



## Political Education for High School Students in Makassar City

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### Abstract

*This article aims to discuss the political activity of beginner voter education for high school students to realize the awareness of novice voters to participate in elections, understanding the importance of the role of novice voters in the democratic process, and knowledge of political developments for novice voters. The results achieved are the emergence of student enthusiasm in discussing matters related to political issues. It is quite visible that this is marked by the topics they discuss about elections that produce trustworthy leaders and then enlightenment given in understanding the importance of novice voters in participating the election was well received and the enthusiasm for conducting the election received a positive response from the students, but it was interesting because it turned out that students' understanding of the general election was more influenced by the media they watched such as TV and social media.*

### Introduction

In democratic countries, the political participation of citizens depends on the understanding that the sovereignty of the state comes from the people. Therefore, in its implementation, all political decision-making must involve the participation of the people in it (Dalton, 2004). It is intended that every political policy that will be produced truly represents the interests of the people. The Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia is a democratic state. Therefore, all practices of the implementation of state power must be based on the will of the people. Explicitly the constitutional basis for democratically administering state power is contained in article 1 of paragraph 2 of the 1945 Constitution which has been amended. The article clearly states that "State sovereignty is in the hands of the people and is carried out according to the constitution". Thus, all political decision-making must be based on the will of the people. As a manifestation of the country's recognition of the sovereignty of the people is to involve or involve Indonesian citizens to participate in determining the direction of political policy (Wanma, 2015).

Political education is an activity of self-education or deliberate educating oneself that continually processes within the person so that the person concerned is better able to understand himself and the surrounding environmental conditions (Kartono, 2009). To increase public knowledge of politics and politics of education itself, the position of political education is very strategic. The views on the importance of education in a democracy are stated in (Sihono, 2011), that democracy is interpreted to be the same as a free demonstration society, which is essentially free to impose the will of the group with the pressure of violence. The government because of fear of the international spotlight, tends to be carried away by the flow of thought

that freedom is the root of democracy which will grow and develop naturally in line with the growth of society (Florini, 2012).

Novice voters have an important role in the upcoming general elections, and therefore the socialization of new voters is very useful as one of our ways to introduce to the lay people the importance of participating in their voting rights in general elections, if the new voters have exercising their voting rights means that they have participated in politics. Participation is a citizen activity that aims to influence political decision making. Participation is carried out by people in their positions as citizens, not politicians or civil servants and the nature of political participation is voluntary not mobilized by the State or the ruling party (Dalton, 2008). Political participation is the activity of citizens who aim to influence political decision making (Huntington & Nelson, 1990) The most commonly known form of political participation is voting whether to elect a candidate for the people's representatives or to elect a head of state (Mutz, 2002).

The interest of novice voters is less interested in politics, novice voters are quite low because of their ignorance of politics that their voting rights are very important, on the other hand only a few express themselves interested or very interested in political or government matters. South Sulawesi Election Commission (KPU) recorded there were 76,329 beginner voters. This is an important step in democratic education to increase the motivation and participation of novice voters in knowing the importance of political education.

## **Methods**

The method to be used in this training is a participatory method, considering that this method is the most relevant for adult learning methods (andragogy) and is also the most suitable for discussing community empowerment programs in development. Training with participatory methods is characterized by respect for the participants, because each participant is believed to have certain knowledge and through active interaction between the participants and the facilitator valuable learning processes can be obtained.

In the implementation of Political Education for Beginner Voters, the team made a plan for the method that will be carried out during the initial process of socialization and plans during the activities as follows.

### *Activity plan*

The planned activities that will be carried out during the realization of the IbM (science and technology for the community) program include the following: a) Planning and Preparation Meeting b) Inviting high school students in Makassar and participating early semester students c) Preparation stage for socialization material related to Political Education d) Next stage, conducting the Training of Trainer Method (TOT) by giving material through lectures, then followed by direct practice by student mentors, and e) The implementation phase The activity is carried out with 2 sessions: first a lecture by the mentors and second a question and answer session of the participants.

### *Partner participation*

Partner participation is very important in the realization of this IbM program because the level of partner participation is one of the benchmarks of success. The main partner in this IbM activity is SMA Negeri 5 Makassar. The expected participation of partners during the activity is to try to recognize their own problems and try to find solutions and enrich insights.

## **Results and Discussion**

The implementation of this stage is preceded by inviting the implementation team to hold a preparatory meeting to implement the implementation by involving Partners. This activity was

carried out from April to September 2016 which is the date of the activity's implementation. The implementation team was given a briefing about the purpose, objectives, design of the mechanism of activities carried out to carry out the socialization, and several technical matters relating to the methods/techniques of implementation. After the committee's preparatory meeting and the activity schedule, the date of September 11, 2016, was determined, the invitation to the school was formally and in writing. Students invited are students who will finish completing their studies in class XII high school students who can be estimated as potential beginner voter candidates so that it is possible to provide a basic understanding of politics.

#### *Preparation of Socialization Materials Related to Political Education*

Preparation of the socialization material is carried out by preparing basic material that can be accepted comfortably by high school students. The material includes, among others: Understanding Elections, elections are a means of implementing people's sovereignty in which the people can elect political leaders directly. What does political leader mean here are people's representatives who sit in the people's representative institutions (parliament) both at the central and regional levels and leaders of executive institutions or heads of government such as presidents, governors, or regents/mayors.

Then the benefits of elections, the holding of elections is very important for a country, this is due to: (1). Elections are a means of realizing people's sovereignty. (2). Elections are a means to replace leaders constitutionally. (3). Elections are a means for political leaders to gain legitimacy. (4). Elections are a means for people to participate in the political process. Election system in political science, there are several electoral systems known, but generally revolve around the main principles, including District System District systems are usually called single-member constituency (but there are also those who use the term single-member-district to refer to this system). In essence, the district system is an electoral system in which a country is divided into several electoral districts (districts) whose number is equal to the number of people's representatives to be elected in a representative institution. Thus, one district will produce one representative of the people. Candidates who get the most votes in a district will be elected representatives, while candidates who get fewer votes, their votes will not be counted or considered to be lost no matter how small the difference between the available votes so that the term winner-takes-all is known.

The strengths of the district system include: (1). Because the district size is small or not too large there is usually a relationship or closeness between the candidate and the community in the district. Candidates know the community and the interests they need. (2). This system will encourage political parties to make tighter and competitive selections of candidates who will be submitted to become candidates in the election. (3). Because the votes of small parties are not counted, there will be an indirect simplification of political parties. The dual party system will be more developed and the government can run more stable. Weaknesses in the district system include: (1). This system is less representative because the votes of losing candidates are not counted at all or the votes are considered lost. (2). Small parties or minority/marginalized groups that get fewer votes will not be represented (do not have representatives) because their votes are not counted. In this case, women have a small chance to compete considering the limited seats contested by elected representatives will tend to pay more attention to the interests of the people in their district compared to other districts.

The next material is about proportional systems. A proportional system was born to answer the weaknesses of the district system. The proportional system is an electoral system that takes into account the proportion or balance between the population and the number of seats in an electoral district. With this system, then in representative institutions, regions that have a larger population will get more seats in an electoral district, and vice versa. The proportional system

also regulates the proportion between the number of votes obtained by a political party for later being converted into seats obtained by the political party. Because there is a balance between the number of votes and seats, then in Indonesia there is a Voter Divisor Number (BPP). The BPP reflects the number of votes that are the limits for seats in an electoral district. Weaknesses of proportional systems include: (1). This system tends to fertilize a multiparty system which can complicate the realization of a stable government. (2). Usually, between voters and candidates, there is no emotional closeness. Voters do not or do not know the candidate well, and the candidate does not know the characteristics of the electoral district, the voting community, and their aspirations and interests. Candidates have more attachment to political parties as channels that propose them. In the end, the elected candidates may not fight for the interests of the voters because of the lack of emotional closeness. Then the Mixed System (District and Proportional), which combines two systems at once (district and proportional). Half of the members of Parliament are elected through the district system and the other half are elected through proportionality. Then there is representation as well as geographical unity.

Furthermore, discussing the possibility of political parties to nominate more than one candidate because the seats are contested in more than one constituency. The advantages of a proportional system include: (1). Save the votes of the voting community where the votes of candidates smaller than other candidates will still be counted so that a few votes are lost. (2). Enabling parties that get fewer votes or support to continue to have representation in parliament because their votes are not automatically lost or remain counted. (3). Allow for the election of women because more than one seat is contested in one constituency.

#### *Training of Trainer (TOT) Method*

At this stage, Training of Trainer 1 was held on 7–8 October 2016. Place in the Meeting Room of the FISIP University of Muhammadiyah Makassar involving 3 lecturers and 10 mentors from the students. The purpose of this TOT is to provide a briefing in developing material to convey the importance of participating in elections, besides training the ability to provide information to first-time voters about the electoral mechanism. The method used in TOT is the presentation of theory and practice by mentors. Submission of the theory is done by lecturer presentations and further discussion by mentors.

#### *Implementation of Activities*

Stages of the implementation of the activity carried out with 2 sessions: the first public lecture and second session participants question and answer. In the first session, the participants listened to the socialization conducted with a lecture method by showing an interesting slide. The socialization states and contains important points as follows: Election understanding and description of the benefits of the election, the importance of public participation in elections, in principle the election is held as a means of popular sovereignty, a means of public participation, elections are held to elect people's representatives in parliament and executive leadership at national and local levels, elections must be held directly, publicly, freely, confidentially, honestly and fairly. The election of democracy as one of the political systems of the community for conducting elections regularly, a description of the current election system and the advantages and disadvantages of the existing electoral system (Labolo & Ilham, 2015). Political participation can involve the election of observable activities and not attitudes or orientations (Van Deth, 2014). So political participation is only related to things that are objective and not subjective. Students need to understand democracy from the beginning because it is an idea/view of life that prioritizes equal rights and obligations and equal treatment for all citizens. In absolute terms, it can be said that the highest power is directly in the hands of the people. Whereas materially, democracy is a form of government that guarantees independence and equality, for example, freedom of thought and expressing opinions, meeting, and gathering, self-regulating independence which is based on governmental patterns. Students

understand the notion of democracy but need deepening to embrace the positive value of democracy.

In the second session or discussion session, each mentor gets the task to assist 5-7 students to get direction and discussion in more depth about the material that has been received, this deepening discusses a number of interesting topics and found the basic things are; the enthusiasm of students in discussing matters related to political issues is quite visible, this is marked by the topics they discuss about elections that produce trustworthy leaders then students' understanding of elections conducted at the moment is more influenced by the media they are watching like TV and social media. In addition, the enlightenment given in understanding the importance of novice voters in taking part in elections is well received and the enthusiasm for conducting elections receives positive responses from students.

## Conclusion

Achievement of outcomes from Political Education activities for Beginner Voters in Makassar City High School 5 such as understanding the importance of the role of novice voters in the democratic process and knowledge of political development for novice voters is fulfilled with the enlightenment given in understanding the importance of novice voters in taking part in elections this is understood and well accepted and there is enthusiasm to participate in general and regional head elections. Meanwhile, for other outputs such as the awareness for novice voters to participate in general elections, it has been opened by the large desire of students to participate in elections, besides this output can be seen as an outcome of political education activities for beginners. Based on the results obtained in this activity, some suggestions that can be delivered are that assistance is needed to ensure that understanding of politics does not have a negative effect on novice voters if the ideal understanding that has been given turns out to be different from the phenomena they find in the field. This activity should be supported by simulations and adequate props, but due to limited resources so that the simulation cannot be carried out, it is hoped that further activities can accommodate these conditions.

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