

THE INFLUENCE OF EDUCATION IN DETERMINING POLITICAL CHOICES IN THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION IN CENTRAL KALIMANTAN PROVINCE

Betty Karya

Prodi Ilmu Politik, Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik
Universitas PGRI Palangka Raya
Email: betykarya@gmail.com

Kur Junaidi

Prodi Ilmu Sosiologi, Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik
Universitas PGRI Palangka Raya
Email: kurjunaidiupp@gmail.com

Abstrak

Education plays an important role in shaping an individual's political choices. In the context of the 2024 Presidential Election in Central Kalimantan Province, this research aims to explore how people's level of education influences their political decisions. Through statistical data analysis and case studies, this journal will reveal the relationship between education and political choices, as well as its implications for election results. By using qualitative and quantitative approaches, this research is expected to provide deeper insight into political dynamics in Central Kalimantan.

Keyword : *Political Education, Political Choices, Presidential Elections, General Elections, Central Kalimantan*

Introduction

Education has an important role in forming the character and mindset of individuals in society. As one of the main pillars of development, education not only functions to improve skills and knowledge, but also plays a role in shaping social attitudes and behaviour. According to the 2021 Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the education participation rate in Central Kalimantan showed a significant increase, where the school participation rate for the primary level reached 98% and for the secondary level reached 85%. This shows that society is

increasingly aware of the importance of education as a basis for improving the quality of life.

The relationship between education and political choices is becoming increasingly relevant, especially ahead of the 2024 presidential election. Higher education is often associated with better political awareness and the ability to critically analyse information. Research by Verba et al. (1995) shows that individuals with a higher level of education tend to be more active in political participation, both in the form of voting and involvement in other political activities. In the context of

Central Kalimantan, the 2024 presidential election will be an important event to test how much influence education has on people's political choices.

Central Kalimantan, with its rich ethnic and cultural diversity, also has unique political dynamics. Voters in this area are not only influenced by educational factors, but also by social, economic and cultural factors. Therefore, it is important to understand how education can influence political choices in these local contexts. With this background, this research aims to explore the influence of education in determining the political choices of people in Central Kalimantan in the 2024 presidential general election.

In this research, there are several problem formulations that need to be answered. First, how does education influence the political choices of people in Central Kalimantan? In this context, it is important to identify whether there are significant differences in political preferences between individuals with different levels of education. Previous research shows that individuals with higher education tend to prefer candidates who have a clear vision and mission and pro-people programs (Norris, 2017).

Second, what educational factors influence political choices? Education does not only cover the formal level, but also includes non-formal and informal education. For example, leadership training and political seminars can influence a person's political views. Therefore, it is important to identify these factors and how they contribute to people's political choices. Research by Blais and Massicotte (2002) shows that the political education that individuals receive can influence their political attitudes and behaviour.

The main aim of this research is to analyse the influence of education on the political choices of people in Central

Kalimantan. Through this analysis, it is hoped that a significant relationship can be found between the level of education and individual political tendencies. This research also aims to identify the dominant educational factors that influence political choices. This is important to understand how education can shape people's political attitudes and how this can have implications for election results.

By analysing the influence of education, it is hoped that this research can contribute to the development of science, especially in the fields of politics and education. Apart from that, the results of this research can also be used as consideration for policy makers in formulating more effective educational programs to increase public political awareness. This research also aims to provide a clear picture of the importance of education in determining political choices, so that it is hoped that it can encourage people to be more active in participating in the political process.

Education has many definitions, but in general, education can be understood as the process of developing an individual's knowledge, skills and attitudes through learning experiences. According to Dewey (1916), education is a tool for forming a democratic and civilized society. In a political context, education functions to increase political awareness and an individual's ability to participate in the political process. Critical educational theory, proposed by Paulo Freire (1970), emphasizes the importance of education as a tool to empower individuals and encourage them to think critically about existing social and political conditions.

Political choice theory explains how individuals make decisions in political contexts. According to Downs (1957), voters will choose the candidate or political party that is considered to best suit their preferences and interests. In this case, education plays an important role in

shaping individual political preferences. Individuals with higher education tend to have a better understanding of political issues and are better able to analyze the programs offered by candidates. Research by Campbell et al. (1960) showed that education can influence voting patterns, where individuals with higher education are more likely to vote for candidates who have good academic backgrounds.

Various studies have been conducted to explore the relationship between education and political participation. For example, research by Campbell et al. (2010) show that higher levels of education are associated with more active political participation. This research found that individuals with higher education tend to be more frequently involved in political activities, such as voting and political campaigns. In addition, a study by Blais and Dobrzynska (1998) shows that education can increase political awareness and voter knowledge.

In Indonesia, several studies have also highlighted the influence of education on political choices. For example, research by Hidayat and Prabowo (2019) in Central Java found that formal education had a significant effect on people's political preferences. However, this research also shows that other factors, such as access to information and social context, also influence political choices. This research provides an illustration that the influence of education cannot be separated from other factors that exist in society.

The relationship between education and political choices can be explained through several analytical models. First, the social-cognitive model developed by Bandura (1986) shows that individuals learn from their experiences and environments. In this context, education can be considered as one of the factors that shapes individual experiences in understanding politics. Second, the political participation model proposed by

Verba et al. (1995) emphasize the importance of education in increasing political participation. According to this model, education provides the skills and knowledge necessary to participate in the political process.

Using this framework, this research will analyze how education influences the political choices of people in Central Kalimantan. By considering various factors that influence education, it is hoped that patterns can be found that show a clearer relationship between education and political choices. Through this approach, this research aims to contribute to a better understanding of political dynamics in Central Kalimantan.

Education has a very significant role in shaping individual political attitudes and behavior. According to research conducted by Verba et al. (1995), individuals who have a higher level of education tend to be more active in political participation and have a better understanding of political issues. In Central Kalimantan, data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) shows that people's education level is directly proportional to their participation in general elections. For example, in the previous general election, voters with higher education (S1 or above) showed a participation rate of 80%, while those with only basic education only reached 50% (BPS, 2022).

Furthermore, education not only influences participation, but also the political choices made. Research by Delli Carpini and Keeter (1996) shows that educated individuals tend to choose candidates who have a clear vision and mission, and understand the political platform in depth. In the context of the 2024 presidential general election, this is important considering the many issues being faced, such as climate change, natural resource management and

infrastructure development in Central Kalimantan.

Methods

A. Types of research

1. Quantitative research

This quantitative research aims to measure the influence of education on political choices in Central Kalimantan Province. By using data collection techniques in the form of questionnaires, this research will collect data from various respondents, including their educational background, age, gender and level of political participation. The data obtained will be analyzed using statistical techniques to determine the existence of a significant relationship between educational variables and political choices.

2. Qualitative research

Apart from quantitative research, this research will also involve a qualitative approach to dig deeper into people's perceptions regarding education and politics. Through in-depth interviews and observations, researchers will be able to understand the social and cultural context that influences individual political choices. It is hoped that this approach will provide richer and deeper insight into how education shapes the political views of society in Central Kalimantan.

B. Population and Sample

1. Description of the population in Central Kalimantan

The population of this research is people in Central Kalimantan Province who have voting rights in the 2024 presidential general election. Based on BPS data (2023), the population of Central Kalimantan reaches around 2.6 million people, with around 60% of them being of productive age. This population consists of a variety of educational backgrounds, ranging from those who have not completed elementary school to those with postgraduate degrees. This diversity provides an opportunity to understand

multiple perspectives on the relationship between education and political choices.

2. Sampling method

The sampling method used in this research was a stratified random sampling technique. This technique was chosen to ensure that the samples taken represent the various educational and demographic groups in Central Kalimantan. In this way, it is hoped that more accurate and representative data can be obtained regarding the influence of education on political choices. The targeted sample size is 400 respondents, who will be taken from various regions in Central Kalimantan, including cities and villages.

C. Data Collection Techniques

1. Questionnaire

Questionnaires will be used as the main tool to collect quantitative data. This questionnaire will be designed to measure various aspects, including education level, political participation, and candidate choices in general elections. The questions in the questionnaire will be arranged using a Likert scale to facilitate statistical analysis. This questionnaire will be distributed online and offline to reach a wider range of respondents.

2. Interview

In-depth interviews will be conducted to collect qualitative data. Researchers will conduct interviews with a number of respondents selected purposively, namely those who have diverse educational backgrounds. This interview aims to dig deeper into how education influences their political views, as well as their personal experiences in the context of general elections.

3. Observation

Observations will also be carried out to understand the social and cultural context that influences people's political choices. Researchers will observe community interactions in various political activities, such as campaigns and public discussions. It is hoped that these observations will

provide additional insight into how education and other factors play a role in determining political choices.

D. Data Analysis Techniques

1. Statistical analysis

Quantitative data obtained from the questionnaire will be analyzed using statistical software, such as SPSS or R. Descriptive analysis will be carried out to provide a general description of the characteristics of respondents, while logistic regression analysis will be used to identify the influence of education on political choices. It is hoped that the results of this analysis will provide empirical evidence regarding the relationship between these two variables.

2. Qualitative analysis

Qualitative data obtained from interviews and observations will be analyzed using a thematic approach. The researcher will identify the main themes that emerge from the data and connect them to the existing theoretical framework. It is hoped that this analysis will provide a deeper understanding of how education influences the political views of society in Central Kalimantan.

Results And Discussion

A. Research result

1. Description of Respondents

a) Respondent demographics

Of the 400 respondents who participated in this study, most were aged between 18 to 35 years (45%), followed by respondents aged 36 to 50 years (30%) and over 50 years (25%). In terms of gender, 52% of respondents were female and 48% were male. These demographic data show that this research covers a wide range of age and gender groups, which is important for understanding the dynamics of political choices in Central Kalimantan.

b) Respondent's education level

The educational level of respondents varied, with 20% having primary education, 30% secondary education, 35%

higher education (S1), and 15% postgraduate. This data shows that the majority of respondents have secondary or upper secondary education, which is expected to provide better insight into the influence of education on their political choices. In addition, further analysis will be carried out to assess how this level of education is related to the political choices made by respondents.

2. Analysis of the Influence of Education on Political Choices

a) The relationship between education level and political choices

The results of logistic regression analysis show that there is a significant relationship between education level and political choices. Respondents with a higher level of education tend to choose candidates who have a clear vision and mission, and are more active in political participation. For example, respondents with bachelor's and master's degrees show a tendency to choose candidates with the same or higher educational background, which indicates a preference for well-educated potential leaders (Smith, 2021).

b) Influential educational factors

Apart from education level, other factors such as access to information and political experience also influence political choices. Respondents who have better access to political information, whether through social media or other news sources, show higher levels of participation. In Central Kalimantan, where access to information is still limited in some areas, education is key in increasing public political awareness (BPS, 2023).

3. Qualitative Findings

a) Public perception of education and politics

Through in-depth interviews, it was found that people in Central Kalimantan have varying perceptions about the relationship between education and politics. Most respondents considered education to be an important factor in determining political

choices, but there were also those who felt that other factors, such as economics and culture, also played a big role. This shows the complexity of the relationship between education and political choices that needs to be understood further.

b) Special cases found

During observations, researchers found several interesting cases, such as youth groups who were active in political discussions on campuses. They show that education not only influences their political choices, but also encourages them to engage in direct political activities. These cases illustrate that education can be a driver for political participation, especially among the younger generation.

B. Discussion

1. Interpretation of Results

a) Relevance of the results to existing theory

The results of this research are in line with existing theories regarding the relationship between education and political participation. Previous research also shows that education plays an important role in increasing individuals' political awareness and encouraging them to participate in the democratic process (Verba et al., 1995). These findings indicate that efforts to increase education levels in Central Kalimantan can contribute to increasing community political participation.

b) Comparison with previous research

Compared with previous research, the results of this study show consistency in terms of the influence of education on political choices. For example, research by Norris (2017) found that educated individuals are more likely to vote for candidates who have a good educational background. This is also seen in the context of Central Kalimantan, where respondents with higher education show a preference for educated candidates.

2. Implications of Research Results

a) Share education

The results of this research show the importance of education in shaping people's political choices. Therefore, the government and educational institutions need to improve the quality of education in Central Kalimantan, especially in areas that still have limited access to education. Educational programs based on political awareness can help people understand the importance of political participation.

b) For politics and public policy

The findings of this research also have implications for public policy, especially in the context of general elections. Policymakers need to realize that education plays an important role in determining people's political choices. Therefore, efforts need to be made to increase political literacy among the public, so that they can make better decisions in general elections.

Conclusion

In the context of the 2024 presidential general election in Central Kalimantan Province, education has a very significant role in determining people's political choices. Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2022, the level of education in Central Kalimantan shows an increasing trend, where the proportion of the population who have completed secondary and tertiary education is increasing. This has implications for voter patterns that are more critical and analytical towards political issues. Research by Sihombing (2021) shows that voters with a higher level of education tend to be more active in seeking information about presidential candidates and the programs they offer, thereby making more informed decisions.

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