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Youth Political Perception Toward Indonesian 2024 Election

Abstract

Indonesian Election is scheduled for February 14, 2024, serving as a crucial platform for citizen engagement in the democratic political system. Perception and assessment of youth regarding election have significant implications. Therefore, this study adopted qualitative methods and drew conclusions using primary data. The results showed that (1) approximately 80% of youth had favorable perception and assessment of 2024 election, confirming voter registration and the intention to participate on the voting day, (2) about 88% had a positive political orientation, rejecting negative campaigning and strategies that did not comply with regulatory guidelines, (3) 76.06% primarily voted for executive (president, governor, mayor, regent) and legislative candidates by considering vision and mission. Consequently, youth political perception tended to be positive and conformist, with responses conforming with the existing political and electoral systems.

Keywords: *Political Perception, Knowledge, Orientation, Youth, Indonesian Election 2024*

Introduction

A survey conducted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS, 2023) showed that young voters, specifically those aged between 17 and 39, were expected to dominate Indonesian 2024 election. It was estimated that 60% or approximately 190 million people of the total voters would constitute youth demographic. In 2019 election, based on KPU data, millennials made up 40% of the national permanent voter list. This number indicated the crucial role of millennial generation and the importance of making informed choices and avoiding abstention from voting.

Historically, many youths were considered "abstainers" due to insufficient information about the choice of candidates (Carvalho et al., 2023), because election information was not easily accessible. The spread of hoax issues also caused unrest and contributed to perception of political apathy among some youth (Hui, 2020). Therefore, digitally literate millennials were expected to assess information intelligently.

The factors influencing the preference of youth (students, adolescents, young people) for specific political parties or candidates can be categorized from various perspectives, namely structural psychology, sociology, ecology, social aspects, and rational choice (Roth, 2008). However, some eligible voters refrain from exercising the right to vote, leading to an increase in the number of "golput" (non-voters) across successive elections. There are five factors contributing to this trend, spanning technical and occupational considerations, both internal and external, comprising administrative, socialization, and political elements.

On February 14, 2024, Indonesia will hold a general election (presidential and legislative at both the central and regional levels). Furthermore, on November 27, 2024, regional head elections will commence simultaneously across all provinces, regencies, and cities. In 2024, Lampung Province will conduct elections for a governor and deputy, two mayors and deputies, along with 13 regents and deputies.

Previous studies conducted by democracy activists showed a continuous decline in public participation in elections due to several factors (Table 1). According to a survey by General Election Commission (KPU) (2014), one contributing factor is the significant proportion of voters abstaining from exercising voting rights (29%). Another factor is the diminishing public satisfaction with the performance of executive institutions (Lestari, 2021).

Table 1 Trends in Voter Participation Rates in 1999-2019 Elections

Election Year	Legislative Election (%)	Presidential Election (%)
1999	92.70 %	The first post-political reform election
2004	84.06 %	77.44 %
2009	70.99 %	72.09 %
2014	75.11 %	69.58 %
2019	81.69 %	81.97 %

Al-Hamdi et al. (2014) examined youth perception as voters regarding the quality of 2014 election administration. The following indicators were used to measure integrity: (1) election laws, (2) election procedures, (3) voter registration, (4) registration of political parties and candidates, (5) the role of mass media, and (6) campaign candidates. The results showed that youth generally had adequate perception of electoral integrity. Specifically, positive perception was observed regarding political party and candidate registration, as well as election procedures, while the remaining indicators were seen as adequate. Youth also had the highest trust in the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) but demonstrated the lowest trust in political parties and parliament.

Safkaur (2022) explained that youth perception regarding elections was to participate in selecting prospective leaders without coercion, driven by awareness of political rights in the democratic process. However, some refrained from voting due to administrative or technical reasons, distrust toward presidential, vice-presidential, or legislative candidates perceived as unable to instigate change. There was also a perception that officials lacked neutrality or independence and failed to penalize or deter individuals or candidate pairs engaging in electoral fraud. Widespread practices such as money politics can diminish political references of youth and the participation.

Daily and Kimmelmeier (2021) focused on the attitude of Catalan youth, aged 15 to 16 and spread across 30 high schools, exploring perception on the importance of voting in different election types (independence referendum, local, sub-national, national, super-national) and intentions to vote upon turning 18. The results showed a correlation between perceived voting importance and interest in voting. Specifically, the importance of voting in various elections was related to the extent to which students perceived social science teachers to be open to debate and expression of opinions in class. Differences in the importance attributed to voting in independence referendums compared to

conventional elections were also identified, showing disparities related to socio-economic status and political dialogue with parents.

Young voters are often difficult for political parties or election respondents to engage with or influence. Political orientation of youth as novice voters is dynamic and subject to change based on existing conditions and influencing factors (Setiajid, 2011). Consequently, the following question arises: are Indonesian citizens, particularly youth, prepared to exercise voting rights to determine the fate of Indonesia for the next five years?

Based on the previous background, this current study aimed to (1) explain youth perception of 2024 election; (2) identify voting orientation; and (3) explain the reasons for voting specific presidential and legislative candidates. The results were expected to provide recommendations for improving election regulations by election organizer (KPU) in the future, specifically in ensuring the equitable rights and obligations of youth in election. It was also crucial to formulate and propose a model for preventing non-voting behavior (golput) among novice and young voters during elections.

Literature Review

1. Political Perception

According to Gibson (1959), perception is a cognitive process through which individuals interpret and understand the world. There are a variety of cues shaping perception of people regarding objects, signs, and even other people. To ascertain an individual perception of an object, it is essential to consider the indicators of perception, which include absorbing stimuli or objects from the external environment, understanding, and assessment or evaluation. Individual judgment significantly influences decision-making aspects. This process revolves around the confidence in comprehending the circumstances, impacting decision-making. An individual perception of others also determines attitude in communication and forms the basis of actions.

According to Plano et al. (2005: 148-149), perception is a process (or outcome) that fosters awareness of a situation through a healthy state of mind. It constitutes two interrelated working processes, first, the reception of impressions through vision, touch, and other senses, second, the interpretation or determination of meaning from these sensory impressions. Meanwhile, the factors influencing perception of political phenomena are ideology, personality, past activities and experiences, the characteristics of certain decision-making situations, potential losses and benefits, and emotional state.

Perception is important in the study of political behavior as it forms the basis of individual actions rather than reality. Prasetijo (2005) identified two primary influencers of perception, namely internal and external factors. Internal factors include experience, needs, judgment, expectations, while external factors pertain to the contextual situation and political dynamics within a country. Individuals with positive self-perception tend to make sound decisions, while those with weaker abilities may make less effective decisions.

2. Election in Indonesia

8 Abraham Lincoln defined democracy as a government of people, by people, and for people (Faidi, 2018). In other words, in a democratic state, the highest sovereignty or power resides with people. The defining features of a democratic state include a government with limited powers, preventing arbitrary actions against citizens. Limited government powers imply that the rights and obligations of the government are restrained by the constitution, including specific terms and conditions of office. Therefore, the state constitution establishes a mechanism for the periodic election and the selection of state administrators through general elections conducted by the people.

The fundamental essence of democracy lies in the process of elections. This concept, referred to as procedural democracy, was proposed by Joseph Schumpeter (2003) and developed by Samuel P. Huntington (2001). Democracy is theoretically defined as a procedural method for electing political leaders. This enhances competition between political parties and candidates with the aim of persuading people and winning governmental positions, be it legislative or executive, at central or regional levels. This definition identifies two crucial elements, first, healthy competition among parties and candidates, second, the active participation of citizens in assessing and making decisions related to the competition.

In Indonesia, election is held in accordance with Indonesia Constitution and Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning the General Election. These regulations mandate that elections implement the sovereignty of people directly, publicly, freely, secretly, honestly, and fairly, guided by Pancasila and Indonesian Constitution. Election is conducted to select members of People Representative Council (DPR), Regional Representative Council (DPD), President and Vice President, as well as Regional People Representative Council (DPRD) (Article 22E paragraph 1).

Election as a crucial element in a democratic system serves to check government power, ensuring it remains neither absolute nor arbitrary. In line with this electoral principle, in the context of political decentralization, direct election is also conducted at provincial, regency and city levels to democratically elect governors, regents, and mayors in compliance with applicable laws, specifically Law Number 6 of 2020.

3. Youth as Voters

The political participation of Indonesian citizens, including women, is guaranteed by Indonesian Constitution and various regulations that recognize equal political rights for all, regardless of gender. This includes the fundamental right to vote and to be elected in elections. Article 28D paragraph 3 affirms that every Indonesian citizen has an equal opportunity to participate in governance.

New voters coming of age and representing groups entering political sphere, use the right to vote for the first time. This includes students, constituting a crucial element within the structure and dynamics of politics and democracy. According to Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Election, eligible voters are Indonesian citizens aged 17 years and older, who are or have been married, and possess the right to vote.

Methodology

This study adopted a qualitative method that generated descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words, as well as observable behavior, perception, motivation, attitude, and action (Bogdan and Taylor, 2019). Respondents were prospective voters, Indonesian citizens aged at least 17 years, who were or had been married, and registered in election. A total of 170 students were sampled and interviewed using questionnaires between April to June 2023. The primary focus was to explore youth perception regarding election and how perception influenced political references.

Data were obtained from questionnaires administered to respondents. These questionnaires centered on voter perception and contained key inquiries conforming with the study objectives to guide the narrative process. The objective was to investigate how perception, reference, and future expectation could be used as recommendations for KPU. The collected data were analyzed using coding method. The interviews conducted with youth were categorized into specific themes based on the study objectives. Supporting data sources, including reports, notes, and official written materials relevant to the theme, were used.

Data analysis is the presentation and explanation of information obtained from the questionnaires distributed among sample respondents. The process entailed organizing the data for interpretation and tabulating according to the required data arrangement to address the research problems. Qualitative study identified inference and analysis based on scientific logic, but does not disregard the use of quantitative data. While hypothesis testing was not prioritized, the primary aim was to address research questions through formal and argumentative reasoning.

The samples included 170 students from various regencies or cities in Lampung Province. Based on gender, there were 68 (40%) males and 102 (60%) females. The age of respondents ranged from 18 to 22 years old, with the majority being 19 (60%), 18 (24.12%), 20 (10.59%), 21 (3.52%), 22 (0.59%), and a small portion having no response (0.59%).

Results

1. Youth Perception of 2024 Election

Youth perception and awareness of 2024 election tended to be positive. A significant majority of respondents (97%) registered as voters on the provisional voter list for 2024 election. The permanent voter list was scheduled to be announced on June 22, 2023. A substantial portion of respondents (80%) claimed familiarity with the presidential candidates (refer to Table 2).

The sources from which respondents gained knowledge about presidential candidates primarily included social media, television, and various other media platforms. Respondents specifically mentioned several declared candidates, such as Anies Baswedan, Ganjar Pranowo, and Prabowo Subianto. However, only 30% were familiar with the names of candidates for DPR at the central level, while the remaining 70% did not recognize the names of those contesting for central legislative agency.

Table 2 Perception of Presidential Candidates in 2024 Election

Presidential Candidate Name	Frequency	Percentage
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Know	136	80%
Do not know	34	20%
Total	170	100%

Most respondents were unfamiliar with the legislative candidates in the respective regions, spanning provincial, regency, and city levels. A small fraction was acquainted with candidates set to represent DPR RI and DPD RI. A substantial 68% stated the lack of familiarity with the names of legislative candidates (DPRD) running in respective electoral regencies for 2024 election. At the provincial level, 65.88% were unaware of the names of legislative candidates (Provincial DPRD) in the constituencies (Table 3).

Concerning national-level legislative candidates representing regional political party organizations in Lampung Province, 70% of respondents did not recognize the names of DPR RI legislative candidates. Similarly, for national-level legislative candidates representing Lampung Province, another 70% were unfamiliar with the names of candidates. The primary reason for this lack of knowledge was attributed to not receiving information through print media, online sources, or direct engagement through socialization and campaign efforts.

Table 3 Perception of Provincial Legislative Candidate Names

Name of Provincial Legislative Candidate	Frequency	Percentage
Know	58	34.12%
Do not know	112	65.88%
Total	170	100%

Respondents showed a higher level of awareness regarding 2024 national-level election compared to the knowledge of regional election, particularly in distinguishing executive leaders at the national level from political figures at the regional level. Some demonstrated greater familiarity with presidential candidates compared to candidates for DPR RI, DPD RI, Provincial, Regency, and City DPRD. The coverage of presidential candidates was more extensive through mass and social media compared to the exposure given to legislative candidates at the provincial, regency, and city levels.

The registration for legislative candidates for DPR, DPD, Provincial DPRD, and Regency/City DPRD commenced on May 1, 2023, and concluded on May 14, 2023. The candidate campaign period had not started during the interviews. While legislative candidates officially registered with KPU and experience substantial socialization, official campaign activities had not commenced.

2. Political Orientation of Youth Toward 2024 Election

Political orientation refers to the perspective, direction of thought, tendency, interest, belief, or judgment held by individuals and groups in the societal structure.

(1) Political orientation of youth tended to be positively inclined toward the practice of electoral democracy in the context of 2024 election. This inclination was evident in youth assessment of election campaigns based on principles of honesty and justice. Most respondents rejected black campaign practices and strategies (88.23%), whether by political parties, candidates, or other entities affiliated with election respondents (Table 4).

Negative campaigns entailed identifying the weaknesses and mistakes of political opponents. Meanwhile, black campaigns entailed making false or unproven accusations or irrelevant claims about the leadership abilities of opponents (Santoso, 2019). All respondents unanimously disagreed (100%) with the use of black campaign strategies, denouncing any attempts by political parties or candidates to spread lies and slander.

Table 4 Orientation toward Black Campaign with Primordial Issues

Primordial Campaign	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	20	11.77%
Disagree	150	88.23%
Total	170	100%

(2) In addition to black campaign strategy that incited primordial sentiments (ethnicity, religion, race, inter-group), 94.71% of respondents disagreed with the use of negative campaign strategies by political parties or candidates to spread disgrace and disparagement against political opponents (Table 5). During the campaign period, candidates frequently resort to various deceptive tactics, such as spreading slander and fake news, in an attempt to garner sympathy from the voting public (Hui, 2020).

Table 5 Orientation toward Negative Campaign

Negative Campaign	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	9	5.29%
Disagree	161	94.71%
Total	170	100%

Black campaigns leveraging primordial issues and sentiments of ethnicity, religion, race, and inter-group relations in Indonesia had the potential to cause various dangers and negative impacts on multicultural societies and political stability. These campaigns possess six potential risks, namely the division of society; disruption of tolerance and harmonization; weakening of democratization; instigation of political conflicts; fostering extremism, radicalism, and terrorism; and reduction in political participation.

To overcome the dangers of black campaigns using primordial issues, it was important for all stakeholders, including politicians, political parties, civil society organizations, mass media, and the general public, to promote understanding, dialogue, and education that strengthen national unity and integration. In addition, strict regulations on political campaigns leveraging primordial sentiment issues should be strengthened to ensure a fair and peaceful political process. All parties should also commit to respecting diversity and encouraging inclusiveness in political process to realize the stability and progress of Indonesia as a democratic country.

3. Reasons to Consider Voting 2024 Election Candidates

All respondents (100%) expressed the intention to cast votes at the polling stations during 2024 election. Voters aimed to select both executive (president, governor, mayor, regent) and legislative candidates (DPR, DPD, DPRD) based on consideration of vision and mission. The majority (76.06%) showed that the choice was shaped by the same reason (Table 6).

A significant portion (64.12%) selected legislative candidates (DPR RI, DPD RI, Provincial, Regency, and City DPRD) based on the vision and mission delineated by preferred candidates. Moreover, (73.53%) selected specific governor candidates and (89.41%) selected regent or mayor candidates based on similar reasons.

Table 6 Consideration of Political Orientation in the Selection of Presidential Candidates

Reasons for Consideration	Frequency	Percentage
Candidate Vision & Mission	131	76.06
Integrity	19	11.18
Track Record	8	4.71
Vision, Mission & Integrity	3	1.76
Performance and Achievement	3	1.76
Performances	2	1.18
Gender equality	2	1.18
Ethics	1	0.59
No response	1	0.59
Total	170	100

The inclination of respondents' political orientation in selecting a president often conforms with rational choice considerations. This approach entailed an objective analysis based on available information and a comprehensive understanding of the public interest and basic values of the nation. Therefore, millennial voters (commonly referred to as generations Y and Z) are typically classified as rational and critical voters. According to the rational choice theory, these individuals exercise control over decisions. The majority of voters select candidates based on rational judgement rather than impulse, tradition, or unconscious environmental influences. Rationality serves as a fundamental assumption in understanding individual behavior across various contexts outside economics.

The following factors are often considered when selecting a candidate in an election. Policies and platforms (political party programs, candidate vision, and mission): Voters often consider policies and platforms proposed by candidates, assessing conformation with the values and interests, as well as the candidate stance on issues like the economy, education, environment, health, and social justice. Reputation and Track Record: Candidate reputation, work experience, political achievements, integrity, and honesty are crucial considerations. Voters prefer candidates with proven abilities and confidence to fulfill political tasks competently. Character and Integrity: Voters highly value a candidates' character, integrity, honesty, responsible, and commitment to principles considered significant. Personal ethics and morality also play a role in voters' decision-making. Leadership Ability: Candidates with strong leadership abilities, decision-making prowess, and positive societal impact are often preferred. Communication Abilities: Candidate capability to communicate effectively and deliver convincing messages influences voter decisions. Candidates who articulate the vision, mission, and work plans tend to attract voters. Party or Group Support: Voters often consider the support of a particular political party or group that resonates with the interests. Perception of a party or group representation of interests may impact voter choices. Responsiveness to Problems and Constituents: Candidates responsive to public concerns and interests hold

appeal. Voters often favor candidates who listen and act appropriately to the public interest, although choices may vary depending on the individual, socio-political conditions, and electoral context.

Discussion

The majority of respondents (80%) reported familiarity with the presidential candidates contesting 2024 election. This knowledge originated from sources such as social media, television, and other mass media outlets. Ly (2023) showed that promoting public engagement on social media contributed significantly to fostering trust between the government and citizens. Social media serves as a space to express political views and engage in discussions about societal issues.

In the lead-up to regional head election, a recurrent debate revolves around the differentiation between rational and emotional choices. Emotional choices are generally associated with the selection of candidates on the basis (sentiment) of similarities in ethnic, religious, racial, and inter-group identities. In the context of gubernatorial candidate selections, a minimal proportion of respondents (1.76%) showed voting based on religious similarity. Theoretically, selecting candidates based on religion remains an option for certain voters. In an inclusive democratic system, selecting a candidate should not be based solely on religion.

Theoretical justifications often presented by voters who chose candidates based on religious similarity are as follows: Representation of religious values and interests: Some voters believe that electing candidates with the same religion would better represent the religious values and interests. Candidates are expected to comprehend and advocate for the needs and aspirations of the religious community. Moral and ethical ties: For some voters, sharing a religion with a candidate is considered a strong moral and ethical bond. Trust and security: Certain voters place more trust and confidence in candidates of the same religion, demonstrating a deeper understanding of religious life, supporting religious freedom, and protecting the rights of believers within the faith.

Maintaining the principle of inclusive democracy is crucial, although the reasons above might influence the consideration of some voters. Election decisions should prioritize candidate qualifications, competence, and vision rather than solely relying on religious affiliation. Democratic principles signify the importance of respecting religious freedom and promoting diversity in candidate selection.

Orfan (2020) investigated political participation of Afghan youth on Facebook, examining the frequency of usage and assessing the influence of gender, age, and employment status on political participation and engagement in 2019 presidential election. The results showed that despite spending approximately half an hour daily on Facebook, youth demonstrated limited active participation in political activities on the platform. The engagement constituted low-cost, low-risk political activities, primarily centered on following Afghan politicians. Similarly, the engagement in 2019 presidential election on Facebook appeared to be superficial, often limited to activities requiring minimal effort and commitment, such as following presidential candidates.

Gender, age, and employment status had no significant influence on the frequency of Facebook use, political participation, and engagement in 2019 presidential election

among the Afghan youth. Fionna (2016) identified the significant reliance of Indonesian political parties on charisma and personal figures to garner public sympathy during elections. The continued preference of the public for established elite figures prompted many parties to use these individuals in campaigns.

Wilson and Kemmelmeier (2019) found a correlation between the perceived importance of voting and the interest levels of youth in voting. Meanwhile, Asrinaldi (2022) identified four causes of voter perception in West Sumatra that were not in line with voting behavior, namely value pluralism, failure of political education, money politics, and the dominance of information altering voter perception.

According to Clarke and Acock (2009), a crucial political attitude in elections is effectiveness, comprising the belief that individual political actions have, or can have, an impact on political process. While many studies showed a positive correlation between political effectiveness and electoral participation, the specific causal mechanisms remained inadequately understood. Some typically assumed a unidirectional relationship, presuming that effectiveness influenced participation, particularly from behavioral attitudes.

Regarding political disengagement, the youth consistently raise concerns for two primary reasons, demonstrating less interest than older generations to participate in established forms of political activities across various countries (Zhang, 2022: 1). Globally, there is a significant trend where youth are less interested in traditional politics and engage in fewer classic performances of political activities (voting). This is also observed in both developed and developing countries, as well as established democracies and growing economies.

Youth are currently spearheading a novel wave of collective action not typically associated with traditional institutions, and supported several new forms of politics, such as individualized activism (Bosch, 2017), political consumerism (Stolle et al., 2010), and new media-based participation (Zhang, 2005, 2013; Vromen et al., 2015). Different observations prompted scholars to reflect on the dichotomous view of activism versus passivity (Amna and Ekman, 2014) and suggest that youth participatory practices take the form of "informal, individualized and everyday activities" (Harris et al., 2010). These shifts should be observed over time rather than through momentary snapshots.

Conclusion

In conclusion, individual perception, political orientation, and judgment reflected the readiness to engage with political elements, particularly in the context of election. This engagement constituted belief, feeling, and assessment related to political entities in the electoral system. Each response component could be categorized as conformist, apathetic, or skeptical. Conformist responses showed a correlation with the existing political and electoral structures. Apathy denoted a lack of response or engagement with political and electoral systems, while skepticism implied a discrepancy between individual response and political or electoral system in place. The results showed that youth political perception tended to be positive and conformist, with responses corresponding with the prevailing electoral system.

The youth were expected to play an active role in politics, whether through participation in elections, social movements, or political organizations. Active political participation had the potential to shape a better future and foster a more inclusive, just, and responsive society catering to the needs of all members.

A. Youth Perception of 2024 Election

Youth perception and orientation toward 2024 Election were generally positive. Most respondents (97%) confirmed registering as voters in the Permanent/Provisional Voters List (DPS/T) for 2024 Election. Furthermore, all respondents (100%) expressed the intention to cast votes at polling stations, and some (80%) claimed familiarity with the presidential candidates.

The knowledge about candidates primarily originated from social platforms, television, and other media content sources. Respondents were able to name potential competing candidates, namely Anies Baswedan, Ganjar Pranowo, Prabowo Subianto, and others such as Puan Maharani, Erlangga Hartarto, etc. However, political literacy among most of youth was still not 'established'. Narratives about politics were often shaped and influenced by 'secondary' sources such as social media.

B. The Voting Orientation of Youth toward 2024 Election

Youth demonstrated a positive attitude toward the practice of electoral democracy in 2024 election. This inclination was reflected in the approach to election campaigns characterized by honesty and justice. Election campaigns comprised activities initiated by respondents or designated representatives aimed at persuading voters through the presentation of vision, mission, programs, or self-image of election respondents.

Negative and black campaign trends had consistently surfaced in Indonesian electoral landscape. Negative campaign comprised identifying the weaknesses and mistakes of opponents, while black campaign entailed false or baseless accusations irrelevant to the capacity of candidates as leaders.

In response to campaigns, 88% of respondents disagreed with the use of black campaign strategies that incorporated primordial nuances and ethnic, religious, racial, and inter-group sentiments. In addition, 95% expressed disagreement with political parties or candidates using black campaign to spread disgrace and slander against political opponents. The use of negative and black campaigns could lead to conflicts, disputes, and legal violations. Concern could also arise about potential grassroots clashes among supporters, particularly when the favored candidate loses.

C. The Reasons for Selecting Specific Candidates

Most respondents selected executive (president, governor, mayor, regent) and legislative candidates (DPR, DPD, DPRD) for 2024 election based on careful consideration of the vision and mission articulated by the preferred candidates. This rationale choice approach comprised objective analysis using available information and a comprehensive understanding of the public interest or basic values of the nation and state.

Youth perception, orientation, and positive assessment of 2024 election could significantly influence voting behavior as a form of political participation. Youth were

essential elements in politics, representing the future of a nation, and for the following reasons. Firstly, inclusive representation: youth had a better understanding of personal issues, such as education, employment, the environment, and mental health. Engaging in political process often ensured that the voices of youth were heard and needs were considered in policy-making. Secondly, change and innovation: youth often provided novel perspectives, enthusiasm and innovative ideas to politics, thereby challenging the status quo and instigating positive transformations to address societal challenges. Thirdly, learning and growth: political participation enabled youth to understand political system, decision-making processes, and democratic values. This also helped in nurturing essential abilities such as leadership, negotiation, critical thinking, and problem-solving, which were crucial for personal and professional growth. Fourthly, building a sustainable future: issues such as climate change, sustainable development and social equality were becoming increasingly important to youth. Active engagement in politics could enhance advocacy for sustainable policies, environmental protection and social justice, contributing to a better future. Fifthly, respect for democratic rights and responsibilities: democracy necessitated the active participation of all citizens. Therefore, youth were expected to comprehend the rights and responsibilities as citizens, specifically the right to vote and be elected. Civic responsibilities could also be exercised with significant influence on the nation trajectory by participating in political process.

Future Study Directions

The limitation of this study was based on the primary data used. Therefore, future studies were recommended to incorporate secondary data from existing literature to comprehensively understand youth perception. In addition, this study only focused on the influence of youth political perception, orientation, and judgment. Subsequent investigations should explore the interrelationships among various factors affecting political perception. While the results provided valuable and novel insights into the existing pool of knowledge, previous studies remained quite diverse. Consequently, quantitative methods should be adopted to further enrich the literature and provide a deeper understanding of youth political perception in millennial era. Adhering to these recommendations would not only contribute to literature and science but also benefit the academic field.

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