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THE ANALYSIS OF THE YOUTH POLITICAL PERCEPTION OF 2019 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN JAYAPURA CITY

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Abstract

Community participation in politics is an important indicator in measuring whether a country is democratic or not. The higher level of community participation results in the transparency of democracy. However, towards the 2019 elections, the absent of people in giving their voice was dominant in Indonesia. The apathetic groups who decided not to vote in elections have a variety of reasons. One of the reasons is the distrust of the electoral system. Refers to the 2019 elections in the city of Jayapura, there was a tendency for some young people not to vote. In fact, elections are an important instrument in selecting leaders through democratic mechanisms. The two main objectives to be achieved through this research are first to find out the perspective of young people to view the general election. This is related to the understanding of the election as well as their hopes for the election and their political references if they decide to vote or not vote (abstentions). Second, this study aims to examine the models of youth participation in the election. Furthermore, this research will contribute to the gap of knowledge and studies related to youth their participation in general election, especially in the city of Jayapura. The city of Jayapura will become an important place of this case study because it's social and political dynamics in analyzing youth perceptions. this research will contribute to the gap of knowledge and studies related to youth their participation in general election, especially in the city of Jayapura. The city of Jayapura will become an important place of this case study because it's social and political dynamics in analyzing youth perceptions, this research will contribute to the gap of knowledge and studies related to youth their participation in general election, especially in the city of Jayapura. The city of Jayapura will become an important place of this case study because it's social and political dynamics in analyzing youth perceptions.

Keywords: perception; general election; youth; political participation

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INTRODUCTION

General elections are a political means in realizing people's sovereignty as mandated by the 1945 Constitution article 1 paragraph (2) which reads, "Sovereignty is in the hands of the people and implemented according to the Constitution". Every citizen has the right to use his/her voice in a democratic political process. Article 22E Paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution has outlined that democratic elections are direct, general, free,

confidential, honest and fair. Furthermore, the Election Law adds two more criteria, namely transparency and accountability (Budiardjo, 2008).

Elections are an important instrument in measuring whether a country is democratic or not (Simamora, 2011). Through general elections, every citizen has the right to use his/ her voice to elect a leader through a direct, free and secret democratic process. Although substantially, elections are to legally

elect leadership and gain community legitimacy, but the electoral system and forms of public participation in various countries are quite diverse.

In modern political analysis, public participation is an important indicator in measuring whether a country is democratic or not. The higher public participation indicates the opening of democratic spaces (Anang, 2020). In simple terms, political participation is an individual or individual activity in political life and directly or indirectly influences government policies. Although political participation is very important in a democratic country, not all citizens are willing to voluntarily cast their votes. Like implementation in other countries, the democratic party in Indonesia is also marked by various violations and fraud (electoral malpractices). In the context of Indonesia, which is building a healthy political culture, the proliferation of money politics, vote inflating, black campaigns, elections that are not in accordance with the rules to the loss of public suffrage are some of the types of violations that are often found (Muhaimin, 2016). This violation will continue with the election disputes that threaten the integrity of the election. Without strong structural and functional oversight, high-cost elections will only produce leaders whose legality and legitimacy are doubtful (Surbakti, Supriyanto, & Santoso, 2011). Whereas the parameters of a democratic election are marked by the integrity of the implementation process and the integrity of the election results. Then high-cost elections will only produce leaders whose legality and legitimacy are doubted (Harada & Smith, 2014).

This has led to apathy among young voters, which is one of the important pillars of Indonesia's democratic life. The number of youths who choose not to vote is increasing (Alkautsar & Suharno, 2021). Whereas the involvement of youth in the general election has been regulated in Law no. 40 of 2008 Article 17 paragraph (3). The law states that the active role of youth as agents of change

is realized by developing one of them is political education and democratization.

Looking at the slices that exist in elements of Indonesian society, Law Number 40 of 2009 states that youth are those who are in the age range of 16 to 30 years with a percentage of 24.27 percent of the approximately 255 million Indonesian people. As for the age group under 16 years, there are around 28.81 percent and for the age group above 30 years there are around 46.92 percent (BPS-Susenas Kor 2017). From the point of view of political contestation, it can be interpreted that the youth group is a source of voice that should be reckoned with in this regard. Youth becomes land that need to be involved in determining this political battle. However, in fact, when viewed from another perspective, the younger generation is not only a mere voice barn, but far behind it, they are the people who will continue the nation's democracy.

Youth have idealism and enthusiasm that are needed in building a democratic life in Indonesia. However, many youths decided not to participate in the general election. It's possible that people don't vote because they think things don't change, whoever is chosen (Silaban, 2016). There is a tendency to feel dissatisfied with the political and electoral system in Indonesia. The increase in abstentions in 2004 was caused by public distrust of Megawati's government and the building of the political system that existed at that time (Darwin, 2018). The nonfunctioning of community representative institutions, especially the DPR, DPRD, and MPR, as well as the rampant cases of corruption, collusion, and nepotism (KKN) involving members of the representative institutions are the reasons for the increase in the abstention rate in the 2004 election.

In the context of the election in Jayapura City, the role of youth is very crucial. In the 2019 election, based on data from the KPU, the Permanent Voters List (DPT) in the city of Jayapura was 300,752

voters. The number of Permanent Candidate Lists (DCT) is 588 people, with a total of 1,262 polling stations. This figure is the largest in Papua Province. The high number of DPT, DCT and TPS shows the complexity of the 2019 general election. With a very high cost, the 2019 election is expected to involve the participation of the entire community, including youth.

However, the results of the initial discussion conducted by the City Bawaslu and the Jayapura City Campus Coalition in February 2019 showed a tendency for youth not to vote. Various initial reasons were obtained ranging from a lack understanding of the rules to dissatisfaction with the existing political system. However, it has not been able to be elaborated in depth on why youth decide to vote or not to vote. Therefore, it is very important to understand how youth perceive the election (Limilia & Ariadne, 2018). In the context of the city of Jayapura which is full of social and political dynamics, it is very important to hear the voices of youth. It is necessary to understand how students perceive the 2019 election. Their experiences, political cultural context, voter tastes, and various variables can influence youth's view of elections. This perception forms a reference to youth politics. However, there is not much literature that specifically discusses youth in the city of Jayapura.

In Jayapura, there have been calls from certain groups not to vote as a form of protest against the state for not fulfilling civil and political rights in Papua. Several abstain campaigns have been spread through social media among the youth community as well as the general public. Even some communities such as AMP (Papuan Student Alliance) and FriWest Papua have declared their decision not to cast their ballots. However, of course, the voices of these youths do not represent the voices of youth as a whole in Papua. Therefore, it is very important to look at the dynamics of youth and the 2019 election.

It is hoped that this research will contribute to better understanding youth perceptions and elections and how to reference youth politics ahead of the 2019 general election in the city of Jayapura.

Political participation is a term used in carrying out political activities. Several definitions have been put forward by various political scientists about political participation. Political participation is the voluntary activities of citizens through which they take part in the process of electing rulers, and directly or indirectly, in the process of forming public policies (McClosky, 1968). Political participation is the activity of citizens acting as individuals, which is intended to influence decision-making bv the government. Participation can be individual or collective, organized, or spontaneous, legal or illegal, permanent or sporadic, peaceful or violent, legal or illegal effective. many directly aim to influence the selection of state officials and/or the actions taken by them (Von Muhlenlbrock, 1979).

Participation is carried out because citizens as members of society believe that their activities have an effect or have an impact or are often referred to as political efficacy (Roza, 2020). Therefore, democracy there is an assumption that the higher the level of people's participation, the better, on the contrary, a low level of participation is seen as not good. Some of the reasons why participation is low include that citizens are not interested or care about participating or there is no opportunity or if the people think that their participation in politics does not give any influence or if the rulers or leaders of the state pay less attention to the interests or aspirations of the community and only prioritize the interests of the people. only a group of people.

According to Joan Nelson, participation according to acceptance from the community is participation that is autonomous and mobilized. The difference between the two lies in whether the participation is voluntary, at the initiative of the (members) of the

community, or whether the participation is on the initiative of the (members) of the community or whether the participation is directed by the government (other parties). If the participation is on the community's own initiative and if it is carried out voluntarily, it is referred to as autonomous participation, whereas if it is deployed or there is an element of pressure from the government (the superiors or those in power), it is referred to as mobilized participation. Participation in general is not only done in general elections. For example, by involving community members to support the government, for example through development programs or other activities that take place in the community. Various activities outside the general election called participation are for example those carried out by political parties and community organizations such as youth organizations, environmental organizations, labor organizations, farmers and fishermen, youth, women and so on.

Elections are one of the most common mechanisms of a democratic country to determine what the people choose as a whole (Arniti, 2020). This mechanism is the best mechanism to ask the community directly about their choice. The most common thing to do in elections is to ask who has the right to become people's representatives in parliament or become the leader of a country. The nature of this general election shows that its function is to provide and strengthen political legitimacy to the authorities so that Existence, policies and work programs can be carried out.

Universal elections are institutions as well as political practices that allow the formation of a representative government. The general election is also called the political market, meaning that the general election is the market politics where individuals or communities interact to implement social contracts (community agreements) between general election participants (political parties) and voters (people) who have the right to

vote after first carrying out a series of political activities which include campaigns, political advertisements through printed mass media, audio (radio), as well as audio-visual (television) as well as other media such as banners, pamphlets, leaflets and even interpersonal communication in the form of face to face (face to face) or lobbying containing other political promises in order to convince voters so that during the voting they can determine their choice of one or the other one political party (Hasan, 2014).

In the midst of the vortex of debate between elections and human rights issues, the perception of youth is very important to understand. Various fluctuations related to the position of youth in elections, especially in the city of Jayapura reflect the importance of an in-depth study of how youth view the election. Therefore, this study aims to answer two important questions, namely; (1) how do youths perceive the 2019 election in Jayapura city?, (2) what is the form of youth participation in the Jayapura city election?

METHOD

This study uses qualitative methods in explaining youth perceptions of elections (Sugiyono, 2019). The strength of this research lies in its qualitative narrative. The choice of narrative method is very appropriate in bringing out the voices of those who are marginalized. This is in accordance with the research target, namely youth who often do not get enough attention in elections. Through a qualitative narrative approach, youth perceptions and references will be analyzed by exploring their narratives. Narratives, memories of the past, present worries and hopes for future changes become life stories that are the target of this research. This narrative method is also where the researcher only provides the main questions to guide the narrative process, but the main issues are raised by the participants themselves.

The scope of this research will focus on how youth perceptions about elections and how these perceptions shape their political references. Also to be seen regarding the form of voter participation. The population of this study is all youth in the city of Jayapura. However, the sample will focus on youth in 3 districts, namely Heram, Abepura and North Jayapura districts. The selection of these two districts is considered representative based on the distribution of the population. And in these three districts it became the center for the distribution of students and youth.

Research data will be collected through in-depth interviews with various youths from different cultural and social backgrounds. Interviews will be conducted personally or in the form of focused discussions (Moleong, 2021). In addition, researchers will also conduct participatory observations before, during the election and after the election to see the phenomena that occur in the research location. Supporting data sources are in the form of documents that can be in the form of reports, notes. as well as other written materials which are official documents relevant to the research theme.

The data collected will be analyzed through coding techniques. The results of the interviews spoken by the youth will be grouped based on certain themes. Through the narration, it will be found how the perceptions of youth, their references but also their hopes for the future that can be used as recommendations for the election organizers. The strength of this approach is the narrative because it is able to raise the theme of changes in the past, present, and future (life stories).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

April 17, 2019 was a simultaneous general election held throughout Indonesia to elect the president and vice president as well as the legislature at the national, provincial and district levels. This election is a democratic party for Indonesia to conduct elections every five years, and this year is the

first history to hold elections simultaneously with candidates. The people who participated in this election exercised their right to vote by punching 5 ballot papers, namely, first, the yellow color of the election ballot to elect Members of the People's Representative Council (DPR RI), in accordance with the number of Electoral Districts for Members of the DPR. Second, the red color of election ballots to elect members of the Regional Representatives Council (DPD RI) consists of ballots for the election of members of the DPD. Third, The blue color of the election ballot is to elect members of the Provincial DPRD (Provincial DPRD) in accordance with the number of Electoral Districts for the Members of the Provincial DPRD. Fourth, the green color of election ballots to elect Members of the Regency/City Regional People's Representative Council (Regency/City DPRD) in accordance with the number of Electoral Districts for Regency/City DPRD members. Fifth, the ballots for the presidential and vice-presidential elections are grayed out. The color ballots consist of the ballots of the Candidate Pairs for the presidential and vice presidential elections. green color election ballots to elect Members of the Regency/City Regional People's Representative Council (Regency/City DPRD) in accordance with the number of Electoral Districts for Members of Regency/City DPRD. Fifth, the ballots for the presidential and vicepresidential elections are grayed out. The color ballots consist of the ballots of the Candidate Pairs for the presidential and vice presidential elections. green color election ballots to elect Members of the Regency/City Regional People's Representative Council (Regency/City DPRD) in accordance with the number of Electoral Districts for Members of Regency/City DPRD. Fifth, the ballots for the presidential and vice-presidential elections are grayed out. The color ballots consist of the ballots of the Candidate Pairs (Paslon) for the presidential and vice presidential elections.

This simultaneous election also took place in the province of Papua, the eastern

tip of Indonesia. This research will be devoted to the city of Jayapura with five districts, namely Abepura district, Heram district, South Jayapura district, North Jayapura district, and Muara Tami district. The following will attach the total participation of the people of the city of Jayapura in the general election.

Table 1

Number of Voter Participation in Abepura District No **Villages Number of Voting Place Number of Voters** Male Woman Abe Pantai 2594 1351 1243 7971 4280 Asano 35 3691 3 80 19973 11306 8667 Awiyo 4 2 406 204 202 Enggros 5 48 Kota Baru 11953 6330 5623 6 13 2945 Koya Koso 1635 1310 7 Nafri 7 2018 1091 927 8 Vim 51 12179 6178 6001 9 Wahno 33 6295 3199 3096 10 Way Mhrock 48 12036 6444 5592 Yobe 43 10200 5661 4539 11 88,570 Total 369 47,679 40,891

Source: Jayapura City Election Commission 2019

Table 2
Number of Voter Participation in Heram District

No	Villages	Number of Voting Place	Number of Voters	Male	Woman
1	Hedam	49	13055	7061	5994
2	KP Waena	5	1447	7 4 2	705
3	Waena	86	21322	11308	10013
4	Yabansai	85	22036	12810	9226
5	Yoka	8	2356	1347	1009
-	Total	233	60,216	33,268	26,947

Source: Jayapura City Election Commission 2019

Table 3
Total Voter Participation in South Jayapura District

No	Villages	Number of Voting Place	Number of Voters	Male	Woman
_1	Ardipura	61	15364	7871	7493
2	Argapura	47	9395	5051	4344
3	Entrop	71	12792	6572	6220
4	Hamadi	128	27252	14038	13214
5	Kayu Pulao	2	472	242	230
6	Numbay	28	6536	3295	3241
7	Tobati	1	233	119	114
	Total	338	72.044	37,188	34,856

Source: Jayapura City Election Commission 2019

Table 4
Total Voter Participation in North Jayapura District

No	Villages	Number of Voting Place	Number of Voters	Male	Woman
1	Angkasapura	19	5119	2791	2328
2	Bayangkara	34	7986	4070	3916
3	Gurabesi	70	18009	9596	8413
4	Imbi	61	14806	7575	7231
5	Kayo Batu	3	608	335	273
6	Mandala	20	4946	2762	2184
7	Tanjung Ria	48	11853	5983	5870
8	Trikora	23	5643	2952	2691
	Total	278	68,970	36,064	32,906

Source: Jayapura City Election Commission 2019

Table 5
Number of Voter Participation in Muara Tam District

No	Villages	Number of Voting Place	Number of Voters	Male	Woman
1	Holtekamp	3	643	326	317
2	Koya Barat	19	5320	2892	2428
3	Koya Tengah	2	405	238	167
4	Koya Timur	12	3151	1650	1501
5	Mosso	2	372	213	159
6	Skouw Mabo	2	331	174	157
7	Skouw Sae	2	360	18 4	176
8	Skouw Yambe	2	400	191	209
	Total	44	10,982	5.868	5.114

Source: Jayapura City Election Commission 2019

Based on the table above, it can be concluded that the highest public participation in general elections was in the Abepura district which reached 88,570 people with the number of men reaching 47,679 and women reaching 40,891 and the number of TPS 369. While the smallest number of community participation was in the Muara Tami district which reached 10,982 people with the number of men reaching 5,868 people and women reaching 5,114 people and the number of polling stations was 44.

A. Youth Perceptions of General Elections in Jayapura

The youth generation has a very important role in giving their right to vote in general elections. These millennial voters are usually born in the 2000s or are often known as novice voters in choosing the President, DPRRI, DPD Provincial DPRD and Regency /City DPRD. Based on the narrative of M. Hasugian, the problems faced by youth in choosing are:

- 1. There are still many millennial voters who are unstable and emotional, even don't want to channel their voting rights, aka Abstain.
- Millennial voters are often easy targets for transactional politics, or money politics, channeling their political rights over political bargaining for legislative candidates or successful teams and willing to vote if given something (NPWP = Number Piro Wani Piro)

3. Millennial voters have no experience in participating in election activities, especially voting at the polling station especially 2019 (TPS), in the Simultaneous Election with 2 pairs of presidential/vice presidential candidates, 14 DPD candidates, 16 political parties: 136 DPR candidates, 150 Dapil 1 candidates for Province, 588 City Legislative Candidates for 4 Dapil. (147, 145, 124, 172).

This condition causes that many young people still choose to abstain or not participate in general elections, some even prefer legislative candidates instead of president. This is due to psychological closeness, kinship and kinship while not electing a vice president because of human rights violations that have not been resolved in Papua.

As stated by one of the millennial voters who stated that "millennials choose abstentions because every president from one to now is the seventh, there is no justice at all for millennials like in Papua, there is now a Abstain Team because all candidates promise freedom for West Papua, for example Jokowi promises to solve human rights violations in Papua in fact. until today the president has not finished this so millennial will abstain for that reason"

It is also increasingly emphasized by youth organizations to vote for abstain as stated as follows

"Prefers to abstain, because there is no trust in legislative candidates. They don't want to vote for someone else who does well or not"

Based on the results of interviews with novice voters regarding abstentions due to various reasons such as lack of socialization and not getting ballot sheets, wasting time or wasting time. As the narrative of the novice voters, students

"millennials who choose to abstain because they don't understand what the election means. There are also millennials who are more indifferent to the election that will take place on the 17th. They think going to the polling station to cast their votes is just a waste of time without thinking that Their voting rights are very important. Some think that it is better to stay at home or go for recreation than to waste time at the polling station. They also sometimes don't like the presidential and vice-presidential candidates in the election so they choose abstentions without knowing the performance of the candidates. from the above actions they have wasted their opportunity determine the future of this nation, because the voting rights we have can determine how the future of our nation will be, However, in elections, we must be able to see from the performance of the pairs of candidates that they have done so far so that we can choose candidates well to become leaders of the nation for a better future.

In addition, considering voting does not make a big contribution, politics becomes dirty, indifferent to political developments, waste of time or waste of time. This was stated by one student who is a novice voter.

"The generation that abstains is due to the bad image of politics in Indonesia. This makes young people who are identical with passionate spirits and high ideals already consider politics to be dirty"

Although on the one hand there are many who view abstinence as a right, there are also those who say that abstaining will harm the community. Therefore, participating in elections is a way to improve the lives or welfare of the community through the election of leaders by looking at their track record to have the will of the nation. As stated by one respondent

"To quote Recep Tayyib Erdoan's words "If good people don't go into politics then criminals will fill it" This assumes that if people/millennials choose to become abstentions then be prepared this country will be led by bad people who will fill it. government positions. We as millennials must be willing to participate in the future of this country because if we choose to abstain our votes can be used by fraudulent elements, how difficult is it to choose a candidate leader for the future of their own country because if the leader falls into the wrong hands, it will be our society as millennials in Indonesia"

In addition, there are also those who argue that abstention is very detrimental. "The choice of abstentions is disappointing because millennials do not participate and are lazy to know in the elections where they cannot choose leaders and who can build the country even though by participating in the elections we can see firsthand the process of how our political coffers are built and we have carried out our obligations. become good citizens by participating in the elections later. However, the millennials who choose abstentions will in the end only become rebels during the period of the presidential candidate who has already been elected and served and that is a ridiculous act because he himself turned his back on choosing the regional election "

In addition to interviews with millennial voters from the 2018 batch of students, FGDs were also conducted with several youths from various organizations HMI, PMKRI and such as other associations. Some of the perceptions expressed were related to election administrative problems, namely problems, mass mobilization, apathy problems, mindsets with elections identical to money politics. This was stated by the chairman of HMI Papua

"Usually before tomorrow's election a lot of ballots have been bought from tonight and the 2019 election is quite difficult/complicated because previously there was only 1 ballot and voting only took 4-5 minutes, but here are 5 options and this takes quite a long time, especially because the row of names is quite a lot"

In line with the experiences of previous millennial voters, who spoke about elections "Experience related to the presidential and vice presidential elections 5 years ago where there was a double vote in the DPT. When choosing some residents there were no names on the invitation and most of the voters from other places, there were also those who used ID cards because they did not have an invitation but voted at the end (there are people who don't know where they come from and come to vote), while for security issues it goes well and smoothly"

This was further emphasized by the chairman of the PMKRI who stated that: there are administrative problems, ID cards, as well as mass mobilization, and supervision or deployment of security forces. The election in Jayapura was chaotic, especially in the area of Behind Citra Abe - Koramil, all of whom did money politics and were ordered to vote in exchange for 100 thousand rupiah per person. There are some people who become bribes, but there are also people who say if there is new money they want to vote, if there is no money they don't vote (year 2014). The DPT is very high but the ballots are divided or bought because many people do not vote (Abstain)

because there is no bribe. Some polling stations in the Abe area, the security role is lacking. Voting or not, the ballot is still in use, every time there is an election there must be an attack of dawn.

In addition to the perceptions and views of youth regarding the general election. Several problems or conditions were also found with residents' disappointment with the election organizers who could not hold general elections simultaneously but the next day. This is due to the problem with the distribution of DPT logistics in Jayapura, especially the people located in the Abepura and South Jayapura districts. These residents voted on July 18, 2019. This resulted in technical problems that generally can still be overcome but are tarnished or result in reduced public trust in election management officials. As is known, elections can be postponed due to natural conditions, namely natural disasters, disasters or humanitarian namely war or conflict in a certain area. Therefore, the importance of coordination and supervision to support elections that are clean and free from political options or elements such as fraud or violations in the general election. This aims to reduce the role of youth or the community to participate in general elections.

CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the perception of youth related to the general election is to participate or participate by choosing a candidate for leader without any element of coercion but because of awareness of their political rights as a form of democracy in Indonesia. It is emphasized that the involvement shows one of the contributions to develop Indonesia. In addition, there are also those who choose abstentions on the grounds of administrative, technical problems, problems of distrust of the presidential/vice-presidential candidates and legislative candidates who are considered

unable to bring about change. On the other hand, there is also the perception of officers entrusted in general elections who are seen as not being able to be neutral or independent and still missing out or not completely quelling by giving punishments or deterrent effects to the candidate pairs or individuals who commit fraud in the general election. This is indicated by the practice of money politics which is still common with widespread dawn attacks among citizens and even mass mobilization which ultimately tarnishes democracy and makes political references from youth less and less and political participation decreases.

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