444 women. There were 3,544 male suffragists and 3,936 female voters, for a total of 7,480 people.

More female voters exercise their right to vote in regional elections than male voters (72.3% > 66.7%). Of the 10,760 registered people, 1,099 people, or around 10%, were first-time voters. Male first-time voters made up 555 (49%) and female first-time voters made up 544 (51%). 51 is the minimum and 175 is the maximum number of first-time voters. C District became the city's most populous sub-district in 2018, according to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of this city. The population is 192,391 people with an area of 8.77 km², or the equivalent of 21,937 people per km². Of the 192,391 residents living in, 81,946 people are registered voters in the DPT. The participation rate of the community was 67.7% in the city regional elections. The number of DPTs in District is 81,946 people, and those who have exercised their right to vote are 55,469 people.

Of the 68.78% political participation rate, there were 31,098 people, or 2.76%, who were first-time voters. This indicates that the potential for first-time voters also contributes to increasing community political participation. First-time voters are typically those who are casting their first ballot in a general election, whether it be at the local, national, or international level. First-time voters are Indonesian nationals who are 17 years old or legally wed, according to the legislation (Anggraini et al., 2018). Based on the definition, the age range for first-time voters is 17 years to 21 years. In general, they are still students. The existence of first-time voters is important because it reflects the success of elections, which is an indicator of a democratic country (Lumingkewas, 2016). New voters are an interesting object to analyze because they have a strategic role in general elections (Lumingkewas et al., 2019). The reasons underlying this are that first-time voters are a group of voters who have a relatively large quantitative number in each general election period. New voters are a segment of voters who have their own behavioral patterns that are difficult to predict (Satyaninrum et al., 2022).

The high level of participation of first-time voters is driven by political awareness factors. A person is considered to have political awareness if he is aware of and knows things related to the political system (Meisarah et al., 2023). First-time voters might be inspired to exercise their right to vote in a thoughtful and aspirational manner via political involvement that is based on political understanding. Once again, this study looks at the relationship between first-time voters' political participation and their level of political understanding (Satyaninrum, 2021). It would be fascinating to look into first-time voters' high levels of political participation and political awareness. First-time voters engage in a variety of political activities, including campaigning and voting as well as simply exercising their right to vote (Oetomo et al., 2022). The participation of first-time voters in the regional election process demonstrates that they are politically savvy. Awareness that supervision in the election process is also part of political participation (Tanjung et al., 2022).

Political awareness is the state of a person's full awareness of knowledge of various matters related to political processes in society. A person is considered to have political awareness if he is aware of and knows things related to the political system, both in terms of output and input. Input in this case includes demands or support from the community for the government (Purba et al., 2022). Output is in the form of decisions, actions, or results of implemented government policies. Understanding one's rights and responsibilities as a citizen is the definition of political awareness. There are some political awareness patterns, including: A person who is in the state of input awareness is one who is actively engaged in politics and who is following or paying attention to governmental and political activities. Input in this case is in the form of support or demands for the political system (Rachmad et al., 2023). In the form of input demands, they can arise from environmental influences or within the political system itself. In the form of input, support becomes an action or orientation that shows and maintains the political system.

Input awareness can be measured by how they understand the content of political news, understand the electoral system, attend meetings in the community, and are active in youth organizations in the community (Violin et al., 2022). Output awareness is the state of a person consciously knowing and feeling the impact of policies decided by the government on their life. In this case, output awareness is measured through several indicators, such as first-time voters' opinions of current government policies, their knowledge of government regulations, their feelings regarding these policies, and the ability of government policies to influence their lives (Sutrisno et al., 2023). Receiving political information and feeling the freedom to express opinions (Budiarjo, 2010). The extent to which novice voters receive political information can be measured through several indicators, including whether they know the names of public officials, the names of ministers, the names of political parties, and their freedom to express their opinions in public.

RESEARCH METHOD

Inferential and descriptive quantitative methods are used in this study. Descriptive statistics in this research are used only to present data on the actual condition of respondents regarding the variables of political awareness and political participation. For the analysis of the influence of the awareness variable on the political participation variable, it will be explained using inferential statistics. The analysis is presented by presenting various tests with the help of SPSS. This time, the subject of the investigation is the political participation and awareness of new voters. The Likert scale is the measurement tool used to assess the varying degree of political awareness. The Guttman scale is used for the political involvement variable. There were 1,099 first-time voters in the sample for this study. Utilizing simple random sample techniques and the probability sampling approach, research sampling was established. Every member of a population has an equal chance of being sampled when using simple random sampling. The data for this study was gathered via giving out questionnaires to participants. Data collection techniques through observation, literature study, and questionnaires. Before making a decision, the completed questionnaires are collected, processed, and analyzed to get clear and maximum results. The first step to carry out analysis is to test the questionnaire first with several data testing techniques. Some of the tests carried out are descriptive analysis and inferential analysis.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

According to the study's findings, the 100 respondents who were first-time voters have a high level of political understanding. This can be seen from the frequency with which the highest total score is between 55.6-71.5, or as many as 75 people. 55 respondents answered in agreement with the statement, "I am interested in reporting on government political developments." Respondents chose to agree (39) or strongly disagree (6). Meanwhile, for the statement "I am interested in government activities", 62 people said they agreed, and 5 people strongly agreed. Only 4 respondents strongly disagreed and 29 disagreed with the statement "I am interested in government activities". From these two statements, respondents were generally more interested in government activities than political affairs. Statements X23, X24, X25, X26, and statements X28, X29, and X21 are intended to determine the frequency of respondents participating in youth organizations in various environments.

63 respondents acknowledged that they frequently follow political events or government operations in statements X23 and X24, whereas 5 respondents acknowledged that they always follow these topics. The remainder gave the responses never (4) and rarely (28). The majority of respondents (63%) acknowledged that they frequently follow governmental or political developments through youth organizations; 5 said they usually do this, 26 said they do it

occasionally, and 6 said they never do it. In statement X25, respondents admitted that they always (13) follow developments or government activities through mass media, always (41), rarely (36), and 10 people answered never. In statement X26, following political developments or government activities via social media, respondents answered always (22), often (38), rarely (30), and never (10). According to X27's statement, follow political developments or government activities through online news portals. Respondents answered always (21), often (40), rarely (29), and never (10). In statement X28, 16 respondents admitted that they often participated in youth organizations in their home environment; 36 people answered often, rarely (24) and never (24). In statement X29, participating in youth organizations in the school environment, 12 people answered always, often (34), rarely (41) and never (13).

to statement X11, "I am aware of government policies." 8 respondents strongly agreed, 90 respondents agreed, and 2 people disagreed. 20 respondents strongly agreed, 74 agreed, and 6 disagreed. In response to X12, "I believe that the government has an impact on my life," Statement X13, "I feel that the government has an influence on people's lives," received 73 yes votes, 15 strongly yes votes, and 12 no votes. In statement X14, "I feel that the government is improving my living conditions," 10 respondents disagreed and 10 people agreed. In statement X15 "I feel that the government is improving people's living conditions", 22 respondents answered disagree or agree (76), and 2 people answered strongly agree. Statement X31, "I understand the rights and obligations as a citizen," was answered by 19 respondents who strongly agreed, agreed (69), and disagreed (12). Responses to Statement X32: "I understand the importance of the election of the mayor and deputy mayor" included strong agreement (six), agreement (eighty), and disagreement (four). Respondents gave the following responses to the statement X33: "I understand the procedures for voting in the election of mayor and deputy mayor": strongly agree (31), agree (56), and disagree (13). In statement X34 "I know the names of the current mayor and deputy mayor", respondents answered strongly agree (11), agree (74) and disagree (15). In statement In statement X36 "I feel free to give opinions about politics in youth organizations", respondents answered strongly agree (26), agree (56) and disagree (18). In statement X37 "I feel free to give opinions about politics in society", respondents answered strongly agree (15), agree (62) and disagree (23).

To the Y11 statement "I participated in the campaign of candidates participating in the mayoral and deputy mayoral elections", 14 respondents answered "yes" and 86 respondents answered "no". In Y12's statement "I am a campaign committee/organizer for candidates participating in the mayoral and deputy mayoral elections", 100 respondents answered no. In the Y13 statement "I contributed to the campaign funds of candidates participating in the mayoral and deputy mayoral elections" 100 respondents answered "no". In statement Y14 "I participated in the KPUD's socialization regarding the procedures for selecting mayor and deputy mayor" 37 respondents answered "yes" and 63 answered "no". Statement Y15: "I wear the candidate's attributes on my house, vehicle, and so on", 91 respondents answered "no" and 9 respondents answered "yes". 42 respondents agreed with statement Y16, while 58 disagreed: "I invite other people to use their voting rights in the election of mayor and deputy mayor." 100 respondents acknowledged utilizing their voting rights to elect the mayor and deputy mayor. 26 respondents checked the box next to "I was the KPPS organizer/committee in the mayor and deputy mayor elections" on the Y22 questionnaire, while 74 respondents did not. Y23's remark, "I was a witness in the mayor and deputy mayor elections," elicited 75 "yes" responses and 25 "no" responses. 86 respondents gave the negative response "no" and 14 respondents gave the positive response "yes" to the Y24 statement "I was a supervisor in the election of mayor and deputy mayor". A total of 77 respondents said "no" to the statement "I participated in the election for mayor and deputy mayor until the vote counting stage" from Y25, while 23 said

"yes". The two-tailed value of the significance value, or sig, is known to be 0.00. Sig value range: $0.00 < 0.005$. Therefore, it is possible to draw the conclusion that there is a considerable (meaningful) connection between the variables of political awareness and political involvement. Significant implies that the population can apply to the relationship that happens. The participants in this study were first-time voters. The correlation coefficient is 0.383, which is well known. This indicates that the correlation between the political awareness variable and the participation of first-time voters in politics is 0.383 or sufficient. It is well known that the correlation coefficient, which stands at 0.383, is positive. As a result, there is a one-way relationship between the variables of political awareness and involvement. It may be concluded that the political involvement variable rises as the political awareness variable decreases. It is clear from the three meanings given above that H_0 is disapproved of whereas H_a is welcomed. This indicates that the political awareness variable and the political engagement of first-time voters in the regional elections are strongly and unidirectionally significantly correlated.

CONCLUSION

The level of political awareness of novice voters in regional elections is high (75%), with a total score of 55.6-71.5 with three indicators of political awareness patterns. The level of political participation of first-time voters is high (86%) with a total score of 16.6-22 with Kaase and Marsh's political participation indicators. First-time voters' (Y) political engagement (X) is positively related to and influenced by their (X) political awareness (Y). This implies that the voter's political involvement variable will increase as the political awareness variable increases. Relationship strength is 0.383, which falls into the adequate category. With an estimate of 0.123, this indicates that political awareness has a 12.3% impact on first-time voters' political participation. In other words, 87.7% of people participate in politics, which the political awareness variable cannot account for. based on the findings of assessing beginner voters' political participation and awareness characteristics. The government should intensify political outreach to increase public political awareness. With increasing political awareness, community political participation will be higher. For further research, you can use a different sample frame, location, or research object category from this research so that deeper research can be carried out regarding the influence of political awareness on political participation. Researchers suggest using objects with different age categories or different locations so as to get more in-depth research results related to political awareness and political participation.

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