Democratic Participation of Blitar Regency Citizens Perception and Motivation of Blitar Regency Voters in 2020 Regional Head Election

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Abstract. Democratic participation is a must and an important part for every citizen as the holder of sovereignty of a republic. The high level of democratic participation shows that the community is sensitive to any existing political problems and has a desire to be involved in decision making. The high participation rate is certainly based on certain motivations from the perpetrators. The participation referred in this study are; people's perceptions of election organizers so that they are involved in the activities which they carry out, public perceptions of public debates so that they take a part in the event, the level of attendance of voters in voting for the 2020 Regent and deputy regent elections along with their motivation and behavior towards the implementation of regional head elections. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method with research areas throughout Blitar Regency in the election of regents and deputy regents in 2020. The results of this study are the majority of Blitar residents know about the election organizers. They update information about the holding of elections through various existing media, although a few of Blitar resudents have been active in the activities organized by the KPU. Only a few (less than 50%) of the electorate witnessed or participated in the candidate debates. As many as 62% of voters attended the polling station because they were motivated by their obligations as a community and wanted better management of the Blitar Regency government.

Keywords: Public Perception · Attendance Rate · Voter Motivation

1 Introduction

Community political participation is a basic requirement that must be carried out by every citizen, especially in countries that adhere to democracy [1]. However, the political participation that occurs in most community is not as expected in reliality, so that the democratic process is hampered. This can be seen from Blitar Regency KPU data, which recorded that the participation rate of community attendance in the 2021 direct election period experienced a very significant increase compared to the previous period. The participation rate for the 2015 period was 56.7% and in 2020 it reached 67.06%.

The 11% increase of participation needs to be appreciated and needs to be studied more deeply about the motivation of the most community attending the election so that in the future steps for education solutions and socialization can be sought.

According to Robert Dahl, the electoral mechanism is said to be democratic if it meets parameters including elections, rotation of power, open recruitment, public account-ability. While Kathe said quality elections must have criteria that give the people the opportunity to; (1) Choosing between different policy offers and competing parties or candidates, (2) Holding elected officials accountable for the actions they take, and (3) Transforming symbolic conceptions (popular sovereignty) in actual real actions [2].

Asraf, M. stated that "public participation in the general election is marked by the presence of the public at the polling station (TPS) to cast their votes". Welch argues that: The absence of a person in an election is related to voter satisfaction or dissatisfaction, if a person gains financial benefits by not attending a polling station to cast his vote, then it is certain that that person will not attend the polling station, and vice versa [3].

Meanwhile, Lipset divides the factors that influence the absence of voters from voting in four categories, namely: First, related to government policies. Groups that have a direct interest in government policies show a higher level of attendance. Second, access to information. Someone who has access to more complete information will tend to have a high level of attendance. Third, relates to pressure to choose or not to choose from certain groups. If the pressure of certain groups not to vote is too strong and potential voters are affected, then this means being addressed by not being present at the polling station. Fourth, it is related to the existence of cross pressure. When a person is pressured to vote for a different party, they may resolve this conflict by withdrawing from the election altogether [4].

In addition to the reasons mentioned above, the absence of people at the polling stations can also be caused by rapid technological advances that make it easier for people to access information. However, with this ease of access, it is possible that the public will become unresponsive and tend to be apathetic in responding to various contents and news that emerges from various media that display more of the negative side of a person, whether it is contained in print media or in electronic media. Therefore, to anticipate a decrease in the participation rate of citizens, it is necessary to increase the effectiveness of political education [5].

Political education must be carried out so that the community becomes more respon-sive and understands every political problem that exists. Sumantri stated that: Political education serves to provide content and direction and understanding to the ongoing process of appreciating values [6].

2 Methods

This research is qualitative research that used a quantitative descriptive approach, namely the results of the research are delivered descriptively with the support of numbers to strengthen explanations.

The research was conducted from October to December 2021. The place of research is the wilaya of Blitar Regency. Because of the size of the territory, the determination of the place was taken by taking into account the goeography and cultural representation. In addition, the determination referred to the number of sub-districts where the level of voter participation at polling stations during the 2021 regional head elections. The following sub-districts were selected: The district with the highest attendance participa-tion is Udanawau District. The sub-district with the lowest attendance participation is

Wonotirto, as well as the sub-district with the same attendance as or around the average number of attendance participation in the district, namely Kecamatan Nglegok.

The population of this study is the entire electoral community spread across three selected sub-districts with a sample of respondents spread across the villages of several selected villages. Village elections in each sub-district followed a pattern of determining sub-districts, namely choosing the villages with the highest attendance participation, the lowest attendance participation and attendance participation equivalent to the average attendance in the sub-district.

The sampling technique in this study use a systematic random sampling of population elements selected into a sample is based on the Xth order, the Xth order is determined randomly. The selection of respondents from three villages in each sub-district follows the provisions of: (1) respondents are gender proportional; (2) the age distribution must be proportional to the range of <30 years, 30–50 years and >50 years; (3) the domicile distance between one respondent and another respondent in one village must be more than a radius of 500 m; the respondents selected from each village numbered 36.

Respondents in this study were scattered in regions according to Table 1.

The Data collection techniques are carried out with semi-structured interviews with the characteristics of: (1) open-ended questions but there are limitations on the theme and flow of speech, (2) the speed of the interview can be predicted, (3) flexible remains controlled, (4) there are interview guidelines that are used as a benchmark in the flow, order and use of words, (4) the purpose of the interview to understand a phenomenon.

Data Analysis Techniques. The data obtained from the interview were analyzed in the following stages: (1) transcription: i.e. writing it verbatim the respondent's answer exactly as it was spoken in the interview recording, (2) coding: that is, the process of identifying the codes in a person's qualitative data, this study uses inductive or open coding, (3) categorization or axial coding: i.e. more specific coding by narrowing down the themes and categories identified in open coding by reading the notes made when performing open coding, identifying themes or categories that appear to be related, and combining them, hereinafter, named (or coded) for each collapsed/merged theme or

Table 1. Distribution of respondents in each sub-district

No	District	Participation Rate	Village
1	Udanawu	the highest	Tunjung
		the lowest	Mangunan
		Average	Slemanan
2	Wonotirto	the highest	Kaligrenjeng
		the lowest	Wonotirto
		Average	Ngadipuro
3	Nglegok	the highest	Krenceng
		the lowest	Modangan
		Average	Nglegok

categories and identifying the part of the data corresponding to each category or theme named.

3   Findings and Discussion

3.1   An Overview of the Perception of the Voting Community Towards the Election Organizers and Socialization

Most people in Blitar district (95%) are very knowledgeable about the KPU institution. Public perceptions of the KPU are election management institutions, election management institutions, institutions that regulate elections, institutions that provide election needs, election administrators at the district level, institutions that oversee the implementation of elections, and institutions for general elections. However, there are still 5% of the people who have the perception that the KPU is an election worker, polling officer, place of election and voting.

This understanding is in accordance with Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections, which states that election organizers are institutions that hold elections consisting of the General Election Commission, election supervisory agency, and the Honorary Board of Election Organizers as a unitary function of election implementation.

With the hope that the implementation of the regional elections will be held properly, the organizers must be principled independent, honest, and fair because each organizer rejects everything or gifts in any form from election participants, prospective election participants, companies or individuals that can cause a bad influence on the implementation of tasks and avoid the intervention of other parties. and treating every candidate for election, voter, and other parties involved in the election in the same way without taking sides and discriminating against anything. Have legal certainty, orderly, openness and accountability in the form of carrying out actions in the context of holding elections in a strict way as in the laws and regulations and open public access to information and data regarding decisions, rules, and procedures established in accordance with laws and regulations.

Proportionality is to ensure that there are no election administrators who are the decision makers to prioritize or concern their own interests, either directly or indirectly, and not to involve themselves in any form of official or informal activities that will cause a conflict of interest. The other guidelines for organizers are professionalism, efficiency, and effectiveness in ensuring the quality of service for voters and participants in accordance with the professional standards of the administration of the organizers and acting in accordance with standard operating procedures and the substance of the election administration profession, as well as using time effectively in accordance with the allocated time. previously determined by the organizers, and using finances sourced from the APBN and APBD or held on the responsibility of the government in carrying out all election administration activities efficiently, precisely and carefully [7].

Related to one of the functions of the organizer is socialization, the community has the perception that the organizer has carried out this function well. As many as 91% of the public received information about the 2020 election of the regent and deputy regent of Blitar. However, most of them around 69% have never participated in the socialization of the election of regent and deputy regent. The majority of those who participated in the

socialization were due to being organizers at the village level, joining the community or indeed because of agency or institutional duties. The public gets information about the election of the regent and deputy regent of Blitar 2020 through social media, banners, brochures, pamphlets, electronic media and billboards. In addition, they also get it through PPS, Ledang, neighborhoods and from their families.

The types of socialization activities that are followed by the community are through religious congregations, face-to-face socialization, socialization of candidate introductions, socialization of election procedures, health protocols as well as when participating in community activities. The actors of socialization in the socialization activities are the organizers (KPU, PPS Bawaslu), the head of mass organizations, the village head, and village officials. The benefits obtained by the community who participate in the socialization include: being able to carry out elections properly and correctly, how to choose to stay away from money politics, understand elections that are clean, being honest and stay away from corruption, to know when to vote, to know the pairs of candidates for regent and deputy regent, to know the vision and mission of the candidates., and also because of the implementation of elections during the pandemic they know how to vote and by following health protocols. According to the community, the most effective socialization in the election was face-to-face (54%), social media (24%), ledang (12%) and through community groups or religious congregations (10%).

The phenomenon above is in accordance with several explanations of the notion of political socialization, which can be concluded that political socialization is an educational effort, whether intentional or unintentional, which is used to form individuals who are aware of politics. So that the community is able to become political actors who are participants and are responsible for the life of the nation and state [8].

One of the most important elements in political socialization is the role of agents or actors who organize political socialization. Political socialization agents are parties that play a very important role in providing knowledge about all aspects of politics such as values and norms that indicate lessons in behavior based on knowledge and information obtained through socialization agents.

The family as the first agent of socialization that interacts from childhood to form a person's personality, the family plays a very large role in forming a leadership personality, as well as how to interact with other people. The influence exerted through the family on the individual is very large in shaping attitudes and engaging in active political interactions.

It is undeniable that the school is an agent of political education socialization that has a major contribution in perfecting the initial socialization obtained previously from the family. The curriculum and the role of the teacher with his leadership style influence the formation of attitudes or views of students regarding knowledge of social, economic and political sciences [9, 10].

Association Groups Associating groups as agents who have close ties with each individual are able to provide motivation to be active in the political field, this group has an informal nature so it is easy to adjust the opinions and views of each. Interaction between friends such as providing motivation to be active in political activities is one of the impetuses for developing community participation. Peers become a reference group in developing attitudes and behavior, including in the political field [11].

Mass Media As a modern society, mass media becomes food every day, very diverse communication media such as electronic mobile phones, radio, internet provide various forms of information and intense political education given to the public. For example, broadcasting news about political activities such as political discussions and state situation news is one form of the role of the mass media in becoming agents of socialization [12].

3.2 An Overview of the Public's Perception of the Public Debate

Most of the Blitar Regency's Citizens know about the public debate of candidates for regent and deputy regent, as many as 53% of the people of Blitar Regency. Most of them know information about the public debates of candidates for regent and deputy regent through social media and electronic media including WA, IG, Facebook, radio, TV and YouTube. Besides that, they also know through their families, be they husband or wife, through friends from the RT group, groups in the market and also from PPS. However, of the people who know about the candidate debate, only about 52% of those who take part in the debate event, namely through TV or through the YouTube channel. Those who took part in the candidate debate admitted that they had received advantages including: knowing the vision and mission of the candidate, getting to know the leader more closely, knowing the character of the candidate, knowing the level of education and loyalty to the community, understanding more about the background and being able to know the quality of the Blitar district leader candidate from the material. presented debate.

This is in line with the findings of Nindya [13] regarding the candidate debate. He revealed that the public has various views on the candidate debate. Most of them said it was very good and interesting because they could find out who could keep the promises of the candidate pairs who took part in the political contestation. Besides that, they can also study and deepen their insight into politics, can find out who the appointed candidate is who understands the condition of the Indonesian people, can know the goals of the candidate's vision and mission, and there are also those who think that they do not agree with the candidate debate because the candidate pair and supporters want to win. Himself [14].

3.3 A Description of the Behavior of the Voting Community Towards the Use of Their Right to Vote

In this study, respondents who participated were deliberately selected by coming to use their voting rights at the TPS, so that we could find out what motivated them to participate in the election. The data obtained by 30% of the people admitted that the reason they took part in the election by coming to the polling station was that they wanted to express their aspirations, they wanted to participate because they felt they had the right to democracy. Around 32% of the people voted because they had a hope in the leaders who were chosen later, namely leaders who were honest, trustworthy, had integrity, could carry out their vision and mission. In addition, there are also those who expect a change of choice. There were 9% of the people who came to express their right to vote based on being registered in the DPT and received a temporary invitation, 7% of the people attended

because they considered this an obligation that must be carried out as a form of shared responsibility for democracy.

There are interesting things from the data obtained. There are about 1% of the people who choose it because people, neighbors, family or friends joined in and there are 6% of the people who participate who come to the polling station because they don't want to be included in the golput line while the community encourages people to come to vote because they are interested in candidates only. there is 1%. This is as stated by Januardi Adlin [15, 16] the cause of the high political participation of the community in exercising their voting rights is caused by several main factors. There are two theories to determine the factors that cause the high political participation of the community, namely political mobilization. The sociological approach explains that social characteristics and social groupings have a related influence in determining voter behavior. Social groupings such as age, education, gender, religion, class, position, ideology and the like are considered to have a role in determining voter behavior. The psychological approach emphasizes three psychological points as the main study, namely emotional attachment to a party, to issues and to candidates [17, 18].

3.4   A Description of The Behavior of The Voting Community Towards the Voter's Choice

In determining the choice of candidates for regent and deputy regent, the community is influenced by several things in general, namely they look at the vision and mission. There are 92% of people who make a choice to choose an existing candidate because of their vision and mission. In other cases, 90% of people vote for candidates not because of similarity of membership within an organization, there are only 8% who vote because of organizational similarities. Personally, the candidates who strongly influence voters to make choices are education and religious levels. The interesting thing in making choices, there are still those who are forced or have been offered or once forced to choose one of the candidates. There are 4% of people who inform that there has been pressure or coercion to choose one of the candidates but most of the people choose a candidate not because there is a force, namely there is 93%.

4   Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study we previously mentioned, it can be said that (1) innovation has a favourable and significant impact on company performance in MSMEs in South Sulawesi Province, and (2) promotion has a favourable and considerable impact on the business performance of MSMEs in South Sulawesi Province, (3) innovation and marketing also have a significant impact on this performance.

MSMEs and stakeholders in South Sulawesi Province should continuously innovate their products by boosting added value in existing products and creating new products since these are two variables that can increase MSME company performance. Promotion is equally crucial for MSMEs, so more must be done to spread awareness of MSME products. The government offers MSMEs a venue for product promotion in their local areas so that MSMEs can access the market.

Authors' Contributions. The author hopes that the results of this study can increase knowledge about the encouragement of the people of Blitar district in the process of selecting the regent and deputy regent so that it can have a positive impact on increasing community participation in the implementation of democracy, as well as being one of the reference materials in the learning process as an example of the reality of public political participation happening in society.

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