



## The Role of Civic Education in Building Political Awareness of Generation Z Young People

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### Abstrak

Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan mempunyai peranan yang tinggi untuk meningkatkan semangat kebangsaan, terutama bagi generasi Z sebagai penerus bangsa yang diharapkan dapat memberikan kontribusi bagi negaranya. Alasan kami dalam memilih peran pendidikan kewarganegaraan dalam membangun kesadaran politik anak muda serta banyak generasi Z yang lebih memilih golput dalam pemilihan umum dikarenakan mereka beranggapan bahwa tidak ada partai politik yang bisa dipercaya. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode wawancara dan dokumentasi. Metode wawancara seperti menanyakan kepada pemuda atau pemudi generasi Z tentang peran Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan dalam membentuk kesadaran politik dan metode dokumentasi yang kami lakukan seperti pengambilan gambar untuk mendokumentasikan keadaan fisik atau visual suatu objek peristiwa. Banyak anak muda yang kurang sadar akan politik di tambah lagi anak muda generasi Z tidak peduli akan politik. Dimulai dari pertanyaan kepada anak SMA yang mengatakan bahwa pelajaran pendidikan kewarganegaraan tidak menambah kesadaran akan politik. Kemudian banyak juga pemuda generasi Z yang tidak menggunakan hak suaranya atau memilih untuk golput, dipenuhi dengan alasan yang cukup logis. Memikirkan kembali pentingnya partisipasi politik dalam mewujudkan demokrasi politik. Sudah selayaknya anak muda membuka wawasan politik sehingga apapun opini publik yang diberikan terkait proses politik tidak diterima mentah-mentah. Karena satu suara dalam pemilihan umum akan menentukan ke mana arah bangsa ini akan dibawa. Memilih memang tidak mudah, namun tidak memilih bukanlah sikap yang bijak.

**Kata kunci:** Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan, Generasi Z, Politik, Pemilihan Umum

### Abstract

*Civic Education has a high role in increasing the spirit of nationality, especially for generation Z as the nation's successor who is expected to contribute to his country. Our reason for choosing the role of civic education in building young people's political awareness and many generation Z who prefer abstention in general elections because they think that there are no political parties that can be trusted. This research uses interview and documentation methods. The interview method is like asking generation Z youth about the role of Civic Education in shaping political awareness and the documentation method we do is like taking pictures to document the physical or visual state of an event object. Many young people are less aware of politics in addition to generation Z youth do not care about politics. Starting from questions to high school students who say that civic education lessons do not increase awareness of politics. Then there are also many generation Z youth who do not use their voting rights or choose to abstain, fulfilled with quite logical reasons. Rethinking the importance of political participation in realizing political democracy. It is appropriate for young people to open political insights so that whatever public opinion is given regarding the political process is not accepted raw. Because one vote in the general election will determine the direction this nation will take. Choosing is not easy, but not choosing is not a wise attitude..*

**Keywords:** Civic Education, Generation Z, Politics, General Election

## INTRODUCTION

Civic education is an important part of the education system designed to teach young people about the rights, responsibilities, values, norms and basic principles that underlie a country's political system and government. The role of civic education in politics among young people is many, one of which is to help young people understand their country's political system, including the structure of government, the role of political institutions, and the policy-making process, besides that civic education also teaches young people about the importance of participation in the political process. They can learn about voting rights, elections, political campaigns and the ways they can contribute to society through elections or other forms of political participation, plus it encourages young people to fulfill their social responsibilities as citizens.

Civic Education has a high role in increasing the spirit of nationality, especially for the younger generation as the successor of the nation who is expected to contribute to their country. With Civic Education, the next generation is expected to have a strong commitment to democracy and human rights. With this initiative, they will be able to make a significant contribution in solving various problems currently faced by the government, such as conflicts that still occur in the surrounding community. They will also be able to do so in a critical and certain way. (Alvira et al., 2021)

Generation Z has an important advantage in the general election due to its large population and continuous victory signals. Generation Z could have the most advanced planetary composition in 2024, with a percentage that could reach 40% of the entire Indonesian population. Therefore, political knowledge for Generation Z needs to be disseminated so that they can actively

participate in building the country's future, not just be used by candidates to garner votes. (Devina Angellina)

Our reason for choosing the role of civic education in building the political awareness of generation z youth is because civic education has an important role in shaping the character of the younger generation so that they become individuals who are critical of national issues such as generation z's lack of understanding of civic education in influencing the level of political awareness and many generation z who prefer to abstain from voting in general elections because they think that there are no political parties that can be trusted.

For this reason, it strengthens us to integrate civic education materials that are relevant and interesting for generation Z, so that they can understand the importance of political participation and choose prospective leaders wisely and participate in the democratic process to ensure the best leaders so that the elected leaders can prosper their society.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses interview and documentation research methods. The interview method means one of the research approaches that can be carried out in several ways such as asking generation Z youth or youth about the role of Civic Education in shaping generation Z's political awareness. The documentation method is the process or activity of recording, collecting, storing, and compiling information or electronic data. The type of documentation we do such as taking pictures to document the physical or visual state of an event object.

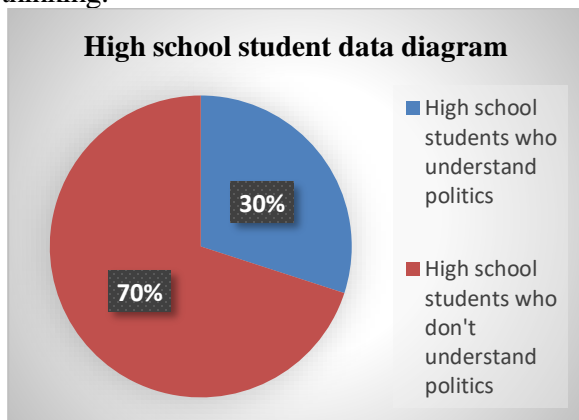
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### **Lack of Political Awareness among Generation Z Youths**

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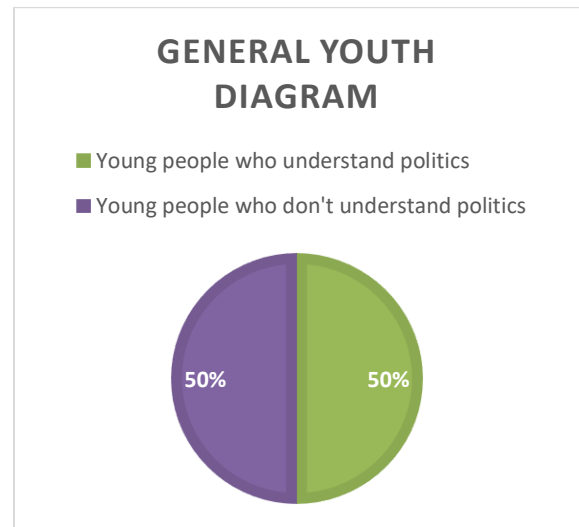
Young people provide an advantage for political parties if political education input to this group is given intensively because high political awareness and democracy in the political process will definitely be realized. Political education is important for young people because they are the future generation of voters. However, many generation Z have little understanding of politics, starting from high school students, college students or young people who are already working.

We can see that there are many obstacles experienced by generation Z young people to be able to understand about politics. However, at school, both in elementary, junior high and high school, they have learned about Civic Education, but still many generation Z young people do not understand about political awareness. Many reasons for young people to be less understanding or aware of politics are because many young people tend to view politics as a way to seize power alone, which shows their immature thinking.



The results that we have done with the interview method get the conclusion that many young people are less aware of politics in addition to generation Z young people do not care about politics. Starting from questions to high school students who have entered civic education lessons who say that civic education lessons do not increase awareness of politics. Almost 70% of high school students do not

understand politics and even do not want to know about politics.



As for young people who have graduated from high school or who are already in college, almost 50% do not understand politics, because they are starting to focus on work and plus many young people say that politics does not affect them. We can see that many generation Z young people do not want to know at all about the upcoming elections and result in many reasons for generation Z young people choosing not to use their voting rights or abstain.

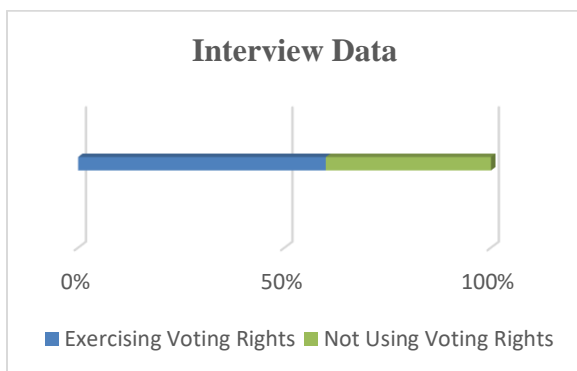
**Generation Z Who Prefer Abstention in General Election**

Public participation in politics is something that can be an indicator in general elections, including the participation of millennials such as high school students as first-time voters. Generation Z, which consists of people born between 1997-2012 or who are now 11-26 years old, prefers to abstain from voting in general elections. Based on UMN Consulting's research, the main reasons for Gen Z's 4.86% abstention in the 2019 elections were influenced by technical and political factors. However, technical factors dominated

the reasons for Gen Z's abstention, which could have been avoided. This shows that the government or policymakers need to improve the system before the 2024 elections begin.

In addition, many Gen Zs are starting to migrate for education and work reasons, so it is important that these technical issues are addressed immediately. According to CCN Indonesia in 2019 that the number of young people who abstain from voting is around 34.7 million who do not use their voting rights, which makes the quality of elections decrease. Not participating in the election process because whoever will be elected will not be able to change this nation for the better, corruption is everywhere and the voting rights used can be said to be in vain.

From the results of the interviews we conducted that many generation Z youth did not use their voting rights or chose to abstain, fulfilled with quite logical reasons, namely generation Z youth did not have sufficient information about the candidates to be elected, then generation Z youth did not have confidence in the political system and government and they did not feel that politics and elections were a top priority in their lives. There are youth who say that there are many hoax news and false promises of election candidates that cause distrust of politics.



From the data in the diagram above, we conclude that around 40% of generation Z youth choose not to use their votes or abstain.

There are many reasons that prove that young people do not understand politics or about elections, starting from the lack of trust in the promises made by election candidates, plus there are some young people who are influenced by issues that spread, starting from the issue of limited political knowledge such as prospective leaders or politicians having limited knowledge of the younger generation, including generation Z. This can make young people feel represented or understood by politicians. This can make young people feel unrepresented or not understood by politicians.

## CONCLUSION

To think again about the importance of political participation in realizing political democracy. It is appropriate for young people to open political insights so that whatever public opinion is given regarding the political process should not be accepted rawly. Because one vote in the general election will determine where this nation will go. Choosing is not easy, but not choosing is not a wise attitude. Young people also have a political role. The task of political parties is to involve young people through organized programs.

Of course, participation and awareness of the importance of politics for young people must be based on the desire to achieve common goals. Therefore, from now on, young people of generation Z in Indonesia must be active in politics, either by participating in general elections or expressing their aspirations, certainly not with violence, so that quality democracy can be realized and can give birth to a better government system.

## SUGGESTION

Because in 2024 we will enter the political year. Political tensions are likely to heat up. Young people really want the political

arena to be returned to its ideal position, which is a way to achieve a better life together. I as one of the young people agree that the purpose of people in politics should be to help improve the welfare of the people, not just to pursue power and money. For political actors, put aside your ego, listen to what the community needs in order to prosper us.

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