

From Apathetic to Participatory: Moral Political Education, the Young People's Path to Democratic Consciousness

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ABSTRACT

Does the cultivation of democratic values require contextualization along with the progressiveness of social change? The response to this question can be answered scientifically after an objective measurement of the political moral situation. This study seeks to identify ideal interventions for effective political education to increase political awareness, especially in the contemporary political era in Indonesia. Not only presenting data, this study forms and develops solutions. Thus, this study is filled with various systematic flows to 1) translate political awareness; 2) analyze the phenomenon; 3) propose practical intervention solutions that can help strengthen political awareness. To measure political awareness, using the subject's attitude, interest, and opinion (AIO) measurement model. After the subject's profile is identified, data collection uses a comprehensive scale measurement through 3 (three) methods, namely verbal rating scale (VRS), graphic rating scale (GRS), and numeric rating scale (NRS). The results of the analysis show that the political awareness index is 55.20 out of a maximum value of 100, which indicates conditions that are not in accordance with expectations. To improve it, the ideal intervention is to form political education media that are in accordance with the needs of the subject. The best intervention is to compile digital political education media that utilizes social media. Social media can be considered to have strong potential for political knowledge by providing more opportunities to access political content

ABSTRAK

Kata-kata kunci:

Kesadaran politik;

Moral Politik;

Keterlibatan Politik;

Nilai;

Pendidikan Politik.

Dari Apatitis ke Partisipatif: Pendidikan Moral Politik sebagai Jalan Kesadaran Demokratis Kaum Muda. Apakah pembudayaan nilai demokratis memerlukan kontekstualisasi seiring progresivitas perubahan sosial? Respon terhadap pertanyaan ini dapat terjawab setelah adanya pengukuran objektif tentang situasi moral politik. Penelitian ini mengidentifikasi intervensi ideal pendidikan politik yang efektif untuk meningkatkan kesadaran politik, khususnya di masa politik kontemporer di Indonesia. Tidak hanya menyajikan data, penelitian ini membentuk dan mengembangkan solusi. Dengan begitu, penelitian ini diisi dengan berbagai alur sistematis untuk 1) mengukur kesadaran politik; 2) menganalisis fenomenanya; 3) mengusulkan solusi intervensi praktis yang dapat membantu memperkuat kesadaran politik. Untuk mengukur kesadaran politik, menggunakan model pengukuran sikap, minat, dan opini (AIO) subjek. Setelah profil subjek teridentifikasi, dilakukan pengukuran skala komprehensif melalui 3 (tiga) metode, yaitu verbal rating scale (VRS), graphic rating scale (GRS), dan numeric rating scale (NRS). Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa indeks kesadaran politik senilai 55,20 dari nilai maksimal 100 yang mengindikasikan kondisi yang belum sesuai dengan harapan. Untuk meningkatkannya, intervensi yang ideal adalah membentuk media pendidikan politik yang sesuai dengan kebutuhan subjek. Intervensi terbaik adalah menyusun media pendidikan politik digital yang memanfaatkan media sosial. Media sosial dapat dipertimbangkan berpotensi kuat terhadap pengetahuan politik karena aksesibilitas yang baik untuk mengakses konten politik.

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Introduction

The justification of humans in their role as political beings tends to judge humans who are always bound by certain interests. This is also what is commonly expressed in scientific studies of Thomas Hobbes' thoughts that 'homo homini lupus'. With these interests, it is natural for humans to have a role in determining the political direction of a community. It is not wrong if there is a conclusion that the main pillar in political interaction is humans as the political subject itself. *Political man was on his way to becoming a subject once more* (Kaviraj, 1979). This discussion aims to strengthen the conclusion that humans are the most dominant drivers of political dynamics.

As a system, political beings in this case humans, are influenced by internal elements that direct their activities to refer to certain political decisions or policies. An important variable to influence human political policy is political awareness. This political awareness is the reference for political morals that direct the political activities of its subjects. Political participation is fundamental in the process of consolidating democracy (Ali et al., 2013; Widhyharto et al., 2020; Zetra et al., 2022). It cannot be denied that there are other things besides the dimension of consciousness that influence human political wisdom. Faotouri (in Ugwuanyi et al., 2021) explains that awareness is the individual's perception of him/herself and of his/her surrounding environment. Some of them include political knowledge, internalization of ideology, political skills, and even external aspects that influence certain political activities' tendencies.

However, the vitality of political awareness as a determinant of political action cannot be viewed simply. In this context, then, political awareness is primarily a function of acquiring knowledge about politics (Amer, 2009). Political awareness which refers to the meaning of political initiative, can be justified as a person's most important capital in determining his political policy. Weak political awareness will lead to weak political policy. Conversely, strong political awareness will strengthen political policy. The explanation above supports the conclusion that political awareness is an important variable in influencing a person's political interaction.

In practice, political awareness has not met its ideal expectations. Various current political situations indicate a deviation between the ideal and factual conditions of citizens' political awareness. The author assumes that the cause of the problem is the massive social development that is not in line with the fulfillment of adequate political education to be able to bridge the problem. This situation presents a new problem in the world of politics, namely the failure to meet the target of citizens' political awareness to help the success of the political situation expected by the state. This problem seems to be reinforced by social developments that are increasingly changing the personal behavior of citizens. Political participation, climate change, sustainable economic growth, migration, terrorism, conflicts, social inequalities, the rise of populism, the impact of COVID-19 on democracy (Damiani et al., 2022). One of the evidence of this is the birth of a platform that was created in line with the development of social technology in society.

The explanation above shows the conclusion that we are currently facing the challenges of modern era political awareness. The purpose of the justification refers to the assumption that increasing political awareness cannot always be solved with a conventional approach. The modernization of social interaction causes the transformation of increasingly developing political activities. This condition also causes the political attitudes of citizens to move towards increasingly diverse situations. However, the normative, one-size-fits-all conceptions of citizenship often presented within such curricula obscure the significant differences in how some young people experience and express citizenship (Wyn & Cahill, 2015).

Thus, the transformation of political activities needs to be balanced with the latest solutions to maintain the stability of political awareness in a prime position. Practically, these efforts can be done with various methods. However, the most ideal method in maintaining political awareness is to ensure that political education can run effectively to internalize the values of awareness. The wisest decision to develop political education is to ensure that the process and media in political education can be carried out to meet the expected goals of political education. After obtaining primary data from the subjects, it turned out that the need for political education media had changed. Not only oriented towards providing content, currently the interactivity of educational media has quite an influence on the success of education.

At least, we can justify some of the problems faced in the situation we explained earlier. First, the development of the political situation is a natural condition that accompanies social change. Second, this development results in the need for contextual transformation of political education. Third, the functionality of political education in the modern era is influenced by interactive learning media. The three points above show the conclusion of the need for interactive political education media to foster ideal political awareness with changes in the political attitudes of today's society.

Political awareness is the feeling that one is being governed and believes that one can more or less influence those in power or believes that one has an effect (Surbakti, 2010). Political awareness is defined as the awareness of one's rights and obligations as a citizen. This is related to knowledge of the socio-political environment, as well as one's interest and attention to the government. Not only that, political awareness is also related to one's attitude and belief in the political system. One's assessment of the government, whether it is trusted or not, liked or not (Handoyo & Lestari, 2017). Political awareness concerns a person's knowledge, interest and attention to the social and political environment (Anita Trisiana Eka Putri Permata Sari &, 2019; Wijayanti et al., 2024). Political awareness is considered important in national life, considering the very complex interests and problems within the country (Siregar, 2023; Zahro et al., 2023). There needs to be positive support from the community so that the interests and problems in the country can be realized and resolved properly. An important aspect in political awareness is a person's awareness of their rights and obligations as citizens, such as political rights, economic rights, rights to protection, health, education, and obligations in the political system, such as the obligation to obey the law, socialize well with the community, and prioritize public interests over personal interests, and other obligations (Huntington, 2003; Nurdin, 2019).

Political education is part of adult education, which is directed at efforts to develop the individual's ability to actualize themselves as free, autonomous individuals and develop their social dimensions in relation to their position as citizens (Davies & Hogarth, 2018; Dudley & Gitelson, 2002). Self-actualization can be interpreted as actualizing talents and abilities, so that the individual can develop and become more active and creative in working for the nation and country. Holdar and Zakharchenko refer to political education as public education, an effort to involve citizens in a community to create a culture of participation. (Handoyo & Lestari, 2017). Furthermore, the concept of political participation, the existence of political parties, and the implementation of direct elections can only be taught to the public through political education. This is where the role and position of Civic Education as political education, legal education, and value education. Civic Education is an important part of forming good citizens. Indicators of being a good citizen can be seen from the role and active participation of citizens in the political field (Tunggal, 2023).

The background of the thoughts and considerations underlying the use of the term "political education" are as follows: "Over time, the general view of politics as something dirty,

full of conflict, and so on, is increasingly being erased (Djiwandono, 2005). As a result, society obtains a reasonable and healthy political understanding. Every citizen of the country must continue to be involved in politics, consciously or unconsciously. Political life is the core of national life. In increasing people's awareness of their rights and obligations as citizens, especially political awareness, it needs to be done in a conscious and planned way, especially through educational activities. So that this will be more efficient and prevent deviations as has happened before (Arni, 2010; Panggabean, 2003).

Political education can be said to be a medium for conveying political concepts that have the ultimate goal of making citizens more politically literate. Politically literate citizens are citizens who are aware of their rights and obligations so that they can participate in national and state life in every development process. Political education is needed, especially to educate the current young generation who will later become the next generation of the nation (Anita Trisiana Eka Putri Permata Sari &, 2019; Arni, 2010; Panggabean, 2003). Political awareness is crucial knowledge of the political situation that affects the interests and concerns of society as well as the rights and responsibilities of citizens (Polii et al., 2020; Pratama et al., 2023). Political awareness is said to be the awareness of citizens to participate in policy activities as an acceptance of authority and responsibility as citizens (Polandos et al., 2023). Political awareness is crucial in the level of political participation that has a direct connection and big ideas and higher levels of political community. In addition, the political awareness of citizens determines the political participation of society, meaning different knowledge and awareness of rights and responsibilities related to the environment and policies of the community involved in the political participation process (Nyhagen, 2018; Wempie & Akmaluddin, 2022; Yusrin & Salpina, 2023). Especially political awareness that is aligned with the interests and concerns of society in exploiting social and political interests. Political education and prepare young people to face increasingly complex socio-political challenges (Yuen, 2016).

Thus, the full support of the community is crucial in overcoming community problems. So that the emergence of political awareness is a manifestation of the conscience of every person who has the rights and obligations of a citizens in the scope of politics, economic rights, security, health, education and work. So when this political awareness must be linked to participation in government, the greater the political awareness and involvement and active. General elections are said to be the process of choosing people to fill government seats and are held to realize a democratic society where leaders are chosen in line with the most votes. Through the election of general meetings as the most popular effort to elect members of the council, people's representatives, the President and his staff which are made directly, publicly, freely, personally, honestly, and fairly in the environment of the Republic of Indonesia in line with Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution (Fauzi, 2023).

The general election is crucial for a democratic country because from the election, the people can use their power in the form of votes to welcome and make the election a success. As the key holder in the implementation of the election, the people have full sovereignty so that in its implementation it must go through the principle of direct which means that the people have the right to vote directly according to their wishes without any pressure, carried out without discriminating against religion, race, ethnicity, gender, social class, occupation, regionalism and other social status, free for all citizens who have the right to vote, confidential and guaranteed privacy, honest in the sense that it must be in accordance with the law and worthy of choosing (Kadir, 2022). For liberals who consider highly educated politics, the gender gap effectively eliminates the gap between men and women (Baker & Whitehead, 2016). Finally, we argue that

if sustainable development is to be promoted through education, this requires that we learn to rethink the way we think about politics (Gough & Scott, 2006; Yu et al., 2021).

Method

This study applies a quantitative approach with a descriptive design that aims to measure and profile the level of political awareness of research subjects in the contemporary era. Primary data collection was conducted through a survey using a questionnaire instrument developed based on the Attitude, Interest, and Opinion (AIO) study model to identify the subject's initial political awareness profile. After this profile was identified, more specific and comprehensive measurements of political awareness aspects were carried out through a combination of three types of scales, namely the Verbal Rating Scale (VRS), Graphic Rating Scale (GRS), and Numeric Rating Scale (NRS), which were adjusted to the data requirements for each indicator. The collected data were then analyzed using descriptive statistical techniques, including AIO profile analysis to identify trends in attitudes, interests, and opinions, as well as calculating frequencies, percentages, central tendencies (mean, median, mode), and standard deviations of the measurement scale data. The final political awareness score will then be categorized into certain levels (Very Poor to Very Good) to provide a qualitative interpretation of the quantitative results, with the entire analysis process assisted by the use of NVivo statistical software.

Result and Discussion

In this study, political experience is interpreted as an activity that is contextually carried out by a subject. For young citizens in Indonesia, as will be explained in the research results, this political experience shows a significant relationship with the use of social media. The initial step in presenting the data is to provide a profile and identify how the activity patterns of young citizens and their experiences in the world of politics. This effort aims to be able to categorize young people based on their political experience index, so that those who have a good political experience index can be analyzed in more depth regarding their level of political awareness. As stated by Collin (2015), the idea of 'active citizenship' does call on young people to respond to their responsibility to participate in a framework that is often defined by adults. Although we cannot neutrally justify that individuals who are less experienced in politics will have weak awareness, and vice versa, individuals who have good political experience will automatically have strong awareness, such justification is not always right. However, measuring how the political experience of young citizens remains an essential and strategic initial step to begin the study of political awareness in this study. Based on this framework, the following discussion will systematically outline: 1) the results of measuring political awareness by presenting quantitative and qualitative data on the level of political awareness of young citizens based on established indicators; 2) analysis of the phenomenon of political awareness by analyzing these findings, linking them to relevant theories, and exploring the dynamics of political awareness of young citizens, including the role of political experience and the influence of social media; and 3) proposals for practical intervention solutions by formulating concrete recommendations that can be implemented by various parties (e.g., educational institutions, government, civil society organizations) to increase and strengthen political awareness among young citizens.

Based on initial findings, data regarding citizens' political experiences can be presented as follows.

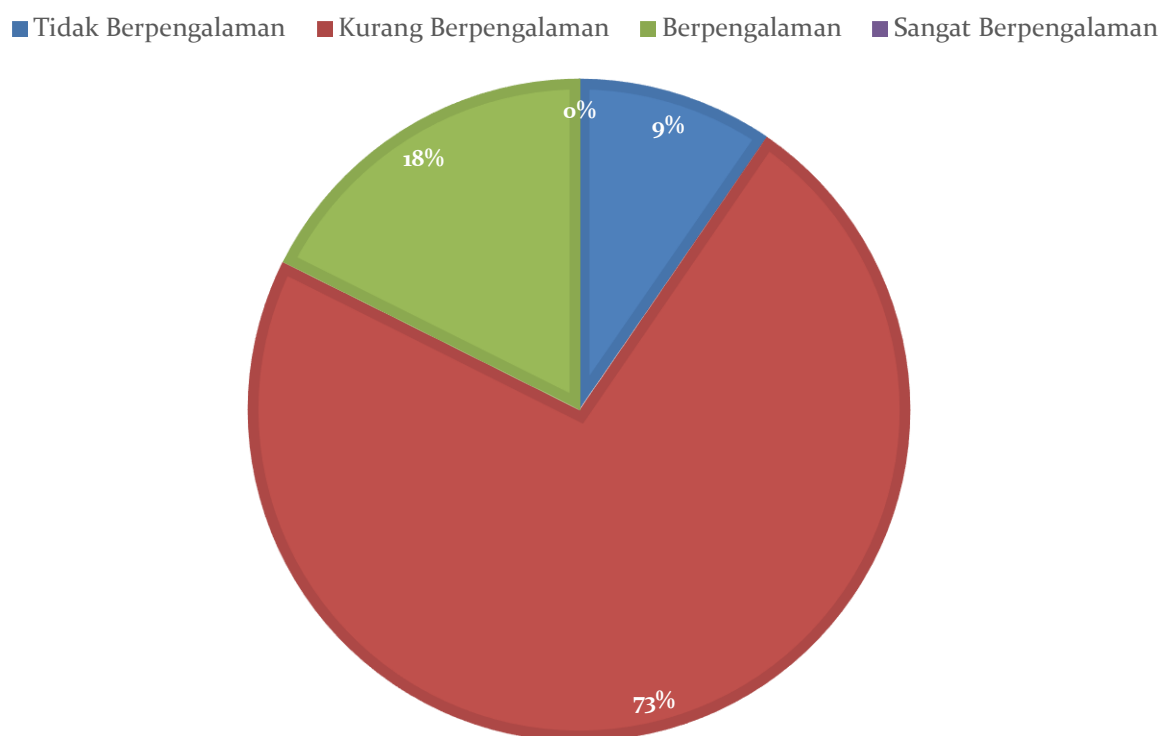


Figure 1. Young Citizens' Political Experience Index

If we review the facts based on the data above, this situation shows a negative tendency regarding the condition of political experience of young citizens. This tendency shows that young citizens have more weak political experience. It should be noted that the indicators considered in measuring political experience in this data are three points; 1) experience in providing voting rights; 2) experience in being involved in campaigns; 3) experience in becoming an organizer of political elections. This shows that in general young citizens are less experienced in these three indicators. This is contrary to the ideal conditions described by Sneha & Javed (2024) the youth involvement in politics refers to the participation of young people in various aspects of political life. Although specifically, data analysis shows that the tendency of young citizens to be involved in giving their votes is quite good, but their index tends to be low in the indicators of campaign involvement and involvement in becoming political election organizers. They (young people) can be a creative force, a dynamic source of innovations, and they have undoubtedly (United Nations, 2012).

Moving on to another topic, beyond the fact that young citizens have less than ideal political experiences, they also have distinctive characteristics compared to previous generations. The distinctiveness of these activities is reflected in their interactivity in using digital media, especially social media. Young citizens tend to have activities that are mostly spent on social media. Data obtained by researchers, even exceeding the expectations of the potential activities of young citizens in surfing social media. Almost half of them, even dare to justify that they always use social media. and more than half of them, choose to justify that they often use social media. 0% of young citizens who never use social media, and only 0.4% who use it occasionally. Politics has also seen the application of fake news to undermine press freedom as it reports inconvenient truths or speaks "truth to power" (Sneha & Javed, 2024).

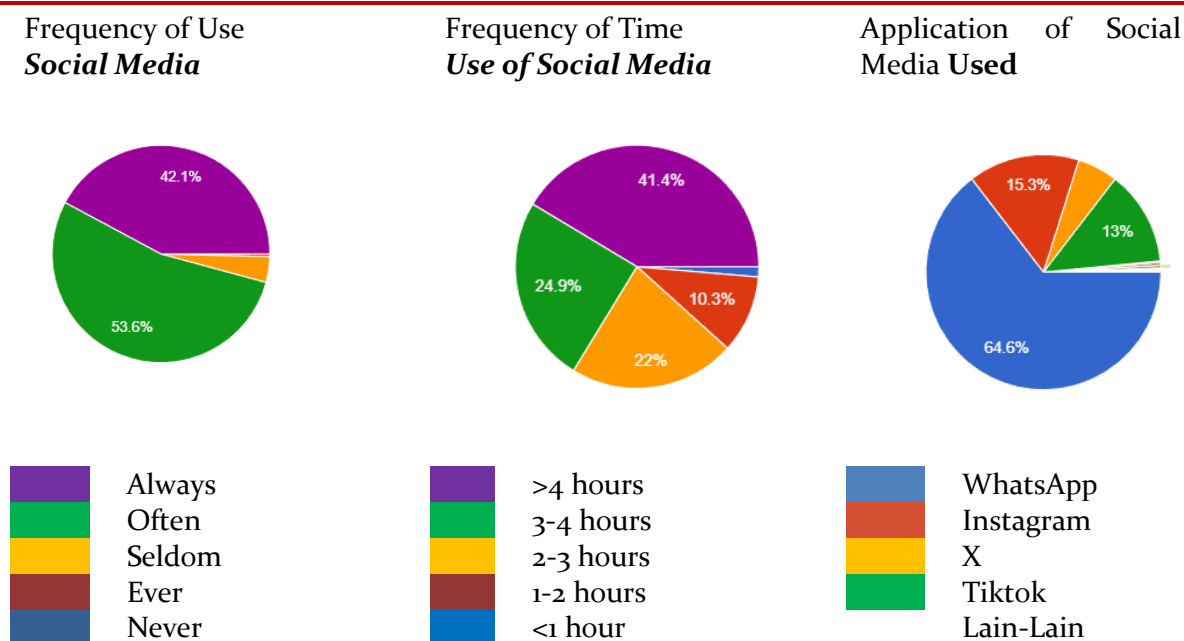


Diagram 2. Social Media Usage Data by Type, Time, and Frequency

The research findings as explained above, show a trend of activities that are increasingly moving towards digitalization. Specifically, young citizens tend to provide more interaction in the digital community. This is reflected in the bias of young citizens who apparently spend a lot of time on social media. In practice, this activity is apparently carried out by young citizens on platforms that tend to provide multi-directional communication services. Thus, this shows a transformation of the social interactions of young citizens who are increasingly tendentious towards digital developments. The next question that needs to be explored is what are the things that provide practical influences on the description of the political experience? Several expert opinions through various studies have put forward various studies on this matter, Young people tend to trust various practical opinions about current phenomena. In some situations, even young citizens trust them more than politicians because of the perception of authenticity and connectedness. This situation is what causes political involvement to increase on issues related to them (Loader et al., 2015).

In practice, there are even some positive correlations that social media also has an influence on this. Social media also plays a role in shaping political opinions among first-time voters, indicating that peer discussions and social support on these platforms increase their political efficacy and engagement (Ohme et al., 2017). Thus, the contextual situation provides opportunities for social media to function as an important tool for young citizens to express their political views and mobilize action, thus redefining traditional modes of political participation (Vromen et al., 2016).

Based on the findings and analysis that have been conducted, this study found forms of citizen political interest and involvement in the 21st century. Klingemann explains that political interest is the main component of political motivation, a variable indicating ability in ideological conceptualization, which is essential for participation in the democratic process (Rebenstorf, 2004). The definition indicates that in other situations political interest is considered as a bias towards political interest. Indeed, in some definitions political interest is often attributed to political interests that are practical in nature. However, in this article political interest is seen as the ability to conceptualize ideology so that with this ability they have an interest in involving

themselves in a political process. The explanation of civic political interest is important to be able to identify the extent to which young citizens have a tendency to be political. Reading this situation can influence recommendations for ideal political activities, including providing solutions to meet practical political needs.

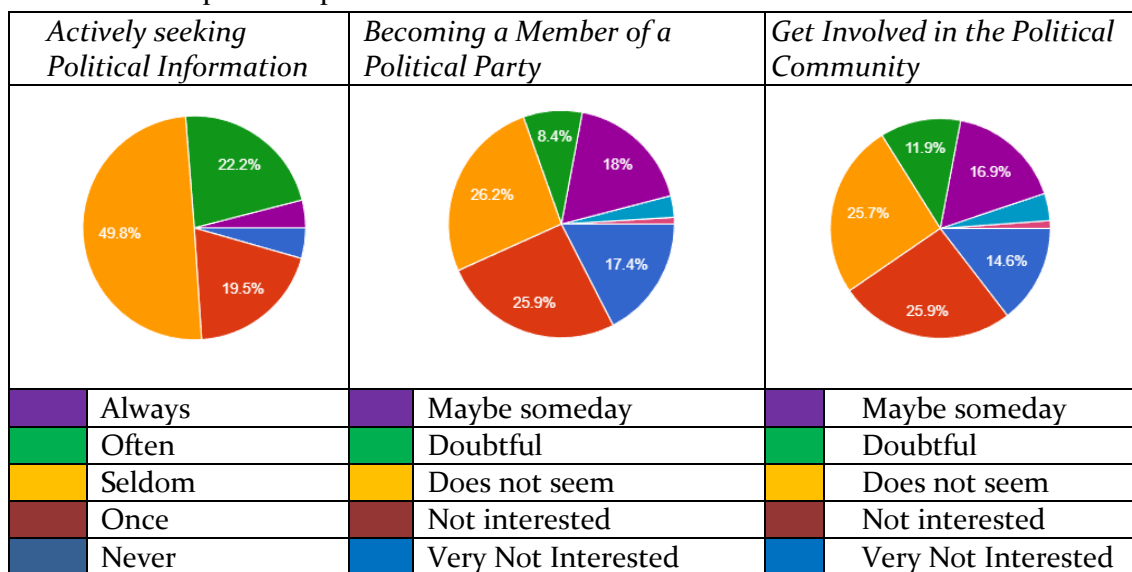


Diagram 2. Citizens' Political Interest by Form

In the context of an apparent failure of political socialization and the resulting decline in engagement with traditional political agencies (Collin, 2015) If we look deeper, we can see that young citizens actually pay more attention to political information. However, they are not interested in getting involved and joining to become members of political parties and joining practical political communities. This gap is certainly not normal. However, this study does not attempt to define the gap. One thing we can justify is that at least young citizens have the inclination to pay attention to the world of politics even if it is just to look for information on social media.

The stronger the social ties between individuals in society, the higher the awareness of individual input to politics, which in turn will increase their political participation. This is also in line with Anthony Downs, a political scientist who is famous for his work entitled "An Economic Theory of Democracy" (1957). In his work, Downs put forward a theory of political participation that focuses on the awareness of individual input in the political process (Mas'od & MacAndrews, 2021; Surbakti, 2010; Suryana C et.al, 2022). Political awareness as one of the main pillars that form the basis of the social and political system. This value cannot be ignored, because it affects the process of national development. If this value is ignored, the country will be constructed without a basis and slowly collapse when facing a major crisis involving the state and society. Awareness itself has a meaning, namely a person's view of himself and the environment in which he is located. While political awareness has a meaning, namely a person's view of political rights and obligations and events that occur in the surrounding environment (Nurbaiti, 2019). Political awareness is a state of a person's full awareness of knowledge of various things related to the political process in society. According to Almond and Verba, a person is considered to have political awareness if he has realized 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 to the government. Output in the form of decisions, actions or results of government policies that are implemented (Irwan et al., 2021;

Nurbaiti, 2019).

In general, political awareness is an attitude and awareness felt by every individual in state politics. The most basic form of political awareness is about how someone knows the extent of political activities that occur in their area. Social and political knowledge and attention to political policies taken by the government are also included in political awareness. In a democratic country, every individual has their own rights and obligations, in relation to that, politics becomes a tool to realize the rights and obligations of citizens (Mas'ood & MacAndrews, 2021; Sutjipto et al., 2023). Political awareness at the next stage is seen from the attitude or feelings of liking or disliking new voters toward the policies made by the government. This attitude can be seen from how new voters feel cared for, benefited, and feel the impact of policies made by the government. At the stage of action or behavior, individuals can see and assess how the government or political parties are performing. This behavior is due to the end result of knowledge and understanding and attitudes towards policies made by the government. It would be strange if someone was indifferent to their own rights, that's where political awareness becomes a comprehensive thing.

Political awareness in Indonesia can be said to have not been fully implemented, certain groups of people are still indifferent to the world of politics in Indonesia. This can be seen from the recent election participation figures, citing data from kpu.go.id on the setkab.go.id page, since the 2014 presidential election to the 2017 regional elections, the participation rate has indeed increased (69.6% -74%), but it decreased again in the following year's regional elections in 2018, the participation rate soared in the 2019 presidential election with a percentage of 81.9% which made it the highest figure, but it decreased again in the following year, namely the 2020 regional elections at 76.9% (Anita Trisiana Eka Putri Permata Sari &, 2019; Zahro et al., 2023; Zulkarnaen et al., 2020). Based on these data, it can be said that the awareness and participation of Indonesian people in politics is still relatively unstable. These results are certainly influenced by many factors, the most important of which is how to increase political awareness, especially among the younger generation. Not a few young people view the world of politics from a negative perspective, about the struggle for power, an arena for corruption and becoming a tool to support the identity of a group. Far from that, the true nature of politics is an activity in a system or country that involves the process of determining the goals of the system and implementing the goals (Pasaribu, 2017; Triningsih, 2017).

Eradigital with various increasingly rapid changes, it is only natural that knowledge and information about the world of politics can be delivered quickly and accurately (Rahman et al., 2022). However, in reality, internet media is also one of the highest contributors of fake news or hoaxes in politics, it is very unfortunate because of the lack of education from related parties in this case political parties and the government. It would be interesting again if the focus of increasing this awareness is the younger generation. It would be very appropriate with the strategy of increasing awareness through internet media, especially social media. Political awareness means a psychological condition that is responsive to everything related to the state, including its politics. This means that society must have greater attention to state issues (Purnawati, 2018).

The concept of political awareness is a broad term in political science literature. It has been discussed using various terms such as political sophistication, political information, political knowledge, and political expertise (Amer, 2009). Ideological arrangement, and shared values contribute to the arrangement of political personalities among youth (Brown & Smith,

2020; Sneha & Javed, 2024). This explanation shows that political awareness is not only in terms of cognitive bias. More than that, political awareness also includes how political knowledge and expertise are used based on the political cognition they have. Specifically, this study will describe how the political awareness of young citizens is measured objectively according to quantitative analysis.

There are various expert statements, which try to operationalize the meaning of political awareness. The explanation of political awareness in this study will be based on the measurement of political awareness that has been carried out previously by Zetra et al. (2022) five sub-indicators that are the benchmark for the success of political awareness. The five indicators include; 1) being aware of political engagement; 2) political participation is the right and obligation; 3) being concerned about social-political condition; 4) being concerned about political issues; 5) being felt needed.

Being aware of political engagement means awareness in political involvement. This includes partisanship towards awareness in following active participation in the democratic process and the wisdom to follow it as an involvement that needs to be realized. Political participation is the right and obligation towards the meaning of awareness to be able to understand and distinguish between rights and obligations in carrying out political activities. This identification is needed to ensure that every political activity is carried out proportionally.

Being concerned about political issues towards the meaning of reviewing political issues as information that needs to be followed and requires special attention. From that perspective, politics is an issue that must be discussed and become a topic in an interaction. Being concerned about social-political conditions, namely towards the meaning of awareness and sensitivity to the general conditions or circumstances of society that are influenced by political dynamics and policies taken. This includes the ability to observe, understand, and feel the impact of political decisions on the social, economic, and cultural life of society at large. Individuals with this awareness not only know about political issues, but also care about how these issues manifest in everyday social realities, such as the level of welfare, social justice, or the quality of public services.

Finally, being felt needed refers to the meaning that individuals feel they have an important role and contribution and are needed in the political context. This relates to the self-perception that their voice, opinion, or action has meaning and can have an influence, no matter how small, in the political process or in forming better socio-political conditions. The existence of this feeling encourages individuals not to be apathetic, but rather to be involved because they feel their existence is significant and their participation is expected or even needed by their political system or community.

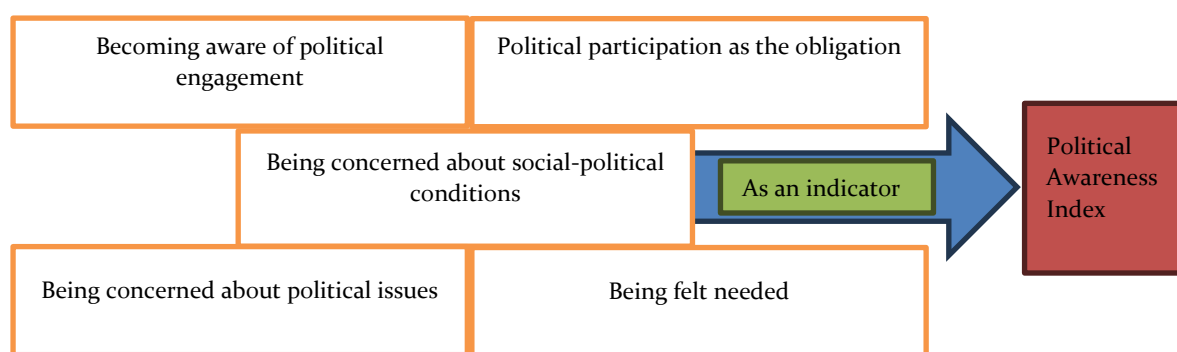


Figure 2. Correlation between Political Awareness Index Indicators

Thinking Zetra et al., (2022) This is used as a basis for researchers to measure the index of citizens' political awareness. The selection of these indicators is based on the contextuality of the concept with practical activities in the research subjects. Although political 'awareness' is sometimes a different concept from political 'involvement', the two concepts correlate with the form of mutual causality. This reason makes researchers use the concepts presented above as a basis for measuring political awareness factually. With these five sub-indicators, this study attempts to comprehensively measure the level of individual political awareness, which does not only stop at knowledge, but also includes attitudes, concerns, and self-perceptions in the political realm. The following describes the index of citizens' political awareness based on the results of research that has been carried out.

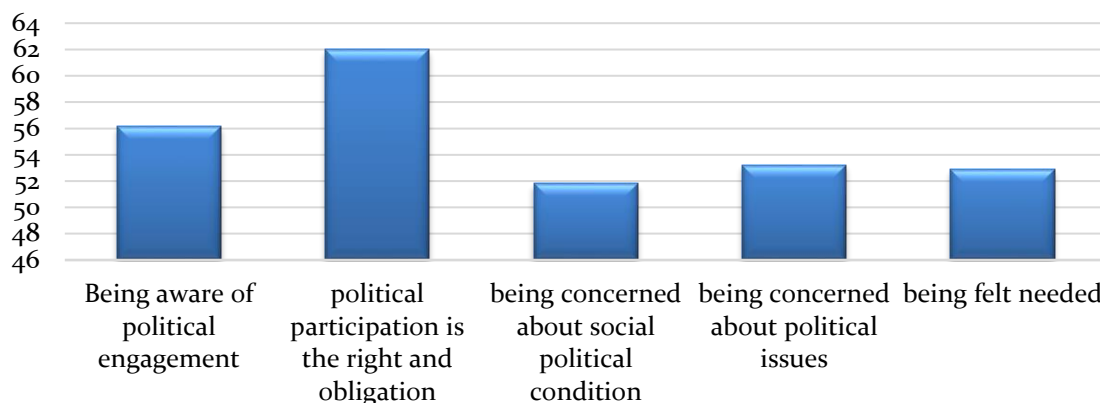


Diagram 3. Citizens' Political Awareness Index

Furthermore, to operationalize the measurement of political awareness based on the five sub-indicators that have been described previously, namely being aware of political engagement, political participation is the right and obligation, being concerned about social-political conditions, being concerned about political issues, and being felt needed. The scores obtained by respondents will be classified into certain levels. This score categorization aims to provide a clear interpretation of the level of individual political awareness in this study. The score range and categorization are as follows. A score of 0-20 indicates a Very Poor level of political awareness; A score of 21-40 is categorized as Poor; A score of 41-60 is interpreted as Sufficient; A score of 61-80 indicates a Good level of political awareness; and a score of 81-100 reflects a Very Good level of political awareness. Through this division of categories, the study can systematically assess and map the level of political awareness of participants.

Based on the measurement results, it can be explained that the political involvement of young citizens has not yet reached an optimal situation. Justification it is based on an index that shows the suboptimal political involvement of young citizens in overseeing political programs. In this indicator, young citizens have not been able to be dominantly involved in political discussions and provide ideas about their participation in politics. That also happens in other indicators, for example involvement or concentration on socio-political conditions, political issues and feelings of belonging to the world of politics. In these indicators, the resulting index tends to be low and does not show an optimistic side towards the success of political awareness. However, in general, young citizens tend to participate in order to be able to distinguish between rights and obligations appropriately and wisely. Although, this justification is only of thin value because it is not significantly related to the other indexes. In order to analyze this discussion more practical, the following will be discussed. Researchers show how the practical situation

regarding political stability is in several sub-indicators that represent several points explained above.

The distribution of data depicted in the graph above shows a tendency in several sub-indicators that do not show optimal data on the political awareness index. In terms of political knowledge and involvement, few citizens have adequate political awareness. This is also seen in the interest of young citizens to monitor political issues and political policies in their daily activities. This situation needs to be reviewed as an issue that the political awareness of young citizens has not yet reached the expected situation. Of course, this is a reason that needs to be considered by scientists, especially political education scientists, to implement and determine a practical solution so that this problem can be solved comprehensively.

Furthermore, the results of this study describe the ideal political education intervention to increase the value of participatory democratic awareness. Political education also functions to raise the spirit of youth (Zulkarnaen et al., 2020). In many countries, the younger generation is a new hope for bringing about social change. Political education directed at young people can increase their awareness of the importance of an active role in society (Anita Trisiana Eka Putri Permata Sari &, 2019). Through the program-youth programs, they are taught to recognize their potential, and how they can make a positive contribution to the community. Political awareness that is built from an early age will form a generation that not only cares about social issues, but also has the skills to voice opinions and take action.

Political education is an important aspect in building civil awareness in society. In this context, political education is not only limited to teaching about the system of government, laws, or civil rights. More than that, political education functions as a bridge to connect individuals with the political process, and to increase community involvement and participation in national and state life. Civil awareness itself includes individuals' understanding and awareness of their rights and obligations as citizens, as well as active participation in the decision-making process that affects life together. The importance of this aspect of understanding and participation is in line with Dahl's argument (1989) which emphasizes that the democratic process requires citizens with "enlightened understanding" and "effective participation" in order to run ideally.

Political education today aims to achieve the level of political participation, increasing awareness of roles and participation in reaching the making of public policies. Courage in determining oneself autonomously is the main thing in political education in order to fight for politics in the midst of discourses of conflicting political interests. So the political activities of citizens are in order to provide influence in the process of making and deciding general policies that concern the lives of many people and concern public welfare. Thus political education is in order to prepare individual citizens in political struggles, to achieve the most beneficial political solution for all parties, without having to harm the wider community and many (Kartono, 1996; Purnawati, 2018; Putra et al., 2024). So, political education in order to invite citizens of the subject to participate in thinking, dialogue, actively doing politics with a variety of ways that are possible to achieve. Because with a variety of ways it will be easier to reach a consensus rather than getting caught up in only one way in solving political problems. So it is clearer that political education today is trying to reorient the way society feels, thinks, wants, which is associated with active political action and deeds in order to achieve progress and improvement in the life of the nation and state (Handoyo & Lestari, 2017; Panggabean, 2003; Pasaribu, 2017). Political education is not only a matter of having opinions, thinking and having opinions, but also leads to its relationship with action. Therefore, learning politics always takes place in relation to real action.

So in this case, political education always has the following elements. First, character formation through attitudes, beliefs, nature and personality of each person. Second, praxis, action, and actions towards an improvement (transcendence) for political and social structures. Third, democratization in all areas of social society and life. Fourth, social criticism (Social Criticism), and criticisms of political fallacies committed by the rulers and political party regimes. Fifth, realize it with praxis and real efforts in overcoming conflicts caused by differences in interests and political ideology interests (Arni, 2010; Huntington, 2003; Panggabean, 2003; Surbakti, 2010).

Political education as an effort to improve oneself in the form of political knowledge of the community so that they can participate effectively in line with the concept of democracy which is able to fulfill its role through participation in helping citizens to understand, love and feel and realize their rights and obligations (Anita Trisiana Eka Putri Permata Sari &, 2019). Political education for millennials is a process of increasing political and state awareness in supporting Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. Explaining that political education has the purpose of encouraging the expansion of vision, interest and participation, in-depth study of political philosophy, social, economic, democratic and legal problems and emphasizing the values contained in Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution and increasing understanding of the main function of institutions in the values of society that fight for their rights and obligations as citizens (Purnawati, 2018; Siregar, 2023). The function and purpose of education through teaching in Indonesia as mandated by Law No. 20 of 2003 is to develop the ability and form the character and civilization of a dignified nation to enlighten the life of the nation, aiming to develop the potential of students to become human beings who believe in and are devoted to God Almighty, have noble morals, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens.

The goals of our national education mentioned above, the goal of political education in Indonesia is to display the human/unique role of each individual as a citizen, by developing their potential and talents to the maximum, and to be able to actively participate in the political process to build the nation and state (Kartono, 1996). Sustainable development is formed through education, one of which is forming a way of thinking through political education (Gough & Scott, 2006).

The role of political education for the human self is expected to raise awareness, driving force, self-motivation, development of interests and talents of each individual to be able to carry out their political functions as citizens in carrying out their status, roles and life missions. Self-activity in the role of this political function will be able to give birth to institutionalized activities. Be it institutions that are articulated in the form of public will in the form of interest groups or strengthening political infrastructure in the form of political party organizations that more effectively accommodate the representation of the people as voters through general elections. Through this concept of representation, the true role of the giver of power delegation, namely the wider community, must have a control function, with evaluation to a handful of elites, namely those who sit in parliament. This can only be achieved when their level of political education literacy is at a fairly good level. Political education is not a combination of the words education and politics (Halilovic-Pastuovic, 2022; Ramet et al., 2022).

The educational method that is emphasized to support the success of political education for citizens is more emphasized on non-formal educational methods. This method is different from formal and informal educational methods. Formal educational methods are usually classified into three levels, namely primary, secondary and tertiary where the government acts

as the person in charge; while informal educational methods are educational methods that are not organized and usually not systematic (Handoyo & Lestari, 2017; Panggabean, 2003; Surbakti, 2010) (Panggabean, 2003; Surbakti, 2010; Handoyo & Lestari, 2017). Non-formal education is any form of systematic educational activities organized outside the formal system to provide learning patterns to group members in a population (society) both adults and children.

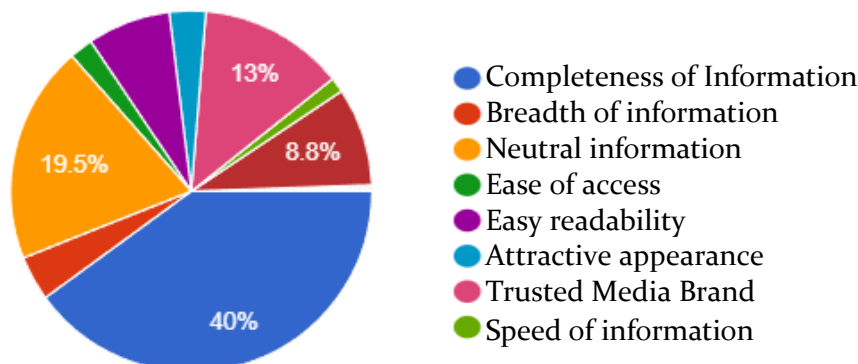
The benefits of this education can only be felt through a long process by strengthening understanding at the personal level through the cultivation of knowledge, skills, attitudes and abilities to understand something from everyday experiences, attending meetings, listening to the radio, TV, print media, social media and so on. Through these sources, society gains an adequate understanding of politics and government or everything related to the ins and outs of a country's political system. Political education is emphasized on the individual citizen. Because it emphasizes the process and individual autonomy, the (formal) political education model is carried out by providing sufficient space for citizens to express and express their opinions. The methods used in political education include. First, brainstorming, which is generating ideas suddenly, then starting a discussion based on those ideas (Lestari, 2017)

The soul of political education is "Politische Engagement" (political agreements), namely participation in political events, and the role of determining political policies. This is the goal of political education which is essentially to involve the people and citizens in a political system. That the people/citizens of citizenship play an active role in balancing the strength and power in the country (Arniti, 2020; Hemafitria et al., 2021). In other words, the people are not citizens like ducks floating on water without initiative and dynamics and are also not passive reaction machines in a political system that obeys the provisions of government regulations without playing a role in controlling, supervising, evaluating outside of supporting policies that are already pro them (Halilovic-Pastuovic, 2022; Ramet et al., 2022). So that political education is an emancipatory movement of citizens in forming a political insight (Political Insight). So that citizens in their participation are not only limited to voting ceremonies but far from that in the form of a truly "true" awareness born of knowledge, not just participation with blind partisanship, they are in a neutral position not taking sides solely on interests. But realizing that he is part of a wider, pluralistic society that must be the main subject in social and state life. This emancipatory movement is what frees an individual from the shackles of the influence of other parties, coercion, even freedom in expressing self-understanding. A person in a society becomes aware of not wanting to experience stagnation in a political struggle in changing fate for the better in a political system of his government (Giroux, 2022; Kidd, 2012; Rahman & Suharno, 2020).

Eveland & Schmitt (in Galston, 2001; Park, 2017) explains according to the normative theory of democracy, a democratic system works better when citizens are politically knowledgeable. The response to this question requires an objective description. For that, based on the design and development methodology. The first step that the author will describe is to try to be objectively open to factual data about the conditions expected by young citizens regarding the intervention of ideal political education according to them. Practically, we immediately emphasize that the best intervention is to compile a digital political education media that utilizes social media. Some have argued that social media will have positive and potentially strong effects on political knowledge by providing more opportunities to access political content (Bode, 2016; Boulianne, 2009; Park, 2017). This is justified based on the correlation between the activities of young citizens who tend to favor digital progress and have

distinctive characteristics in the use of social media. Social media, despite wide recognition of the term, are not one single entity. They contain different types, such as microblogging, social networking, and media sharing (Park, 2017). To achieve this data, we have collected data based on the responses of the research subjects. these data can at least describe how they actually expect the ideal political education media to be able to increase political awareness. Pay attention to these contradictory data.

Choose the indicators that you consider most important for receiving political information.



Which one do you prefer?

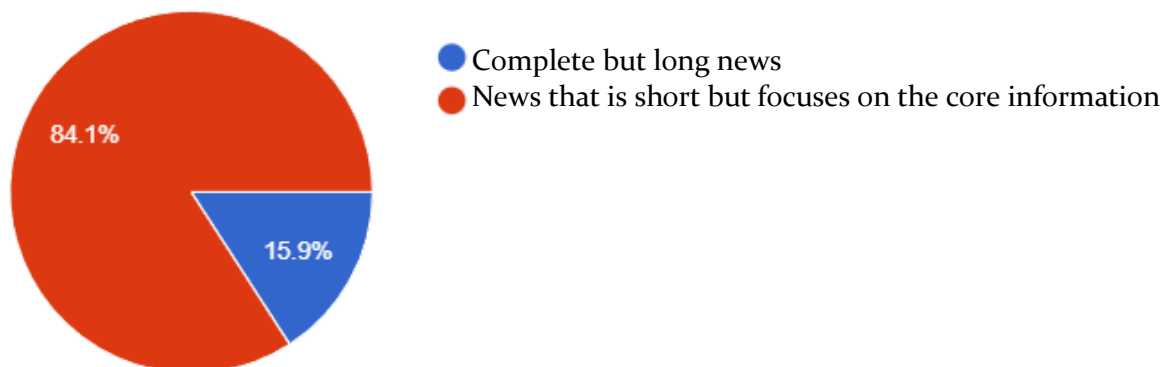


Figure 3. Factors to Consider in Creating Political Education Media

Researchers see a gap between the expectations desired by young citizens about the indicators that are most considered by them and what they practically prefer when consuming political education. Young citizens have a fairly high tendency to be able to accept political information in certain media based on the completeness of the information. However, in other indicators, it turns out that they prefer short news and do not require complete information. This shows a gap between their ideal expectations and the situation they are in. However, at least the data supports the need for a political education media that has simple accessibility with complete and concise content. This is the core point that is the starting point for answering the ideal political education intervention, namely the availability of political education media that can display political news that meets user needs.

Apart from the unidirectional translation that shows a gap between the two diagrams above, the bias of young people to like complete information should be seen as an opportunity

for the presence of increased political awareness. This provides an opportunity for strengthening political awareness to increasingly show the transformation from apathy to participation. Based on the data that has been described previously, it shows a tendency for subjects who have concern to be involved in politics. However, profiling shows the need for certain media that need to be arranged properly in order to encourage the process of strengthening political awareness to have more power. Thus, the progress to change the phenomenon of apathy to active participation has found a practical solution by providing a mechanism for moral education programs with the help of educational media that are in line with the needs of the subjects.

Conclusion

Young citizens' political awareness is not yet optimal, especially in the experience of being directly involved in campaigns or organizing elections, despite their interest in voting. They show a significant shift to the digital realm, with a strong tendency to use social media for interaction and consumption of political information. Therefore, this increase in political awareness requires a contextual approach, namely the development of political education media that is relevant and adaptive to the characteristics and digital preferences of the younger generation, in order to facilitate access to ideal political information. Scientifically, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the evolution of political participation in the digital era, especially in the segment of young citizens, and emphasizes the need for innovation in political education strategies that are responsive to changes in their media preferences and social interactions. These findings enrich the treasury of contemporary political behavior studies and provide an empirical basis for the development of more effective civic education interventions.

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