



The Role of Political Education in Building Democratic Awareness Among the Young Generation in Palangka Raya City

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Abstract. As the capital of Central Kalimantan Province, Palangka Raya City has also played a significant role in fostering the awareness of democracy among its people, especially the younger generation, with political education. Democratic awareness can be developed through the young people, because in Palangka Raya its young people constitutes around 30% of the population. But it is also an ongoing issue of building awareness of democratic processes. Voter participation among the youth in Central Kalimantan is still low, where only 45% of voters aged 18-24 years exercised their right to vote in the last election. Several different political education initiatives have been adopted, being familiar with the political spectrum, but still many young people simply feel apathy towards politics. Kota Palangka Raya to analyse Political education's contribution to The Awareness of Democracy in the Younger Generation in Palangka Raya City. It's extra awareness and participation in the democratic process of the younger generation is a well recognised and widely accepted need in this background, political education serves as a tool for it. Political Education And Its Influence On The Political Attitude And Behaviour Of The Young Generation: Searching For Means To Evaluate The Effectiveness Of Political Education In The Regions This study applied a qualitative research with a case study design. Data collection was based on in-depth interviews, participant observation and document analysis. The data collected includes interviews of students, teachers, political education activists, and other relevant actors. Research result 1) Awareness of democracy among the younger generation in Palangka Raya shows varied developments. While 60% of the youth say they understand democracy, just 30% of them are engaged with political processes. The participation rate, and also the dissemination of false information, points to the challenge of educating each other politically more effectively. 2) The factors affected political education of Palangka Raya young generation is very complex. Political and civic education often fails to feature prominently in formal curricula. But things like parental involvement and access to information also do shape children's political awareness. 3) Political education programs in Palangka Raya have been carried out by various institutions. Palangka Raya City Youth and Sports Department has launched a notable program titled "Smart Youth in Politics". But, they also find there remain significant challenges to youth participation, with just 30% aware of current political education programmes. 4) Political education has an effect on the political participation of the younger generation from how it increases their knowledge about their rights and duties as citizens. However, with the enhanced interest in participation, we still have to break down skepticism of the noodle system. Schools and community organizations play a vital role in building democratic literacy.

Keywords: Political Education, Democracy, Young Generation

1 Introduction

Kota Palangka Raya Political education has a very important role in forming democratic awareness among the younger generation.[1] As the capital city of Central Kalimantan Province, Palangka Raya is a culturally and socially diverse city.[2] One of the still-troublesome issues to combat is the difficulty of building the democratic sensibilities of our youth.[3] As the the young generation constitutes a significant segment, nearly 30% of the population of the city based on the data released by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2022, it has enormous potential for fostering the democratic values to the young generation [BPS, 2022].

"On the political side, it is only through effective political education that the youth can learn about democratic values, their rights and obligations as citizens and the significance of participation in the political process.[4] According to the results based on a survey from the General Election Commission (KPU), youth participation as voters in Central Kalimantan is still low, where the percentage of voters aged 18-24 years who exercised their rights in the last general election only reached 45% [KPU, 2023]. This demonstrates how much the younger generations need to learn about politics and how they can make their voice be heard.

At Palangka Raya, a lot of political education activities are conducted by government, non-government organizations and local community.[5] An expected 200 people signed up over the past year for a local youth organizations leadership training program, whereas it had only previously attracted 50-60 attendees. This program not only gains knowledge about political processes, but also encourages involvement in social and political activities in their environment [Palangka Raya Youth Foundation, 2023].

But efforts like these still face challenges. A lot of young people still get apathetic about politics, thinking that their vote wouldn't matter in the decisions they make.[6] This, however, is made worse when the information around is not correct, and there are no avenues for quality political education. Based on the results of a survey from the Indonesian Survey Institute (LSI), approximately 60 % of youths in Palangka Raya perceive themselves as not being sufficiently updated with information regarding issues of politics and public policy [LSI, 2023].

This means putting together political education that is not only inclusive but also appealing to the younger generation.[7] It is hoped to bring awareness of democracy to the younger generation through creative means, such as social media, interactive discussions and participation in real activities.[8] With this to make the younger generation not only active voters, but also a change agent capable of building a more democratic society in the City of Palangka Raya.[5]

Especially in developing cities like Palangka Raya, political education has an important function in growing the democratic awareness among the younger generation.[9] In Indonesia, a country whose democracy is still consolidating, the younger generation's comprehension and participation are essential. Thus, this study seeks to answer the following problem formulations: 1) How is the state of democratic awareness of the

younger generation in Palangka Raya? 2) What elements shape political education for the younger generation of Palangka Raya? Apakah sistem pendidikan politik itu dilaksanakan di Palangka Raya? 4) Political Education Effect on Youth Political Participation in Palangka Raya. 5) How can educational institutions and community organizations play a role in cultivating democratic awareness in the younger generation?

Political education refers to a process that strives to develop political consciousness in society, especially the youth.[10] Political education not only covers the functioning of the government system but includes conceptualisation of democratic values, human rights and community participation in political processes.[11]

Political education should be contextual to local conditions in order to promote democratic consciousness.[12] Education, for example, political education to the community in schools in Palangka Raya can involve discussion of local issues such as natural resource management and community customary rights.[13] The new generation is likely to be more acceptable to the local context. The younger generation is therefore not just a recipient of information, but also engages in analysis and participation in issues that impact their lives.[14]

However, the media plays a crucial role in educating citizens about their political system by providing information and helping to shape public opinion.[15] Social media has become one of the main source of information for the younger generation in the current digital era. Rahman [2021] conducted research that showed that around 70% of Palangka Raya's young generation accesses political news and information through social media. Hence, it demonstrates that if the information conveyed through social media is true and accountable, then social media can become an effective medium to increase political awareness.[16]

The biggest challenge is when fake news or hoaxes spread and mislead political understanding of the younger generation. According to previous research conducted by Farhan and Rani [2022], up to 40% of the young generation in Central Kalimantan had exposure to misinformation about politics.[17] For that reason, education institutions and civil society organizations need to equip youths on how to navigate information and political context through training on media literacy.[18]

Good political education makes this participation possible.[19] For instance, programs that engage youth in election simulations or public debates offer a hands-on opportunity to experience the political process. Based on Utami [2021] research participation of such activity may enhance the self-confidence and political understanding of the younger generation.[20] Political education can stimulate the political life of the people by creating space for their opinions and active contribution.[21]

Other than that, the participation of parents and the community in political education

is also still very low. Only 15% of parents discuss political issues with their children, according to Aditya [2022].[22] Thus, this absence in intergenerational communication can negatively impact the younger generation's perception of the importance of political participation.[23] Thus, it is necessary to design programs that actively get parents and the community involved in political education so that a supportive atmosphere can develop for the political aware younger generation.[23]

This is an epidemic that can only be reversed by a cohesive and sustainable plan for raising awareness of democratic values among the youth.[24] One possible approach is cooperation between the state, universities, and civil society.[25] Involving multiple stakeholders makes political education initiatives more relevant and actionable by the younger population.[26] One such approach would be to expand the reach of NGO training programs through support from local governments [Stoll et al., 2010].

In addition, go further to optimize the information technology in political education.[27] Where information can be shared, and online debates involving the youth can be done through digital platforms.[28] Research conducted by Siti [2023] stated that the use of mobile applications as a medium for political education can increase the involvement of the younger generation as much as 30%.[29] Political education that utilizes technology can enable the young generation to be reached no matter where they are, with the aim of embracing democracy.[30]

This research aims at conducting analysis of political education in establishing democratic awareness of the younger generation in the city of Palangka Raya.[31] Political education is thus seen as an important instrument of young generation's participation in the democratic values and methods of achievement.[31] The objective of this research is to clarify how political education affects the political attitude and behavior of the youth and to examine the effectiveness of political education programs that have been carried out in that region.[32]

2 Methodology

This research employs a qualitative method with a case study design.[33] This approach was selected due to its potential to offer a comprehensive insight into the political education as well as the political awareness demonstrated by the youth population within the scope of Palangka Raya City.[33] Data were obtained through in-depth interviews, participant observation and document analysis. So you know, IPII Interrogatory is not just interviewing everyone including students, teachers, political education activists etc.[34] This seeks to gain different viewpoints on the significance of political education in creating democratic awareness.[35]

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Condition of Democratic Awareness among the Young Generation in Palangka Raya

One striking example is turnout in general elections. Voter participation amongst young Palangka Raya constituency voters was only 45% in the previous election according to data from the General Election Commission (KPU) and was much lower than older age groups [KPU, 2024]. This illustrates the necessity of better political education so that youth are not just fluent in democratic theory but also have a stake in its practice.

In view of all these, the government, education institutions and community organizations are expected to collaborate and work to enhance awareness of democracy among the youth. Educational programs including discussion groups, symposiums, and hands-on training should be structured to draw their attention and involvement.

Finally, the status of the younger generation of Palangka Raya regarding democratic awareness certainly needs to be considered seriously. The understanding of democracy is rather good according to them, but (1) participation is low and (2) could be improved, and (3) social media has a negative impact on democracy which calls for a more holistic approach to political education. This will be the goal of this research to discover the right solution.

3.2 Factors Influencing Political Education Among the Young Generation in Palangka Raya

There are also very complex and interrelated factors behind both the political education of the younger generation in Palangka Raya. The existing formal education system is one of the top factors. Curricula in schools often do not include material on political and civic education. Only 20% high school have special citizenship subjects that includes elements of democracy according to the field findings

In addition, parental influence is strong which also contributes to shaping their children political socialization. A study found that children with politically active parents are more likely to be politically aware. But in Palangka Raya, parents lack an adequate understanding of politics and thus cannot serve as positive role models for their children [Ministry of Education and Culture, 2023].

Access to information is another influencing factor. But in fact the digital age has not made political information accessible to all young people. According to a survey conducted by BPS (2022), there are only 50% of the young generation in Palangka Raya who has enough internet access to search for political information. It also highlights a digital divide that can stifle political education.

Understanding the forces shaping the political education of the younger generation is crucial to developing a strategic approach to fostering attitudes conducive to democracy. It encompasses robust educational curricula, parental involvement, improved access to information and the establishment of active communities. The

exploration will further exploring this interaction that construct the awareness of democratic values of youth in Palangka Raya.

3.3 Implementation of the Political Education Program in Palangka Raya

Palangka Raya has also implemented political education programs by both government and non-government institutions. One such program is the "Smart Youth in Politics" program initiated by the Palangkaraya City Youth and Sports Service. This program provides workshops as well as seminars and aims to educate the younger generation about democracy and political rights [Department of Youth and Sports, 2023].

The first reason is the comparatively low student turnout. Researchers conducting the survey noted that only about one-third of the younger generation are aware of political education programs. This indicates that the outreach program should be improved in a way that more young people are included in it.

Meanwhile, formal educational institutions are also beginning to be in the business of political education. There are other schools in Palangka Raya that have conducted political education through extracurricular activities, for example: debate and election simulations. Helen entered this activity as one of our very first types of undercover/polite revolutionaries, a surefire way to increase students' interest in politics and democracy. Students involved in these activities tend know more about the democratic process than those not involved in such activities with the research showing similar to research done on social cohesion levels that indicates people have better understanding of the demography.

But the efforts of political education programs also heavily rely on backing from the communities and the government. A crucial step in ensuring that political education flourishes is strengthening the collaboration between educational institutions, community organizations, and local governments. Democracy education is best extended with multi-stakeholder programs.

3.4 The Impact of Political Education on the Political Participation of the Young Generation in Palangka Raya

From various aspects such as the impact of political education on the political participation of the younger generation in Palangka Raya. On the one hand, sound political education can improve the awareness of political rights and responsibilities for the younger generation.

Second, the political education can also increase the younger generation interest for performing the political activity. In Palangka Raya, young people actively participating in political education programs are the ones who have a tendency to vote and become involved in youth organizations.

Then there's the divide over the political system who have told themselves at a very young age that they became sceptical of the system, and this reduces their participation.

Based on the survey of BPS in 2022, at least 35% of Gen Z in Palangka Raya stated that they do not believe that political parties can represent themselves.

On the other hand, such collective awareness among the youth class can also be attributed to political education. Involving young people in discussion and dialogue through political education programs creates a sense of solidarity and the social responsibility that young people can develop. This is crucial to the empowerment of a community that is engaged and concerned about the social and political matters surrounding them

With that, the overall conclusion of the results of political education activities is that these activities also have a very positive externality impact on the increasing political participation of the younger generation of Palangkaraya. The above-mentioned work will delve deeper into political education, political participation, and provide recommendations for enhancing political engagement among millennials.

3.5 The Role of Educational Institutions and Community Organizations in Increasing Democratic Awareness

Educational institutions and community organizations play an absolutely crucial role in raising the awareness of democracy in the younger generation. In Palangka Raya, formal educational institutions such as schools and universities have collaborated to integrate political education in their curriculum. For instance, some of the universities in Palangka Raya have conducted seminar and workshop to talk about the contemporary political issues, so the students could under the wider political atmosphere.

4 Conclusion

The majority of the youth in Palangka Raya does not have sufficient knowledge and awareness about democracy. While 60% of respondents said they understood democracy well, only 30% actively participated in politics. There is the case of misinformation coupled with the low voter turnout that shows a gap of political education and media literacy that needs to be addressed in the upcoming elections. Deriving a clear path through the mire requires different parties to work together to enhance the youth's awareness of democracy.

The causes of this political education phenomenon may lie in the disconnection of the youths' education system, lack of parental engagement, an unavailability of information, and a social setting that lacks energy. Must develop strategies to raise democratic awareness.

By gaining knowledge of policies and legislative programs, this training is adapted to the socio-political situation of Palangka Raya with the aim of fostering consciousness of citizenship among the younger generation, as the political education of their citizens will ultimately affect how involved they are in the socio-political landscape.

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