

Multidimensional Picture of Public Political Participation in Bondowoso Regency

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Abstract

This study aims to describe the level of multidimensional political participation of the community in Bondowoso Regency. Data were collected from 92 respondents with the criteria of Bondowoso residents and had participated in political activities, especially the Election. Indicators of political participation are: trust, awareness, knowledge, and political participation. In this study, the adoption of previously validated political participation measurement tools was used to ensure the reliability and validity of the results obtained. This measurement tool was adapted from previous studies related to political participation in Indonesia, with adjustments to the local context of Bondowoso. The results of the descriptive analysis showed that the majority of respondents showed low to moderate levels of political trust, and political knowledge that was generally in the moderate category. The low political participation found in this study also shows that although the community has quite good political awareness, it is not enough to encourage more active political participation without strong trust in political institutions. However, this study has several limitations, including a limited sample size and potential bias in the measurement instrument. For future research, it is recommended to expand the sample size, develop more valid instruments, and consider broader contextual factors to explore more deeply the dynamics of political participation and community perceptions of the local political process.

Keyword: Political participation; Society

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan tingkat partisipasi politik secara multidimensi masyarakat di Kabupaten Bondowoso. Data dikumpulkan dari 92 responden dengan kriteria warga Bondowoso dan pernah mengikuti kegiatan politik utamanya Pemilu. Indikator dalam partisipasi politik yaitu: kepercayaan, kesadaran, pengetahuan, dan partisipasi politik. Dalam penelitian ini, adopsi alat ukur partisipasi politik yang telah divalidasi sebelumnya digunakan untuk memastikan keandalan dan validitas hasil yang diperoleh. Alat ukur ini diadaptasi dari penelitian terdahulu terkait partisipasi politik di Indonesia, dengan penyesuaian terhadap konteks lokal Bondowoso. Hasil analisis deskriptif menunjukkan bahwa mayoritas responden menunjukkan tingkat kepercayaan politik yang rendah hingga sedang, serta pengetahuan politik yang umumnya berada dalam kategori sedang. Rendahnya partisipasi politik yang ditemukan dalam penelitian ini juga memperlihatkan bahwa meskipun masyarakat memiliki kesadaran politik yang cukup baik, hal tersebut tidak cukup untuk mendorong partisipasi politik yang lebih aktif tanpa adanya kepercayaan yang kuat terhadap institusi politik. Meskipun demikian, penelitian ini memiliki beberapa limitasi, termasuk ukuran sampel yang terbatas dan potensi bias dalam instrumen pengukuran. Untuk penelitian mendatang, disarankan untuk memperluas ukuran sampel, mengembangkan instrumen yang lebih valid, dan mempertimbangkan faktor kontekstual yang lebih luas untuk mendalami lebih dalam tentang dinamika partisipasi politik dan persepsi masyarakat terhadap proses politik lokal.

Kata kunci: Partisipasi politik; Masyarakat

INTRODUCTION

Political participation is at the heart of a healthy and well-functioning democracy. Although elections are often considered the primary manifestation of political participation, the concept is actually much broader and more complex. Weiss (Weiss, 2020) defines political participation as a range of citizen activities aimed at influencing the selection of government officials and the policies they adopt. This definition emphasizes that political participation is not just about voting, but also about active involvement in the political process as a whole.

The 2024 Election data shows that Bondowoso Regency recorded a voter turnout of 87%, far above the national average of 81% (Antara, 2024; Permani, 2024). This figure indicates the strong potential for Bondowoso community involvement in the democratic process. However, political participation is not only about being present at the polling booth during the election. Although the 87% turnout is impressive, it only reflects one aspect of citizen political engagement. Political participation also includes involvement in political discussions, monitoring the performance of elected officials, and participation in political activities outside the election cycle (Sairambay, 2020). Therefore, the high turnout in the election does not necessarily guarantee that the community has a sustainable and meaningful involvement in the political process (Surbakti & Supriyanto, 2013).

This gap highlights the need for more in-depth research on various forms of political participation in Bondowoso, especially in the run-up to the Pilkada. Existing studies often focus on voter turnout figures, but pay little attention to other equally important dimensions of political participation, such as involvement in local policy-making processes or informal political activities (Sepyah et al., 2022). Issues such as corruption, distrust of political institutions, and socio-economic inequality can affect the level and quality of people's political participation. As argued by (Surbakti et al., 2011) a decline in political participation can threaten the legitimacy of the democratic system itself. Therefore, understanding the dynamics of political participation in Bondowoso Regency is crucial to maintaining the vitality of local democracy.

Furthermore, this study has urgency in the context of decentralization in Indonesia. Since the reform era, local governments have greater autonomy in managing their regional affairs. This aspect, as expressed by (Ristanti & Handoyo, 2017), opens up new opportunities and challenges for political participation at the local level. In the context of Bondowoso, it is important to understand how the dynamics of regional autonomy affect the pattern of community political participation.

The novelty of this study lies in the fact that this study does not only focus on participation in elections, but also explores other indicators of political participation such as political trust, awareness and political knowledge in the context of the implementation of regional elections which will be held in the near future. This is in

line with the concept of "deliberative democracy" put forward by Habermas in (Kadarsih, 2018), which emphasizes the importance of public discussion and citizen involvement in the decision-making process.

By understanding the level of political participation of the community comprehensively, this study is expected to be the basis for developing policies and strategies to increase community involvement in political processes in Bondowoso Regency. Furthermore, the results of this study are expected to provide theoretical and practical contributions in understanding the dynamics of political participation at the local level in Indonesia, as well as contributing to broader discussions about the quality of democracy in developing countries.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Political participation is a multidimensional concept that has been extensively researched in political science and sociology. Although no single theory explicitly divides political participation into beliefs, knowledge, awareness, and participation, various researchers have explored these aspects as important components in understanding citizen engagement in the political process.

The concept of political participation has undergone significant evolution in recent decades, with major contributions from the work of Russell J. Dalton. (R. J. Dalton, 2008) defines political participation as the involvement of citizens in processes that influence the selection of government officials and/or the actions they take. In his book "*Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*", Dalton emphasizes that political participation encompasses a broad spectrum of activities, from voting to grassroots activism.

Dalton (R. J. Dalton, 2008) identified several key dimensions in measuring political participation:

1. Electoral participation: includes voting and involvement in political campaigns.
2. Organization-based participation: including membership in political parties or interest groups.
3. Contact-based participation: direct communication with government officials or political representatives.
4. Protest participation: including demonstrations, petitions, and other forms of protest.

In further developments, (R. J. Dalton, 2000) in "*Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*" The sixth edition, broadens the understanding of political participation by taking into account technological and social changes. It emphasizes the importance of new forms of

participation, such as online activism and the use of social media in political mobilization.

Dalton and Welzel (R. J. Dalton & Welzel, 2015) in *"The Civic Culture Transformed: From Allegiant to Assertive Citizens"* further explore the shift from "compliant citizen participation" to "assertive citizen participation." They argue that modern citizens tend to be more critical of political authority and more likely to engage in elite-challenging forms of participation.

In the context of measuring public political participation, Dalton's approach offers a comprehensive framework. (R. Dalton et al., 2010) in *"The Individual-Institutional Nexus of Protest Behaviour"* suggest the use of multi-item scales to measure different forms of political participation. They propose a measure that includes not only the frequency of participation, but also the intensity and variety of forms of participation.

Based on this literature review, it can be concluded that the measurement of people's political participation, following Dalton's concept, must be multidimensional, considering various forms of conventional and non-conventional participation, and sensitive to the socio-political context and participation gaps. This approach provides a strong framework for analyzing and understanding the dynamics of political participation in contemporary society.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a descriptive quantitative approach to investigate the multidimensional level of political participation of the community in Bondowoso Regency. This approach was chosen to gain a generative understanding of the level of political participation of the community (Creswell, 2003). Participants in this study were selected through a non-probability technique using accidental sampling, which allows researchers to collect data from respondents who are available and willing to participate (Etikan, 2016). The inclusion criteria for the study were; residents of Bondowoso Regency who have been involved in the political process, at least have participated in the election process in their area, following the approach used in previous political participation studies (R. J. Dalton, 2008). The survey was distributed online through a platform that can be accessed by potential respondents, utilizing the advantages of online data collection methods in terms of efficiency and reach.

The main instrument used was a structured questionnaire designed to collect data on the level of political participation of respondents. The questionnaire was developed based on related literature and the results of discussions with experts, following the principles of developing valid and reliable survey instruments (DeVellis, 2017). The survey was conducted over a period of one month, starting with the adoption

stage of the political participation questionnaire, referring to the instrument that has been validated in the study (Amanda et al., 2019). Participants were invited to participate through links distributed through social media, online forums, and e-mail, adopting a respondent recruitment strategy commonly used in online surveys (Baltar & Brunet, 2012). The data collected were analyzed using a descriptive approach. This analysis includes the calculation of descriptive statistics such as mean, median, and standard deviation to describe the distribution of variables related to political participation, using Jamovi software and SPSS version 16.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Political participation is one of the important indicators in measuring citizen involvement in the political process. Various factors, including trust, awareness, and knowledge, can influence a person's level of political participation. Data were collected from 92 respondents who filled out a questionnaire covering indicators of trust, awareness, knowledge, participation, in the political participation variable. Descriptive statistical analysis was conducted to understand the distribution of each indicator. Normality and reliability tests were also conducted to ensure the validity of the data obtained.

Table 1. Gender

Gender	Counts	% of Total	Cumulative %
Man	52	55.9 %	55.9 %
Woman	41	44.1 %	100.0 %

In this study, there were 92 participants classified by gender, with the majority (55.9%) being male, and the remainder (44.1%) being female.

Table 2. Respondents' Age

CategoryAll	Counts	% of Total	Cumulative %
17-25	74	79.6 %	79.6 %
26-35	14	15.1 %	94.6 %
36-55	5	5.4 %	100.0 %

Meanwhile, in the age category, participants were divided into three groups. The 17-25 age group dominated with 79.6%, followed by the 26-35 age group which contributed 15.1%, and the 36-55 age group which was 5.4% of the total participants.

Table 3. Blueprint of Political Participation Measurement Tools

Variables	Indicator	Amount	Item number before fall	Item number after being dropped
Political participation	Level trust	9	1,2,3,4,5,6,10,11,12	1,2,3,4,5,6,10,11
	Political awareness	3	7,8,9	7,8,9
	Political knowledge	3	13,14,15	13,14,15
	Political participation	4	16,17,18,19	16,17,18,19
Number of items			19	18

In measuring political participation, researchers adopted four dimensions which are derived in the following indicators: (1) Level of Trust in Political Participation: This variable measures how high an individual's level of trust is in political participation. There are 9 indicators used to evaluate various aspects of this trust. These indicators were chosen to cover various dimensions of trust in the political process and community participation in political activities. (2) Political Awareness: This variable reflects the extent to which individuals are aware of relevant political issues. With 3 indicators selected, this study focuses on measuring the level of individual awareness of various political aspects that can influence their views and behavior. (3) Political Knowledge: This variable evaluates an individual's knowledge of politics. By using 3 indicators, this study aims to understand the extent to which participants have knowledge of the political system, political processes, and relevant issues in the political context. (4) Political Participation: This variable measures the level of individual political participation, namely how often they are involved in political activities including general elections, political campaigns, or other socio-political activities. With 4 indicators selected, this study attempts to explore patterns of political participation and factors that encourage or inhibit active participation in the context studied.

Table 4. Political Participation Measurement Tools

Item number	Question	Indicator	Information	Spearman Rho Validity Value
1	Do you agree that the results of the regional elections should be direct, general, free, secret, honest and fair?	trust	Valid	0,23**
2	Do you agree that the government works in the interests of the people?	trust	Valid	0,18*
3	Do you agree that regional head candidates must have a clean track record and be competent in leading?	trust	Valid	0,26***
4	Do you agree that fair and transparent regional head elections (pilkada) will increase public trust in the government?	trust	Valid	0,28***
5	Do you agree that political parties should provide support to regional head candidates who have a clear vision, mission and program for the welfare of the community?	trust	Valid	0,35***
6	Do you agree that regional head elections (pilkada) are	trust	Valid	0,36***

	one way to realize social justice and local community welfare?			
7	Do you agree that public participation in regional head elections (pilkada) is very important to strengthen democracy?	awareness	Valid	0,33***
8	Do you agree that regional head elections (pilkada) must be strictly monitored to prevent violations and fraud?	awareness	Valid	0,33***
9	Do you agree that participation in regional elections is an effective way to voice political opinions and interests at the local level?	awareness	Valid	0,36***
10	Do you agree that regional elections should not be influenced by external political intervention and should be implemented in accordance with democratic principles?	trust	Valid	0,45***
11	Do you agree that the regional elections will commit to advancing the political process?	trust	Valid	0,31***
12	Do you agree that money politics occurs in regional head election (Pilkada) campaigns?	trust	Fall	0,14
13	Is it true that currently in the regional head election (Pilkada) process one of the requirements is to prioritize local natives?	Knowledge	Valid	0,15*
14	Do you agree/disagree that elections held simultaneously aim to strengthen the precedential system?	Knowledge	Valid	0,28***
15	The principles of general elections (Pemilu) and regional head elections (Pilkada) known as Luber-Jurdil (Direct, General, Free, Secret, Honest, and Fair) are the basis for the implementation of the general election (Pemilu) and regional head elections (Pilkada). Do you agree/disagree with this statement?	Knowledge	Valid	0,33***
16	Actively participating in the Pilkada is not only limited to voting, but can also be done through supervision, voter education, and contributing to positive and constructive campaigns. Do you agree/disagree with the statement?	participation	Valid	0,33***
17	Regular dialogue on elections and regional elections is an important means to increase citizen awareness and participation in the election process. Do you agree/disagree with holding regular dialogue on elections/regional elections?	participation	Valid	0,32***
18	Do you agree/disagree that conveying aspirations in elections is the right and obligation of every citizen?	participation	Valid	0,30***
19	In your opinion, do you agree/disagree with involvement in politics only for those who have in-depth knowledge of the political system?	participation	Valid	0,18*

The table shows that the asterisk (***) correlates at a 99% confidence level while the (**) correlates at a 95% confidence level. As for item number 12, it was dropped because it did not meet the requirements as a valid question item. Although there were items that correlated in the (*) mark with a low Spearman rho value, the

researcher decided to include it in the valid category, although within the threshold of acceptance.

The normality test of the research data produced;

Table 5. Normality Test Results	
Normality Test	Results
Shapiro-wilk p	<.001

The normality test using Shapiro-Wilk produces a p-value <0.001, indicating that the data is not normally distributed. This means that further analysis should consider the use of non-parametric tests for more accurate results. In addition, it indicates that this study only applies specifically to samples with special characteristics and cannot be generalized.

Meanwhile, for the reliability test of the research results obtained;

Table 6. Reliability Test Results	
Cronbach's α	
scale	0.909

The scale reliability test using Cronbach's α produced a value of 0.909, indicating that the measurement instrument has a very good level of internal consistency. The results of the descriptive statistical tests in this study are as follows;

Table 7. Descriptive Test Results						
		trust	awareness	Knowledge	participation	total
N	Valid	92	92	92	92	92
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0
Mean		34.14	12.92	11.71	15.98	74.75
Std. Error of Mean		.407	.176	.175	.240	.871
Median		33.84 ^a	12.95 ^a	11.67 ^a	15.74 ^a	74.00 ^a
Mode		32	12 ^c	12	16	74
Std. Deviation		3.904	1.685	1.681	2.301	8.353
Variance		15.244	2.840	2.825	5.296	69.772
Range		16	6	7	8	36
Minimum		24	9	8	12	54
Maximum		40	15	15	20	90
Sum		3141	1189	1077	1470	6877
Percentiles	25	31.78 ^b	11.66 ^b	10.50 ^b	14.40 ^b	70.22 ^b
	50	33.84	12.95	11.67	15.74	74.00
	75	37.27	14.39	12.70	17.18	80.80

This table provides an overview of the distribution of values for each variable measured in the study, including the mean, standard deviation, median, mode, and minimum and maximum values. This data is then used to create a grouping of values and change the data into categories; into very low, low, medium and high. Grouping is based on the quartile values of the respondents.

Table 8. Level of Political Trust

trust	Counts	% of Total	Cumulative %
Very low	18	19.6 %	19.6 %
low	26	28.3 %	47.8 %
currently	25	27.2 %	75.0 %
high	23	25.0 %	100.0 %

Trust ranges from 24 to 40, with the 25th percentile at 31.78 and the 75th percentile at 37.27. The frequency distribution shows that the largest category of trust is at a low level with 28.3%, followed by a moderate level with 27.2%. As many as 25% of respondents are at a very low level of trust, another 25% are at a high level of trust.

Table 9. Level of Political Awareness

awareness	Coun ts	% of Total	Cumulative %
Very low	17	18.5 %	18.5 %
Low	23	25%	43.5 %
Currently	29	31.5 %	75.0%
High	23	25.0%	100.0 %

The average political awareness is 12.92 with a standard deviation of 1.685. The range of awareness values ranges from 9 to 15, with the 25th percentile being 11.66 and the 75th percentile being 14.39. The highest frequency is at the moderate awareness level of 31.5%, indicating that the majority of respondents have a moderate level of awareness. As many as 18.5% of respondents are at a very low level of awareness, while 25% are at a high level of awareness.

Table 10. Level of Political Knowledge

knowledge	Counts	% of Total	Cumulative %
Very low	23	25.0 %	25.0 %
Low	14	15.2 %	40.2 %
Currently	34	37.0 %	77.2 %
High	21	22.8 %	100.0 %

The average knowledge is 11.71 with a standard deviation of 1.681. The range of knowledge values is between 8 and 15, with the 25th percentile being 10.50 and the 75th percentile being 12.70. The frequency distribution shows that the largest knowledge category is at a moderate level of 37%, indicating that most respondents have a moderate level of political knowledge. As many as 25% of respondents have a very low level of knowledge, and 22.8% are at a high level of knowledge.

Table 11. Level of Participation Aspects

participation	Counts	% of Total	Cumulative %
Very low	23	25.0 %	25.0 %
Low	15	16.3 %	41.3 %
Currently	33	35.9 %	77.2 %
High	21	22.8 %	100.0 %

The average participation is 15.98 with a standard deviation of 2.301. The range of participation values ranges from 12 to 20, with the 25th percentile at 14.40 and the 75th percentile at 17.18. The highest frequency is at the moderate participation level of 35.9%, reflecting that most respondents are involved in political participation with moderate intensity. As many as 25% of respondents are at a very low level of participation, while 22.8% are at a high level of participation.

Table 12. Overall Level of Political Participation

party politics	Coun ts	% of Total	Cumulative %
Very Low	23	25.0 %	25.0 %
Low	27	29.3 %	54.3 %
Currently	19	20.7 %	75.0 %
High	23	25.0 %	100.0 %

Total political participation has an average of 74.75 with a standard deviation of 8.353. The range of total political participation values ranges from 54 to 90, with the 25th percentile at 70.22 and the 75th percentile at 80.80. The frequency of total political participation shows that the largest category is at a low level with 29.3%, followed by very low and high levels at 25% each.

Based on the findings, the level of trust of the majority of respondents is in the low to moderate range. These results indicate that trust in political institutions among respondents is still relatively low. Based on the results of additional interviews by researchers with several respondents, factors such as dissatisfaction with government performance, lack of transparency, and low citizen involvement in the political decision-making process are the main causes of low levels of political trust. This

finding is in line with research (Schlozman & Brady, 2022) which identified that limited access to political resources and information, as well as low trust in institutions, contribute to low political participation. Another study by (Azizah & Kholifah R, 2023) also shows that public trust in the government in Indonesia has declined. Factors that influence public trust include accountability, transparency, and fairness (Wirawan & Yaya, 2024). Village government transparency has been shown to have a positive influence on public trust, although public satisfaction does not mediate this influence (Wirawan & Yaya, 2024). Therefore, participation and transparency are considered important instruments to restore public trust in the government. Accountability is also a major indicator of the government's ability to gain public trust (Rauf & Andriyani, 2023).

Meanwhile, in terms of political awareness, the majority of respondents are in the moderate category with a percentage of 31.5%, followed by 25% of respondents who have a high level of political awareness. Moderate political awareness in the majority of respondents indicates that most individuals have basic knowledge of political issues and their rights in the political system, but are not fully involved or deeply understand their role as active citizens. Research on political awareness in Indonesia shows varying levels of involvement among the community. A study of college students found that 88.2% only followed popular political issues, indicating limited in-depth understanding (Ulfa et al., 2021). Likewise, research at the village level shows low political awareness, where only 29.3% of respondents have knowledge of political awareness (Dio Lavarino & Wiyli Yustanti, 2016). The rise of information technology has created new opportunities for political engagement, but challenges such as disinformation and polarization still exist (Sakinatuz Zahro et al., 2023). These findings suggest that while many Indonesians have basic knowledge of political issues and their rights, they may not fully understand or actively participate in the political system. This suggests the need for more intensive political education programs to increase political awareness and participation at a higher level. Proper political education can encourage individuals to better understand the impact of political decisions on people's daily lives and ultimately, increase political participation.

Then at the level of political knowledge, most respondents are in the moderate category, with a percentage of 37%. However, 25% of respondents have a very low level of political knowledge, and another 15.2% are in the low political knowledge category. The moderate level of political knowledge indicates that although the majority of respondents have a fairly good understanding of political issues, there is a large portion of the population who still have minimal knowledge of the political system, regulations, and actors who play a role in government. Limited access to accurate and relevant political information can be one of the factors causing low political knowledge among respondents. Research shows that limited access to accurate political information

contributes to low political knowledge among respondents, especially young voters. Studies show that first-time voters have a poor understanding of the concept, role, and function of political parties, and often view them negatively (Limilia & Ariadne, 2018). The media plays an important role in shaping the structure of political knowledge and encouraging participation among new young voters (Sah Allam et al., 2021). However, the spread of hoaxes and fake news can be misleading, especially regarding political information (Nurhaipah & Ramallah, 2024). To overcome this, media literacy is very important for the public to access political information, filter content, and find accurate sources (Nurhaipah & Ramallah, 2024). In addition, technology has opened up new opportunities for political participation, but challenges such as disinformation and polarization can hinder healthy political awareness (Sakinatuz Zahro et al., 2023). Efforts to increase political awareness through government initiatives, NGOs, and civil society are very important to strengthen political awareness in Indonesia (Sakinatuz Zahro et al., 2023).

And in terms of political participation, the majority of respondents are at a moderate level of political participation, which is 35.9%, followed by 25% of respondents with a very low level of participation and 22.8% of respondents with high participation. The average political participation is at 15.98 with a standard deviation of 2,301, which shows that respondents' political participation varies but tends to be at a moderate level. Moderate political participation shows that respondents are generally involved in political activities, although not at a high intensity. Low or very low political participation in most respondents can be caused by various factors, including distrust of political institutions, low motivation, or lack of information about the importance of involvement in the political process. This phenomenon is in accordance with the study (Mujani et al., 2018), which shows that although there has been an increase in political participation in Indonesia post-reform, challenges to increasing political participation remain, especially among younger groups or groups with limited access to information.

Overall, the multidimensional level of political participation of respondents shows that 29.3% are in the low political participation category. This is followed by 25% of respondents who show very low and high levels of participation. The average total score of political participation is 74.75, with a standard deviation of 8.353. This finding indicates that the low level of political participation is likely due to a lack of political trust, although in terms of political knowledge and awareness, respondents are in the moderate category. Other studies have consistently shown a positive relationship between the level of political trust and political participation. The higher the level of political trust, the greater the political participation in various community groups, including first-time voters. For example, research by (Hasbi Wahyudi et al., 2013) shows that students who have higher political trust tend to be more active in political

participation. Likewise, (Akhrani et al., 2018) found that young voters who have trust in the government participate more in the political process. Factors such as social and economic status, political awareness, and trust in the government also play an important role in determining political participation, as expressed by (Aspiran, 2017).

In addition, a study by (Anggraini et al., 2018) found that political awareness and trust in the government system had a significant impact on political participation in the 2015 regional elections. These findings suggest that in order to increase overall political participation, especially among young voters who make up the majority of voters, the government and political parties should focus on improving performance and building public trust. Overall, these studies strengthen the argument that higher political trust will lead to increased political participation in various contexts, making it a key element in strengthening democracy.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, the level of political trust among respondents is generally in the low to moderate category, which significantly impacts the low level of overall political participation. The results of statistical tests also show that the data are not normally distributed, indicating significant variations in the level of political trust and participation among respondents. Factors such as dissatisfaction with government performance, lack of transparency, and low community involvement in political decision-making according to several respondents are the main causes of low political trust. In addition, although most respondents have a fairly good level of political awareness, limited access to accurate and relevant political information remains an obstacle to increasing political participation. This finding is in line with previous studies showing that low political trust contributes to low political participation in various community groups, including young voters.

The low level of political participation found in this study also shows that even though people have a fairly good level of political awareness, this is not enough to encourage more active political participation without strong trust in political institutions. This low level of political trust not only hinders active involvement in the political process, but can also weaken the legitimacy of the government and worsen the relationship between the government and citizens. Given the importance of political trust as a key element in strengthening democracy, serious efforts are needed to overcome existing obstacles and rebuild public trust in political institutions.

Based on these findings, several follow-up steps that need to be considered include increasing government transparency and accountability to strengthen public trust in political institutions. The government and political parties should adopt more inclusive policies and involve the public in the political decision-making process. In addition, more intensive political education needs to be a priority, especially for young voters, with the aim of increasing political awareness, knowledge of the political system, and the rights and obligations of citizens. Given that the data in this study were not normally distributed, further research should use more appropriate non-parametric statistical methods, and explore other factors that influence political trust and participation, such as the role of the media and cultural factors. Media literacy should also be improved to ensure that the public can access accurate political information and are able to filter out misleading information. Thus, efforts to strengthen political trust and participation can be more effective, so that democracy in Indonesia can develop better.

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