

FACTORS AFFECTING STUDENT POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN PREPARATION FOR THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN MEDAN

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Abstract

In preparation for the presidential election in 2024, this study sought to identify the factors that influence student political participation in Medan. In this study, the authors used a mixed methods approach, namely quantitative and qualitative. The study found that both internal and external factors influenced the political participation of Medan students in preparation for the 2024 presidential election. Political awareness and trust are two internal factors. While external factors include official opportunities, social resources, outreach, team success, and presidential candidate popularity. Furthermore, there are 3 strategies of students in Medan in determining the 2024 presidential election, the first is by student political participation in giving voting rights, secondly student political participation in the implementation of the 2024 presidential election campaign and thirdly student political participation in discussions related to the 2024 presidential election.

Keyword: political participation; student; presidential election

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is one of the largest democratic nations in the world. The democratic process there is making significant progress at the moment, with voter turnout in Indonesia reaching 70% on average. The existence of an Election Institution and the rising level of public education contribute to Indonesia's democratic progress, namely the KPU which is credible, transparent and independent. It was also said that various successes in democracy and the successful implementation of elections at various levels in Indonesia were based on awareness by the public by providing knowledge, understanding, awareness and inspiration from the people about the importance of elections and democracy.

Munir Fuady says that democracy is a way of running a country in which citizens have rights, responsibilities, positions, and powers in both how they live their lives and how they participate in the exercise of state power. This means that citizens have the right to participate in running the country or overseeing the exercise of power either directly, such as through the public sphere or through representatives elected in a fair and honest manner, with a government that is run solely for the benefit of the people. This ensures that the country's system of government comes from the people, is run by the people, and serves their interests.

Currently, Indonesia is preparing for a democratic party to win the presidential election for 2024-2029 in February 2024. The 2024 election has received a lot of attention from the public.

The privilege of this democratic party is marked by the holding of general elections and local elections in the same year. This will be Indonesia's largest first election. The role of society in determining a head of state or president is of course very important in determining the fate of the nation and state in the next 5 years. Thus, with the active role of the community, they can determine leaders who can make good changes for the Indonesian state.

The President and Vice President's leadership direction is also strategically influenced by the positions and attendance of students. This is because, students are critical partners in determining government policies and of course also become ideal voters in the election later. The role of students in the 2024 presidential election must be ensured to take place well in welcoming the biggest democratic party in Indonesia.

According to KPU data from the 2019 simultaneous elections, 70 million to 80 million of the 193 million voters are young voters. This indicates that between 35 and 40 percent of young voters already hold power and have a significant impact on the election results, which will later influence the country's progress. Students are expected to become executors and actors of progressive narratives that are constructive and educative in youth spaces. Through this, of course, it will have a promising impact on holding healthy, objective and clean elections. On the other hand, today's student movement has also become a social movement that the public pays attention to. Narratives built by students have great social influence.

Based on this potential, students are expected to become the nation's next generation who continue and are able to determine the continuity of state leadership through educational political involvement in the 2024 election. This involvement is certainly expected to be able to pick up hot issues that continue to be an obstacle to the passage of democratic parties in Indonesia. Take, for example, identity politics. Identity politics is an issue that is prone to occur during elections or local elections in Indonesia.

As described above, the author is interested in learning more about the factors that influence student political participation in Medan in preparation for the 2024 presidential election.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Definition of Democracy

Demos, which means the people, and kratos, which means government, are the two words that make up the word democracy. As Abraham Lincoln put it, democracy can be understood as a government that is run by, for, and by the people. Because it is able to respond to the shifting issues facing society, democracy offers a chance for change. A democracy is a form of government in which every citizen has the same rights to decide how their lives will be affected.

Hans Kelsen argues that the beginning of the idea of democracy is freedom that exists in every human mind. Initially, this vocabulary of "freedom" carried a bad connotation which was considered free from the absence of all attachments and obligations. However, this was rejected by Hans Kelsen, because humans cannot be separated in social life, so that the idea of "freedom" can no longer be considered simple and solely free from attachments, but the idea

of "freedom" is analogous to the principle of self-determination without harming others. others.

As the foundation of society and a state, democracy means that the people decide how their problems will be handled, including how they will respond to government policies that will shape their future. Keeping this in mind, a nation that adheres to a democratic system is one that is organized on the basis of the people's own will because the people own sovereignty.

2.2 Political Participation

The act of actively participating in political life by an individual or group is known as political participation. The correct term for citizen participation in the political process is political mobilization, which includes electing state leaders who have the ability to directly or indirectly influence government policy. Citizen participation in the political process does not only mean that citizens support decisions or policies that have been outlined by their leaders. Although this is what happens, the correct term is political mobilization. (Public policy)

2.3 Definition of Student

An student is someone who is currently acquiring information or examining and is at present signed up for instruction at one type of advanced education which comprises of scholastics, polytechnics, secondary schools, establishments and colleges (Hartaji, 2012).

A student's developmental stage ranges from 18 to 25 years old. The task of development at this student age is to stabilize life, and this stage can be classified as late adolescence to early adulthood. It is possible to draw the conclusion that a student is a student between the ages of 18 and 25 who is registered and enrolled at a tertiary institution, including an academic, polytechnic, high school, institute, or university. (Yusuf, 2012)

3. RESEARCH METHODS

The authors used a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods in this study. Whereas qualitative research is used to describe the strategies that students in Medan use in determining the 2024 president, the quantitative method is used to identify the factors that influence students' political participation in preparation for the presidential election in 2024. The information assortment utilized in this study utilized a survey. which was distributed to 100 respondents while qualitative data was collected through interviews and documentation selected through a purposive sampling technique, namely the technique of selecting informants who were considered to know more about this research.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Factors Influencing Student Political Participation in Medan in preparation for the 2024 presidential election

The findings of this study indicate that a number of factors contribute to the high rate of political participation among Medan students in preparation for the 2024 presidential election.

a. Internal factors

The internal factor, which is a causal factor that originates within an individual, is the first factor that affects the high political participation of students in Medan. Among the internal factors causing the high political participation of students in Medan, there are 2 factors, namely political awareness and trust. According to Fatwa (2016), political awareness is the awareness of one's rights and responsibilities as a citizen in relation to one's knowledge of the social and political environment in which one lives. Political awareness is related to one's political participation. Based on the author's findings, the political awareness of students in Medan is high enough to participate in political activities, one of which is elections. As revealed by Alfian (1986) that if an individual's political awareness is high and his trust in the political system is also high, the community will actively participate in political activities. One form of participation in politics is to elect a state leader.

Thus, if someone has realized the importance of participating in politics, he will tend to want to participate in politics. Likewise with political beliefs, if someone already has high confidence in a political system, then he will try to participate in every political activity. This is related to personal motivation that comes from within a person to participate in every political activity.

b. External factors

The second factor influencing the high participation of students in Medan in 2022 presidential election is an external factor. External factors referred to here are the causes of a person's participation in elections that come from outside the individual. The findings of the author indicate that, in preparation for the 2024 presidential election, there are a number of external factors that contribute to high political participation in Medan, including the availability of official opportunities, social resources, outreach, successful team performance, and the popularity of presidential candidates. Students' enthusiasm for exercising their right to vote is influenced by the presidential candidates' backgrounds, visions, and missions, which contribute to their high participation in determining the next president in five years. As stated by Miaz (2012) that a person will use his right to vote if he has the opportunity to vote. A voter tends to choose a leader who has the same background as him.

In addition, Widagdo (2016) argues that there is a tendency for a voter to choose a candidate leader who has a good vision and mission for the future. To find out that the prospective leaders who will be elected have a good vision and mission, it can be seen through the campaigns carried out by the presidential candidates. There needs to be personal branding carried out by presidential and vice-presidential candidates to build an image for themselves. In addition, the candidates are assisted by the successful team in carrying out campaigns. The successful team is a work team that is entrusted by prospective candidates competing in elections who have the task of winning the pair of candidates they carry (Cangara: 2014). The success team can do various ways to promote their candidate pairs so that they are better known by students.

Apart from that, election organizers also need to socialize about elections that using voting rights will determine the future of the nation and state. Political socialization is a teaching and

education carried out by individuals or a group to individuals or other groups both consciously and unconsciously (Efriza: 2012). One form of political socialization is socialization regarding elections. Election socialization is one of the important things in elections to inform students that one vote will determine the fate of the country in the next 5 years.

4.2 Student Strategy in Medan in the 2024 Presidential Election

Students are known for critical thinking. Students are expected to be able to make a contribution in the 2024 presidential election. Students certainly have creative ideas that are urgently needed by election organizers. Therefore, it takes the participation of students in the success of the election. Departing from this, students must participate. Students can convey effective ways of determining good leaders. Thus, there are several strategies used by students in determining their choices.

a. Students' Political Participation in Providing Voting Rights

Because citizens must be aware of their obligation to participate in either general or regional head elections, political participation is an illustration of public awareness of the grant of voting rights. As in the granting of voting rights that come directly at the election place. The election of heads of state is a political activity carried out directly by students as the millennial generation. Thus, students realize that as good citizens they must be able to fulfil the elements of political obligations and rights in every election. This attitude is shown by students through their participation in channelling their political aspirations or voting rights.

b. Student Political Participation in the Implementation of the 2024 Presidential Election Campaign

A campaign is an institutional process of individual or group communication activities with the goal of achieving a particular effect or impact. This means that the campaign carried out by presidential candidates aims to influence the beliefs and behaviour of other people with communicative appeal. Community political participation is influenced by student political awareness. This is influenced by the implementation of campaign activities, which are a powerful political medium due to their connection to student rights and responsibilities. Thus, students think that participating in political campaign activities is an event that will greatly determine their choice and have a positive effect on students who have the right to vote. So that students are very enthusiastic in participating in the implementation of the campaign. Because through campaign activities students can find out the vision and mission of the presidential candidates.

c. Student Political Participation in Discussions related to the 2024 Presidential election

Apart from participating in political campaigns, political discussions are part of the conventional political participation of students in general elections, including the presidential election. Political discussions will give birth to new knowledge for students about political objects which are the targets of the millennial generation. Through political discussions, students will better understand and find out all the information related to the presidential election. on discussion activities carried out by students usually carried out by student

organizations that are critical in the field of politics. Thus, students are more aware that participating in political participation activities is important for building the nation and the State.

5. CONCLUSION

The researcher is able to draw the following inferences from the above description of the discussion:

1. In preparation for the 2024 presidential election, students in Medan's political participation is influenced by both internal and external factors. Political awareness and trust are two internal factors. While external factors include official opportunities, social resources, outreach, team success, and presidential candidate popularity.
2. Furthermore, there are 3 strategies for students in Medan in determining the 2024 presidential election, the first is by student political participation in giving voting rights, secondly student political participation in the implementation of the 2024 presidential election campaign and thirdly student political participation in discussions related to the 2024 presidential election.

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