

# Perception of the Role of Social Media, Participation, and Behavior in Determining Political Options in the Indonesian Presidential Election in 2019

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## ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the extent of student perceptions about the role of social media in the 2019 Presidential Election and student perceptions of the influence of social media on student behavior in determining their political choices and knowing student perceptions of student participation in the 2019 Presidential Election.

The method used in this study is a qualitative method by describing the data obtained until it can genuinely answer the research objectives. In qualitative research, data collection is carried out in natural settings, primary data sources, and data collection techniques using triangular. Data analysis in this study was carried out through three activities that co-occurred namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion or verification

The results showed that the students' perceptions that converged that the role of social media was significant, effective and efficient were used as a means of socializing the 2019 presidential election so that students participated positively in determining their political choices. This shows that the encouragement of students to participate and decide on their political decisions in the 2019 Presidential Election is getting stronger due to the insights gained from social media content about the socialization of the 2019 Presidential Election.

**Keywords:** *perception, social media, participation, behavior*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The results of LIPI research on strategic issues in Indonesia, the 2019 election was proposed by the head of the chief political researcher of Firman Noor, 2018 three critical issues that concern the government and the political elites, namely civil liberties, the behavior of choosing and Electoral participation.

Civil liberties can be interpreted that the elections must be in accordance with the elections, namely the freedom of choice without any coercion from any party and this is what would lead to the behavior of voters whether voters use his right to accept or Not. Thus, with the punishment of freedom and voter's behavior, voters will see participation.

Voter participation is an aspect that can determine the quality of elections in Indonesia; the chosen behavior is predicted to be influenced by the choice tendency of the Millennial group, consideration of religious representation, and influence of religiosity in Political perspective of voters (Noor Firman, 2018).

Based on the projection of the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) 2013 The number of Indonesian population in 2018 reaches 265 million. The amount consists of 133.17 million male and 131.88 million female souls. Meanwhile, according to the General Election Commission (KPU) of the fixed electorate register (DPT) elections 2019

which was set on 28 August 2018 as many as 185,994,374 people or 70.08% of the Indonesian population.

The community has a critical role in the implementation of elections, where the population is the main factor and the determinant of the success of the polls. Therefore it is time for us to give valuable learning to the community about the meaning and meaning of an election, so that people are not mired into an error when determining his choice in elections.

Notwithstanding the use of voting rights in a general election is a subjective right of a citizen who has qualified to vote, but from an aspect of state and nation, interest may be deemed that the use of suffrage or voting rights of citizens in the general elections are as a form of responsibility for participating in governance. Through the election process, the people surrendered their powers or its sovereignty to the Government to manage or administer the country's named organization.

The above community includes students whose numbers are listed in 2018 as many as 6,924,511 people or 3.72% of the amount of DPT. The number of students is undoubtedly very significant on the results of voting in the elections President 2019.

The participation of voters in the 2009 presidential election amounted to 71.17% and the 2014 presidential election targeted the KPU of 75% and the fact is only reached by

69.58%. Participation of this choice is directly proportional to the number of white (abstainers), so it can be called abstainers number in the 2014 presidential election of 30.42% increase from the presidential election of 2009, which is 28.83%.

Although the electoral implementation was liquified from work and education activities, the abstainers figures remained and even increased. It is also often addressed to the students as part of the abstainers because students generally reside in the city where their education is and far from their hometown, so there is a tendency not to use the right.

The choice for various reasons.

The efforts to increase voters participation rates in the 2019 elections appear to be in a variety of media, especially social media to invite 6,924,511 students or 3.72% of the amount of DPT to exercise their rights in the 2019 election.

The high use of social media in Indonesia was the reason why social media became a media in socializing the 2019 elections. The latest research results done by social We Are and Hootsuite, it is revealed that Indonesian people are keen to visit social media. Recorded about 130 million Indonesian people are active in various social media, ranging from Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Whatsapp, Telegram, and others.

The social media operating system is not separated from Internet usage, and Internet usage penetration reaches 132.7 million people, meaning 97.9% of Internet users in Indonesia already using social media or 48% of Indonesians have used media Including students as active social media users. From data, 130 million social media users, 120 million or about 92% use mobile phone devices. While the number of users of mobile phone devices in Indonesia 177.9 million or 49% of the total population.

Social Media can influence citizen's political participation through various mechanisms: elaborative cognitive, information acquisition, and political discussion (Zuniga, 2012). Social Media allows the identity of a group to be formed, as "the key antecedent of political attitudes/behavior" (Halvern, Valenzuela, & Katz, 2017). Groups are formed through excellent communication. After creating the identity group, the group then conducts political activities following its mission-vision. With such a process expected social media can improve the quality of political communication of citizens to strengthen democracy.

Efforts to increase participation rates at the election of 2019 elections through socialization of social media issues, whether the role of social media is perceived as a media that can affect voters behavior change in determining options and increase the participation rate of voters,

Community political participation is an essential aspect of a democratic state order. Political participation affects the strong legitimacy of the course of government. Each community has their preferences and interests to determine their choice in the elections. It can be said that the future of elected public officials in an election depends on the preference of society as voters.

The purpose of this research is to know the perception of students about social media as a means of socialization of presidential election 2019, identifying the student's perception of behavior in determining political choice in presidential election 2019 and identifying Student perception of political participation in the presidential election 2019. The theoretical

benefits that are expected to contribute to the development of science, particularly the socio-political field and the practical benefits of the results of this research can be used as a valuable discourse for the related parties involved To succeed in the election.

This research is critical because it will show how students have a perception about the role of social media that is used as a Socialisai or election campaign, in particular, the Pilpres 2019. Besides, how the student's perception in determining his political choice and judgment of student participation in using the right of election as citizens, especially before the implementation of the election Pilpres 2019.

## **1.1. Library Overview**

### **1.1.1 Perception**

Perception is the act of compiling, recognizing and interpreting sensory information to provide an overview and understanding of the environment. Perceptions include all signals in the nervous system, which are the result of physical or chemical stimulation of the sensing organ. Whereas according to Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI) online, perception is the response (acceptance) directly from something or process someone knows a few things through its sense.

### **1.1.2. Social Media**

Social media (social media) is an online media that is used as a means of social gaming on the Internet. On social media, its users can communicate with each other, interact, share, networking, and many other activities.

Social Media uses website-based technology or applications that can transform communication into an interactive dialogue form. Some examples of social media that are widely used are YouTube, Facebook, Blog, Twitter, WhatsApp, Line, Telegram, and others.

As mentioned in the social media definitions above, one of the objectives is as an alternative communication medium for the community. Some targets use social media in general: 1. Self-actualization, 2. Shaping the population, 3. Establish personal relationships and to serve as marketing media.

For the vast majority of people, social media is a place for self-actualization. They are showing talent and uniqueness on social media so that many people can see it. No wonder why nowadays many artists compete to be famous on their social media.

Online communities are elementary to find right now, both on the forum site and on other social network sites. Social Media is a place where online communities gather with similar interests to communicate and exchange information or opinions.

Social Media is also instrumental in the activity of establishing personal relationships with others personally. There are a lot of social media users who find life partners, friends, business associates, on social media.

Very many social media users are, of course, a potential place to market something. Many developing online businesses are now heavily influenced by social media as a promotional place. Nowadays, social media development is also used as a marketing tool in the sense of socialization of presidential candidates.

Social Media plays a significant role in shaping perception and enhancing the student's cognitive aspects of two 2019 presidential candidates. Social Media was instrumental in improving the student's affective aspects of two 2019 presidential candidates. And the social Media provides information about the vision/mission and the work program of both candidates, but through social media has shortcomings in terms of understanding (Muhammad Hafiizh, 2012).

Based on these opinions, students as social media users should have a good cognitive perception so that they have rational behavior in determining their political choices and are encouraged to participate in Presidential election 2019.

### **1.1.3. Participation**

The participation referred to in this study is political participation, especially in the implementation of a Democratic Party, including involvement in the presidential election.

Political participation means participation; in the political context, it refers to the involvement of citizens in various legislative processes. Citizen participation in the political process not only means that citizens support the decisions or policies that have been outlined by the leaders, because if this is the case, then the proper term is political mobilization. Political participation is citizen involvement in all phases of policy, from the beginning of decision-making to decision-making, as well as opportunities to participate in the execution of decisions. The notion of political participation is a citizen activity aimed at influencing political decision making. Political participation is conducted by people in their position as citizens, not politicians or civil servants and the nature of political participation is voluntary, rather than mobilized by the state or the ruling party (Samuel P. Huntington, 1990).

According to Bolgherini, political participation "... A series of activities related to political life, aimed at influencing public decisions in a more or less direct way — legal, conventional, Pacific, or contentious. Bolgheri argues that political participation in all activities relating to political life, aimed at influencing decision-making either directly or indirectly by legal, conventional, peaceful, or forcing (Silvia Bolgherini, 2010).

The participation of students as citizens who have political rights in a State life is certainly expected to be able to suppress the abstainers figures, and this can be referred to as the perception of participation in this research.

### **1.1.4. Voter Behavior**

Several studies in Germany were regarded as the earliest milestones of the Choosing of behavioral studies, among others the study of Eugen Wuzburger (1907) which examined in-depth the reasons for abstainers (Roth,2008). He found that the leading cause of the puritans was the voting rights holder who was absent during the election day.

Unlike the results of the study of Behavior studies in the new Order period, similar studies post New Order by Saiful Mujani, and Liddle showed the magnitude of influence of Leadership and the identification of political parties to the behavior of choosing community Indonesia in the years 1999 and 2004 (Liddle and Mujani,2010). Another review of the

voting behavior in Indonesia in the 1999 election found that religious and ethnicity factors did not affect the chosen behavior in Indonesia (Ananta,2004).

The sociological approach to the behavior of vote mentions that the factors that most influence the choice of society in the elections are characteristic and social grouping. The practice of a person's selector pertains to the social group from which the individual originated (Roth,2008). It means social characteristics determine a person's political tendencies. The social grouping referred to herein as age, gender, religion, occupation, socio-economic class, regional, family background, activities in formal and informal groups. These social groups were seen as influential in the decision to choose because they were instrumental in forming one's attitude, perception, and orientation.

Students can be categorized as formal groups that have neutrality and rationalization in determining their choice. This group more agree that the point of the press in the approach to rational choice is on consideration of the profit loss of the individual voters (Evans,2004). Evans mentions that there are several criteria of a voter to be said to be rational voters. There are at least five criteria that he or she pointed out, as below: 1. Decide if proofed some alternatives; 2. Able to create order of preference; 3. The order of individual choice is not necessarily the same among individuals, one with another; 4. They are dropping options on something that is in the first order of preference; 5. When faced with the same or balanced alternatives that he was unlikely to make a sequence of preference, then that individual would tend to drop options on alternatives he had previously chosen.

Based on the above exposure, the issue orientation and candidate orientation can be seen as part of two different approaches in the behavior of the vote. If voters choose based on the orientation of the issue or candidate based on the information obtained and then consider the profit or loss from the choice, in this case, the orientation of the issue and candidate can be entered into the approach Rational choice. So the main difference of rational voters and that does not lie in the information collected by voters to be used as the basis of consideration in the selection. At the end of the series, rational voters usually consider the profit of the loss of that choice. On these criteria, there are also authors who say that rational voters are never present because voters tend to receive information passively and easier to digest information about personal candidates than facts about Particular issue (Shenkman,2008:43). So the knowledge that the selector collects is nothing fully complete.

The elections are globally recognized as an arena for representative democracy as well as a periodic change of governance. According to the minimalist Theory of Democracy (Schumpeterian), the elections were an arena that was the one who hosted the competition (contestation) between the political actors to gain power; People's political participation in determining options; Liberalization rights – civil and political rights of citizens of NEGARA1. Democracy also outlines that elections are opportunities for opposition and people to run the mechanism of checks and balances against the ruling party (ruling party). Although many circles assess democracy's conception as this tends to be minimalistic, the minimalist practice of democracy has

established a system of determining/filling public offices in all democratic countries. It means that the elections have been institutionally institutional and become a universal mechanism in the political system in democratic countries. In the context of votes, the electoral machinery is said to be democratic when fulfilling several parameters, 1. General Elections 2. Power Rotation 3. Recruitment is openly 4. Public accountability. (Robert Dahl). Quality selection must have the criteria that allow the people to; A) Choose between different policy bids and competing parties or candidates B) having the accountability of elected officials for the actions they take, and c) transforming symbolic conception (people's sovereignty) into action Actual real life. At this point, the design of individual universality in democracy (having equal rights) should be held high. That all citizens have the same opportunities and opportunities in evaluating and determining the leader. Thus, the participation of the citizens in the elections is essential. On the same side, a good understanding of the strategic roles of citizens will encourage the quality of democracy.

## **2. RESEARCH METHODS**

This research is carried out through a qualitative descriptive approach with analytical methods. Qualitative research is a research procedure that generates descriptive data of written or spoken words from people and observable behavior. Qualitative research rests on a holistic natural background, positioning the human being as a research tool, conducting data analysis inductive, more concerned with the process than the results of research conducted agreed by researchers and research subjects (Bogdan and Taylor in Moleong 2010).

The descriptive method is chosen because the research done is related to the ongoing events and associated with the present condition. An illustrative purpose is a method of researching the status of a human group, a subject, a set of circumstances, a system of thought, or current classes of events. The purpose of this descriptive research is to make descriptions, depictions, or paintings systematically and the relationship between the phenomena investigated (Nazir 2011).

This method is suitable in this study because the research seeks to figure out one human group's image to achieve the group's objectives, so that the phenomenon of the group can be revealed clearly and accurately.

## **3. RESULTS OF RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION**

### ***3.1. Discussion of Perception of Social Media Role***

Harvey Jersic Sikape (2014) argues that social media is one of the things that helps every individual to communicate with various parties around the world; Provided there is an Internet connection then the worldwide communication is well integrated. In the past decade, social media became a favorite medium to interact with each individual, making it easier for people to express their feelings, desires, and more. Social Media also helps people understand the world quickly, more rapidly knowing the information and development of the world. This research is not much different from the opinion above. The students have the perception, that social media is a media that plays a very important role in information, and

based on it, then they have a purpose in every social media account he owns.

In more detail on the matter, perception of the student's role can be described that 100% of students have an account with purpose as communication media, information media and entertainment media and almost all students or 96.9% of students Stating the role of social media is very important and helpful in his life.

Students often receive socialization, promotion, goodwill in the form of audio, audiovisual or video and the form of text in various areas of life, especially about the political problems that when the research was done in the 2019 presidential election. This is in line with the opinion of Sherly Nelsa Fitri (2018) that the use of social media as a tool to accelerate the social change process in developing countries and also be used as a tool for conducting political campaigns, propaganda, and Advertisements. Almost all students (72.8%) argues that socialization, publication, broadcast about political life before the presidential election 2019 is very precise and a fascination for him, so that they gain insight into the mechanism of Presidential Decree 2019, knowing the profile of each To find out about the problems that arise in the 2019 presidential election.

### ***3.2. Discussion of Student Participation in 2019 Elections***

Aruma Azula (2014) argues that critical student attitudes and always requesting more from the government make them have high expectations on proposed candidates. If a student feels that no candidate can fulfill his/her expectations, they tend to choose the path of not donating his voice, aka Golput. Although abstainers can be a disconcerting thing, at this point, it becomes a habit that is difficult to eliminate. It becomes a phenomenon that will continue to happen and is done by students somehow.

Further Sasmito Mardim (2019) said that based on the results of a survey of electoral participation organizations, Jeune & Raccord (J&R) mentions the potential abstainers or not vote among millennials in the presidential election of 2019 reached more than 40 percent. The survey involved 1,200 respondents across the province of Indonesia on 10-16 March 2019 with a margin of error of approximately 2.8 percent.

According to both, it is evident that students as millennials are currently accused of being a real contributor to Golput in Indonesia. This research rejected the accusation because the participation number of the University of Semarang students in the 2019 election is high enough 96.9% of students use the right to select the 2019 presidential election, by tapping on the right of choice is a problem, and it is important for students to donate their voice for the Indonesian leadership 5 years ahead. 3.1% of Semarang university students who do not choose are students who do not vote on the grounds that they do not know the mechanisms of choice for students outside the city and their holidays only one day so that they can not go home, because they come from outside the island of Java. Taj Yasin Maimoen (2019) as deputy governor of Central Java said that according to KPU Jateng data, most of the regional students who when the day of Pencoblosan are reluctant to return home to their respective hometown. Conversely, while still living in the overseas, students are unwilling to take care of the certificate of change to be tried.

The more important thing to be disclosed from this research is that students use the right of choice is not affected by anyone (93.8%), they know the information about the presidential election 2019 from social media, but the number of small numbers are 78 People or 29.9% who receive information about political life. In general (69.1%) They have their own choice based on his life experience which knows the profile and track record of each Paslon, more confidence after they know the vision and mission of each of the presidential candidate's spouses.

9.2% of respondents did agree with the abstainers because choosing is a right and right to be used or not depends on each individual and they argue that nothing can be chosen because both have a lot of shortcomings. Behind the numbers that agreed to abstainers, apparently, 90.8% of students do not like the existence of an abstainer because the student wants to donate his voice for the advancement of the nation and country, especially in the next five years.

Students also have an interest in practical political problems in their life outside the campus, and they have the tips to eliminate the Tudinagan that students are abstainer donors, i.e., through political education such as through courses Pancasila and the citizenship education that has been obliged in the curriculum nationally.

### ***3.3. Student Behavior Discussion in Determining Political Choice***

Based on student participation data, that 96.9% of students participated in the presidential election of 2019 and its participation followed by determining the option of 98.1%, this means they contributed to the success of the presidential Decree 2019 and even (85.4%) From them stated that the determination of choice was planned in advance by observing the integrity of the candidate candidates and considering the competency of Leadershipnya.

The student is not very looking at his deprecative party in determining his choice. It is evident that 78.1% of them identify the decision not based on political parties, although there are about 21.9% of students learning the selection based on the deprecative Partai. They choose to rationally consider that determining the choice is mandatory in participating in the presidential election which is the right and they have a visionary goal that is to be more advanced and not based on the interests of Private. They realize that they are part of the state of Indonesia and want to vote for the sake of the people, nations and countries as outlined in the opening of the CONSTITUTION 1945, which is the ideals of the nation to create an independent State, United, sovereign, just and prosperous.

Student behavior shows that they love their homeland because they want Indonesia to be more advanced than the present time, so that students are so serious about determining their choice in the 2019 presidential election.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

a. Students to perceive the role of social media is very important in his life as a communication media, information media, and entertainment media. The

importance of social media is not separated from student objectives in the ownership of social media accounts. Social Media is essential for students in receiving information, socialization, broadcast, or promotion about presidential election 2019. It can be more convincing for students who have had political choices and provide new insight to those who have not yet had political decisions.

- b. The participation of students in the presidential election 2019 apparently not as predicted will happen a lot of abstainers, but the student has a bad perception about the presidential election. Students are aware that they are part of the country who have the right to determine their nation's leadership for the next five years and want Indonesia to be better than today's life, in other words, that Indonesia should be able to achieve Goals and national objectives as outlined in the opening of the CONSTITUTION 1945.
- c. The determination of political choice is perceived by the students as a common interest and is not influenced by personal interests. They choose rationally by considering that determining the choice is mandatory in implementing its rights by having a visionary goal that is to make Indonesia more advanced in the future. The student behavior of the University of Semarang shows that they love their homeland because they want Indonesia to be more advanced than the present time, so that students are so serious about determining their choice in the 2019 presidential election.

Qualitative perception of students about the role of social media, perception of participation and perception of the determination of political choice in the presidential election 2019 is like that in the implant above, Naum Students who do not have a good perception about the role of social media in the presidential election 2019. Similarly, the knowledge of participation and determination of the vote in the 2019 elections, there are still a handful of students who have not been able to fulfill their rights in the presidential election of 2019. The condition is due to the loss of their opportunity to perform it because of the lack of information and their place of origin so that they cannot go home to perform its participation as a citizen in the presidential election 2019.

Since quantitatively there is still a student who does not exercise its rights in the presidential election 2019 it is recommended:

1. The understanding of social media roles in life should be in order not to be wrong in using social media. Students must know and understand the purpose of the use of social media for really matters.
2. Socialization, publication, broadcast or promotion in the social media about the general elections in Indonesia should be more informative in various forms, both audio and audiovisual, so that socialization is effective and efficient in the implementation.
3. Civic education that is already in the course of Pancasila and Kewarganegaran education should be magnified the portions so that students understand more about their role in advancing the nation and the country.

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