

THE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF BEGINNING VOTERS IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2019 IN BEKASI

Vidya Nurrul Fathia¹
Muradi¹
Dede Sri Kartini¹

¹*Universitas Padjadjaran
Jl. Raya Bandung Sumedang KM. 21 Jatinangor, Sumedang, Jawa Barat, 45363*

Correspondence Email: vidyanurrulfathia@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the attitude of beginner's political participation in simultaneous general elections in Bekasi City in 2019. The research method used in this study is quantitative. Data collection techniques using survey methods by distributing 100 questionnaires to two schools in the city of Bekasi and They are over 17 years. The technique used is purposive sampling. The data analysis technique used is descriptive statistics. The mean, mode, median, standard deviation, and minimum and maximum values of each response in each question are searched and analyzed with the software. The results of this study indicate that the political participation of novice voters in Bekasi City is not yet high. This can be seen from the forms of political participation used, they only focus on the general election of a president and vice president, but do not participate in political organizations, political parties, or protest actions against the government. In addition, the things that influence a person to be able to participate in elections are the profile of each candidate, the candidate's debates and the policies that will be taken when they are elected as future leaders. Furthermore, the most popular media by novice voters is social media.

Keywords: Political participation, novice voters, Bekasi City, high school students.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk dapat meneliti sikap partisipasi politik pemula dalam pemilihan umum serentak di Kota Bekasi pada tahun 2019. Metode penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah kuantitatif. Teknik pengumpulan data menggunakan metode survey dengan menyebarkan 100 angket ke dua sekolah yang ada di Kota Bekasi yang berusia minimal 17 tahun. Teknik yang digunakan adalah purposive sampling, karena tidak semua orang yang ada di sekolah tersebut dapat menjadi responden dalam penelitian ini. Teknik analisis data yang digunakan adalah deskriptif statistik. Nilai mean, modus, median, standar deviasi serta nilai minimum dan maksimum pada setiap respon di setiap pertanyaan dicari dan dianalisis dengan software tersebut. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa partisipasi politik pemilih pemula di Kota Bekasi belum tinggi. Hal ini jika dilihat dari bentuk-bentuk partisipasi politik yang digunakan, mereka hanya fokus pada pemilihan umum presiden dan wakil presiden, namun tidak ikut berpartisipasi dalam organisasi politik, partai politik maupun aksi protes terhadap pemerintah. Selain itu, hal-hal yang memengaruhi seseorang untuk dapat ikut serta dalam pemilihan umum adalah profil dari masing-masing calon, debat kandidat dan kebijakan-kebijakan yang akan diambil ketika mereka terpilih sebagai pemimpin yang akan datang. Selanjutnya media yang paling banyak diminati oleh para pemilih pemula adalah media social.

Keywords: Partisipasi politik, pemilih pemula, Kota Bekasi, siswa SMA.

BACKGROUND

The public sphere presented by Habermas is the whole reality of social life that enables people to exchange ideas,

discuss and build public opinion together.

In the era of information abundance, it is marked by the many types of mass media and the number of mass media containing

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information entering public space. The more extensive public space means the growth of public vehicles to exchange opinions, discuss and communicate with other communities. The mass media has been able to bridge between members of the community, members of the community and the state/authorities, capital owners with the community, instead of media institutions with the public, new media portal providers and or authorities.

Elections as a means of realizing people's sovereignty are at the same time an arena of competition that is fairest for political parties, to what extent they have carried out their functions and roles and are accountable for their performance so far for the people who have been elected them (Alexandre-Collier, 2016). There are at least three general election objectives in Indonesia, namely first allowing for a peaceful and orderly change of government, second: to exercise popular sovereignty, and third; implementing the basic rights of citizens.

Novice voters are new voters who can first use their voting rights in the General Election. Beginner voters are currently voters who can be categorized in the Generation Z category (Trihartono & Patriadi, 2016). Understanding the generation of Z when examined from various opinions and categorizations, also called i-Generation, net generation, or internet generation. They have something in common with Generation Y, but they can apply all activities at one time, such as opening social media using a cellphone, browsing using a computer, and listening to music using a headset in multitasking. From the beginning, generation Z was

familiar with technology, and this indirectly affected their views and choices on politics. Easier and more sophisticated, today's technology makes it easy for novice voters to find the information they want to get. Along with the development of technological sophistication that is currently certainly providing its own benefits for Political Parties and of course for the Presidential Candidate Vice President himself to be closer to the novice voter.

In determining their political choices, novice voters are influenced by various factors, one of which is the provision of information from parents, families and getting various political references from social media. The role of social media currently, from various studies has a significant influence in increasing public political participation, especially the participation of novice voters (Gomez, 2014).

One of the social media that has a lot of users of the age range of novice voters, namely Instagram, Instagram is not only a place to share videos and photos but there is interestingly packaged information, many political figures, religious leaders and also various well-known circles who use Instagram.

In the 2019 Presidential Election, Instagram became one of the social media that is widely used as a media campaign for Political Parties, Legislative Candidates as well as Presidential and Presidential Candidates. In addition to being a media campaign, Instagram is also used as a reference by most of the Beginner Voters in determining their choices.

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Novice voters feel they have the space or place to express all forms of aspirations to the government in the form of suggestions, criticisms and questions related to the economic, political, social, cultural and things that are happening during society.

The participation of novice voters in enlivening the democratic party is very influential because the numbers are quite large, so this research will focus on finding out how much and how to increase the level of political participation of this group, especially in Bekasi City.

Novice voters can also do their obligations by giving their voting rights on election day. From this came the term *golput* or white group, which was aimed at people who had the right to vote but decided not to vote, or even decided not to participate at all. Thus, it can be assumed that the first-time voters who can vote can decide to abstain.

The problem of abstentions in newbie voters is interesting to study because it discusses the role of newbie voters in the 2019-2024 presidential elections that had already been held. Whether those who decide to exercise their right to vote or who decide to abstain, it can be used as a benchmark for the understanding of novice voters who contain young people about politics (Vaccari & Valeriani, 2018)

Party Political participation is a form of citizen participation in playing an active role in politics (Winneg & Jamieson, 2017). Political participation in a democratic country is an indicator of the implementation of the implementation of the highest state power which is legitimized

by the people (people's sovereignty), which is manifested in their involvement in the democratic party (Election). The higher level of political participation indicates that people follow and understand and involve themselves in-state activities. On the other hand, a low level of political participation generally indicates that people are less appreciative or interested in the problems or activities of the state.

In the branch of legislative power, there are representatives of the people who sit on the House of Representatives, there are those who sit on the Regional Representative Council, and some will sit on the Regional House of Representatives, both at the provincial level or at the district and city level (Cutts, 2014). Whereas in the executive branch of government, the leaders elected directly by the people are the President and Vice President, the Governor and Deputy Governor, the Regent and Deputy Regent, as well as the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. With regular and periodic elections, the change of officials can also be held regularly and periodically.

Novice voters are first-time voters who can use their voting rights in general elections. Beginner voters are currently voters who can be categorized in the Generation Z category (Trihartono & Patriadi, 2016). Understanding the generation of Z when examined from various opinions and categorizations, also called i-Generation, net generation or internet generation. They have something in common with Generation Y, but they are able to apply all activities at one time, such as opening social media using a cellphone, browsing using a computer, and listening to

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music using a headset in multitasking. From the beginning, generation Z was familiar with technology, and this indirectly affected their views and choices on politics. Easier and more sophisticated, today's technology makes it easy for novice voters to find the information they want to get. Along with the development of technological sophistication that is currently certainly providing its own benefits for Political Parties and of course for the Presidential Candidate Vice President himself to be closer to the novice voter. In determining their political choices, novice voters are influenced by various factors, one of which is the provision of information from parents, families and getting various political references from social media. The role of social media currently, from various studies, has a significant influence in increasing public political participation, especially the participation of novice voters (Gomez, 2014).

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The problem of abstentions in novice voters is interesting to study because it discusses the role of novice voters in the 2019-2024 presidential election that has already been held. Whether those who decide to exercise their right to vote or who decide to abstain, it can be used as a benchmark for the understanding of novice voters who contain young people about politics (Vaccari & Valeriani, 2018).

There are several reasons that make novice voters want to vote, ranging from a lack of understanding of the importance of using the right to vote, not following the political developments, do not wanting to choose any pair of candidates because there is no one in accordance with their wishes, to the opinion of voting or not choosing no will have any effect. This is what we will study further in the discussion section (Knoll, Matthes, & Heiss, 2018).

The next opportunity is about the challenges in the implementation of the industry 4.0 revolution in which society is deep this novice voter has a very important role. One feature of the 4.0 revolution is the use of the internet of things, so this can be an opportunity and challenge also in terms of the general election 4.0 for novice voters. Therefore, this study will examine the political participation of novice voters, especially their behaviour when participating in simultaneous presidential elections which have been held in 2019.

METHOD

The research method that will be used in this study is quantitative with a descriptive approach. Quantitative research methods have a very broad scope. In general, quantitative research methods are divided into two major dichotomies, namely experimental and non-experimental. Experiments can be broken down again into quasi-experiments, single subjects. While non-experimental in the form of a descriptive, comparative, correlational, survey, ex post facto, history and others (Ivankova, Creswell, & Stick, 2006). The descriptive approach is a method in researching the status of human groups, an object, a set of conditions, a system of thought, or a class of events in the present. Whitney (1960) argues descriptive method is the search for facts with the right interpretation. Descriptive research studies the problems in society, as well as the procedures that apply in society

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Political participation is an activity or activities of certain citizens with the aim to be able to influence a political policy in a country (Bliss, 2015). This form of political participation is carried out by ordinary citizens, or not those who work as politicians or civil servants. In general, the attitude of political participation is an encouragement that is done voluntarily, so there are no things that encourage or motivate someone to continue to develop and increase community involvement in politics (Clark, 2012).

Political participation can be done by anyone, both those who already have a lot of experience in politics or those who

and certain situations, including relationships, activities, attitudes, views and processes that are ongoing and the effects of a phenomenon (Cohen, Manion, & Morrison, 2007).

The population in this study were first-time voters from Bekasi City. Most of the beginner voters in Indonesia are still high school and university students, so issues relating to beginners - young beginners, need to be seen as more important. This study uses a survey by distributing questionnaires or questionnaires as research instruments. This method is very typical in quantitative research where the questionnaire becomes an effective and efficient container for collecting data that will be measured numerically later (Mujis, 2010). This is also done to be able to distribute questionnaires or questionnaires to voter voters to make it easier to map the opinions of the samples to be taken.

have no experience, who are often referred to as novice voters. A group of people who are said to be first-time voters are those who are for the first time participating in political participation or for the first time participating in elections (Cutts, 2014). So that people who are included in the category of beginner voters usually still take education at high school.

Based on data from the West Java Provincial Election Commission, novice voters have a very important role in determining the outcome of the democratic party contestation. Therefore it is very interesting to be able to study the beginner voters in Bekasi City. This section will

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examine the forms of political participation, the character of political participation, and the factors that influence political participation.

The forms of political participation of novice voters

Political participation is one of the activities to be able to express opinions or use one's voting rights in politics. Activities to express opinions or participate in the political process is to participate either in monitoring activities or directly involved in the campaign process is one thing that is included in the activity of political participation.

One form of political participation is to participate in exercising their voting rights in elections. The elections are divided into various types, including presidential and vice-presidential elections, legislative elections and regional head elections. A person who is said to be a beginner voter is someone who is 17 years old or already has an identity card, and has participated at least once in the electoral process. As novice voters in Bekasi City, the democratic party attended by respondents was the presidential and vice-presidential elections in 2019. So it can be said that the respondents who participated in this general election were said to be novice voters. In addition, at least the novice voters have the opportunity once in the electoral process, and the respondents have participated in general elections.

In the general election process, novice voters need a variety of information about the general election. It aims to see the vision and mission of the candidates, as well as work programs offered over the

next five years. A variety of media are used and utilized by novice voters in accessing information about presidential and vice-presidential candidates and legislative members. With the information absorption process, novice voters can wisely determine who is the right candidate for Indonesia for the next five years. To be able to actively follow information about the general election, there are a number of media that become a place to spread the news of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates, including social media consisting of Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. This media is very good at conveying information about vision and mission and getting the candidates closer to the first time voters. For example, one of the candidates for vice president Sandiaga Uno who is very familiar with papa online. Through his Instagram account, he can convey various information and news with the aim of being able to introduce and get closer to the novice voter. The results show that novice voters are happy with social media which is used as a tool in the process of political participation. In addition to social media, other online media are also quite good at spreading information to novice voters, including online news media, television media and other media. The media is very helpful for novice voters in obtaining accurate information before they choose one pair of candidates for president and vice president. Thus the media information obtained by novice voters can increase the political literacy of novice voters.

The next form of political participation is active organization. The organization in question is a political

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organization and political party. Joining political parties and political organizations is one of the activities of political participation. That is because with the activity in political organizations, it can increase political participation for novice voters. Novice voters can join political parties to be able to participate in various activities organized by political parties such as campaigns by presidential and vice presidential candidates. This form of campaign can be carried out either online or in person.

Furthermore, in political organizations also students can participate in protest actions against policies made by the government. The protest was one of the efforts of the community to declare their disapproval of the policies made by the government. The existence of such protests can make the beginner voters to hone their political literacy abilities. The forms of the protest action are divided into two, namely direct demonstrations in general, and the second by making an article to be published in the mass media. Both of these can help beginner voters who are actively involved in the general election

Political participation takes a variety of forms or ways in which the public, especially new voters, can express their aspirations. As stated by Bliss (2015), one form of political participation is an activity that aims to influence government policy through action. There are also many forms of political participation, but this research only focuses on three activities, including involvement in political parties or political organizations, both protest or demonstration and the third is following the campaign in the electoral process.

Involvement in political parties is one form or activity as political participation, because by following a political organization or political party, a person can participate in influencing a policy made by the government (Vaccari & Valeriani, 2018; Trihartono & Patriadi, 2016). Previous studies have suggested that the higher the level of political participation, the more people join political parties or political organizations. But even so, the results of the study showed that the results of political participation in terms of involvement in political organizations were still very low. This is because the respondents are students who are still in school and do not have good experience in politics.

In addition to joining political organizations, expressing protest against policies made by the government is one way to convey political participation as well. These protests can be done both in written ways and by using demonstrations (Gomez, 2014). The aim is to be able to convey policies to the government regarding matters that are contrary to the community. Some of the participants participated in the delivery of actions and protests against the government, both in writing and in demonstrations. This is consistent with previous research that examined the political participation of the process of expressing opinions to the government (Trihartono & Patriadi, 2016). In addition, several political parties invited members of their parties to carry out campaigns to be able to get a lot of votes. Campaign activities are included in the process of political participation. But even so, political participation in the campaign

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process of the novice voters is still very low, because only a handful of participants participated in the campaign.

The character of novice political participation

The characteristic of novice voter political participation is one of the main studies in the discussion on political participation. This is because, the character is very unique, especially for novice voters who have just been directly involved in the presidential and vice-presidential elections.

Regarding the characteristics of novice voters, there are at least seven main characters that are used as examples or the main reference of novice voters. First is the voters use their voting rights because of invitations or orders of others. Usually, those who use their voting rights by choice or invitation from others, do not have a stance or they do not have much information about the candidate to be elected. Therefore, these characteristics require a lot of input from the media or knowledge so they can identify who will be chosen. Furthermore, the second characteristic is the influence of community leaders. It is undeniable that community leaders have enormous influence on the individuals or communities around them. This is because the community leaders always give direction or referral to one of the candidate pairs, so that the community, in this case the novice voter, can follow his direction.

In addition to invitations and influences from community leaders, the material has always been one of the things that encourage voters or participants in the general election in determining who the

candidates will be chosen by them. Usually, this material is in the form of money, objects or food provided by the candidate pairs through their success team. They are trying to continue to look for and chase the novice voters in increasing popularity and gaining a lot of votes.

The final character is the knowledge of novice voters, especially regarding the profiles of candidates for president and vice president, candidates for legislative members and government policies. Knowledge of the candidate's profile and strengths and experience in leading an area can be a major benefit and increase the knowledge of novice voters. If the leader has a good experience in the success of a city or region, then it will be used as the main opportunity in determining and electing the president and vice president.

The character of novice voter political participation is the encouragement or motivation of several people in conveying the ideas or opinions of that person to the government. Usually the idea or character has some influence, so people can change their voice and decisions depending on the decisions and policies made by someone.

Beginner voter character is influenced by several things including parents, community leaders, material and knowledge about the profile and policies of government (Bright, Hale, Ganesh, Bulovsky, Margetts, & Howard, 2019). Parents have a great influence in the electoral process because sometimes they participate in elections and affect family members.

However, the results of the research differ from previous studies which have a high influence on the encouragement of respondents to choose one pair of candidates is the profile of the candidate and the policies that have been made before. This shows that the novice voters in Bekasi City have a very high level of knowledge in being able to elect the president and vice president. Previous research also examines the political participation of novice voters, and the results point to the same thing that novice voters are affected by policies that have been made by the incumbent in choosing him to be the next candidate (Trihartono & Patriadi, 2016).

Factors of political participation of novice voters

Some things that are very essential in terms of general elections for president and vice president include the influence of parents in choosing one candidate from a pair of candidates for president and vice president. Usually, parents are indirectly involved in the election process. They also influence the sons and daughters in choosing candidates for president and vice president.

In addition to parents, the mass media contributes to playing and encourages novice voters to be able to choose and determine one candidate pair. The mass media reports on a variety of activities, such as campaign activities, activities of candidates, vision and mission, and work programs offered. Indirectly, the mass media can shape the understanding of novice voters, until they determine who will be the choice of the presidential and

vice-presidential candidate pairs. For example on television media, they show some of the activities carried out by the television, such as debating candidates from pairs of candidates for president and vice president. Indirectly the candidate debate influences the novice voter in determining the candidate pair chosen.

In addition to the mass media and parent and candidate debates, a sense of awareness as citizens and influencers has a great influence on the high political participation of novice voters. Some people have a high level of awareness as citizens so that without being sent, they still go to the polls and give their voting rights as a form of their participation. Influencers also have a big effect. Those who have many followers and promote as one of the candidates from the president and vice president will also be followed by his followers. Thus, these two things participate in influencing the level of political participation of novice voters.

The high and low political participation of novice voters is determined by various factors that influence it to be able to choose one pair of candidates. Previous research says there are many factors that influence a person when they decide to go to the polls and decide to participate in elections. Among them are parents, mass media, candidate debate events, awareness as citizens and influencers (Castillo, Miranda, Bonhomme, Cox, & Bascopé, 2014). These five things are very influential on the high and low political participation of the people who will elect presidential and vice-presidential candidates, especially those who are novice voters.

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Data obtained from novice voters in the city of Bekasi shows that the mass media, candidate debating programs and work programs offered can influence the high political participation when they vote at polling stations. This is in accordance with some previous research which states that the candidate debate program is one of the activities aimed at providing information to voters in order to consider who will be chosen by the novice voter (Vaccari & Valeriani, 2018; Winneg & Jamieson, 2017). Thus it can be concluded that the factors that influence the low level of political participation of novice voters are based on the profile of prospective candidates and the previous policy policies that have been made by incumbent candidates.

Limitation

This research was conducted on novice voters in the city of Bekasi, West Java, Indonesia. This is because based on data from the General Election Commission (KPU), West Java has the potential to have high beginner voters. Therefore this research was conducted on novice voters in the city of Bekasi.

Although this research has been carried out, there are some shortcomings that need to be recognized in the writing of this thesis. First, the results of this study are very difficult to generalize as beginner voters throughout Bekasi City, because the samples taken were only 100 people and were taken from two schools. So this makes it difficult to be generalized as a comprehensive result.

Second, the research method used is quantitative with data collection

techniques is the distribution of questionnaires. This cannot ask the reason why someone answered and chose the statement. So for further research, it is necessary to use a mixed-method or mixed-method to be able to find out the reasons why participants choose the statement.

CONCLUSION

In general, from the results of research conducted on the political participation of novice voters in Bekasi, it can be concluded that the process of novice voters has a high level of political participation, that is because novice voters only participate in the electoral process, but they do not participate involved in political organizations and political party activities.

The political participation of novice voters in this study is divided into three main parts, namely the forms of political participation, the character of political participation and the factors that influence political participation. In addition, political participation is one of the activities to be able to express an opinion or use one's voting rights in politics.

One form of political participation is to participate in exercising their voting rights in elections. In the general election process, novice voters need a variety of information about the general election. It aims to see the vision and mission of the candidates, as well as work programs offered over the next five years. A variety of media are used and utilized by novice voters in accessing information about presidential and vice presidential candidates and legislative members. With the information absorption process, novice voters can wisely determine who is the

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Thus it can be concluded that political participation, especially for novice voters, is not too high, because there are some respondents who only focus on general election activities, without focusing on organizational activities and political parties.

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