

Determinant Factor Analysis of Political Choice Establishment of Elderly People

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Abstract: Elderly people in the election administration are often neglected with respect to the services, especially in the fulfillment and involvement of their political rights. In fact, there are political rights that should be given to elderly people in general election in the form of having the right of justice, the right to information, and the right to vote. This paper aims at explaining the results of determinant factor analysis of the political choice establishment of elderly people in Cimahi mayoral election in 2017. In this study, the analytical processes employed a qualitative-descriptive as the research method, in which the research subject was in the form of person and it was executed using purposive techniques, involving the elderly people, the Regional Election Commission (KPUD) and the other related Social Services involved in the General Mayoral Election of Cimahi in 2017. In addition, the techniques of collecting data and information employed in this present study were in-depth interviews and literature studies. The results of qualitative analysis showed that the determinant factors of the political choice establishment of elderly people were based on (1) internal factors and (2) external factors.

1 INTRODUCTION

General election is regarded as a means of democracy (Stokes, 1999) for all citizens to realize the sovereignty of the people and to gain their political rights, including the elderly people. This general election is expected to establish a democratic and strong government, and it will gain the support of the people in order to realize the national objectives as mandated by the 1945 Constitution.

However, the reality showed the opposite. In the implementation of general election for the elderly people or for those whose age are between and more than 65 years, these elderly people are often ignored and receive discriminatory treatments, especially in the fulfillment of the political rights. Whereas, it is clear that there are political rights for those elderly people in the general election to access the right of justice, the right to get information, and the right to vote.

In principle, the elderly community has the same rights as provided for the other communities in order to have a special treatment and in the same time they are also freed from any form of discrimination. The high needs for the justice principles and the

elimination of all forms of barriers as indicated by the spirit of the Constitution for all state citizens in the implementation of the general election are viewed as the embodiment of the sovereignty of the people in order to establish a system of democratic governance. In the Article 5 Paragraph (1) of Indonesia Constitution, Number 13 in the Year of 1998 on Welfare for the Elderly People, it is said that "the elderly people have equal rights in the life of society, nation, and state".

World Health Organization (WHO) as reported by the Center of Data and Information, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, projected that the elderly population in Indonesia will reach 11.34% or 28.8 million people in 2020. On the other hand, the number of population under the age of five years (toddlers) is around 6.9%. Therefore, Indonesia is encouraged to increase the needs for the services and the fulfillments of the rights of the elderly people, including their political rights. In fact, the data has proved that the elderly people deserve to be acknowledged in political events, such as the general election since they also have the same voting rights as other voters. The general election as the Democratic Party, should involve all elements of the citizens

without any exception (Amudsen, 2016). In fact, it is clear that one of the indicators in relation the qualified implementation of general election is the element of education towards the politics that will support the high level of public participation of the elderly people.

Based on the research results, "in the general election, the novice voters are given their own political rights in the implementation of election, such as to choose freely in accordance with their conscience, to respect each other's opinions, to support and cooperate, and it is different with the elderly voters who have many limitations in terms of getting Political rights ". In addition, as the matter of fact, the tendency of political choices of the elderly people is also different. In fact, there are some of them who elect the religious-based parties' candidates, while some others elect the candidates coming from the nationalist-based parties. This difference in terms of political choices is influenced by many aspects. In particular, some of them in fact are influenced by the proximity to the political parties and some others are influenced by the preference of family, friends in an organization, political issues, and the identification towards political parties, religion, ethnicity, economics and so forth.

Coming from those aforementioned reasons, the researcher is then interested in conducting a study on the analysis of determinant factors in the establishment of political choices in the elderly people.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Review of Political Rights

Political rights are human rights related to the political issues, such as the freedom of choice and election in democracy, freedom to establish parties, and the right to file and make a petition (Nanou, 2012).

Basically, a political right is a period in which a citizen is given his/her own political rights wholly and thoroughly and their participation cannot be denied. Therefore, the state organizer should be able to secure the political rights for society in order to create social justice for all Indonesian people.

Political right is a right coming from the dignity and it is attached to every human being in which their existence is guaranteed and respected by the state. In fact, it aims at human beings can have their own rights and freedom in the political field whose it's

fulfillment becomes the responsibility of the State (Valentini, 2012).

In the Article 23 paragraph (2) of the Constitution, Number 39 in the Year of 1999 on Human Rights, it is said that "everyone is free to have, issue and disseminate opinions according to his or her conscience, either orally and/or in writing through printed and electronic media by paying attention to the values of religion, morality, order, public interest, and integrity of the nation ".

Furthermore, in the Article 23 paragraph (1) of the Constitution, Number 39 in the Year of 1999 on Human Rights, it is said that, "everyone is free to vote and have political belief". Political rights are also understood as the right to participate in government, the right to vote (elect and be elected), the right to establish political parties, etc. (Qi et al., 2010).

In this perspective, political rights are a means of gaining greater political objectives to gain power (Qi et al., 2010). The essence of politics is basically power. In other words, it is used to organize society so that they can be obedient and subject to the rules and this obedience can be realized unless there is the existence of power. Politics is a struggle to gain power, run power, control power, and how to use power.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the political rights in this study is considered as the ways the community, especially the elderly community know and gain their own political rights.

2.2 Review of General Election and Political Rights of Elderly People

General election is considered as a process of electing those who will occupy the seat of government (Hafner-Burton et al., 2014). Meanwhile, the regional elections are held simultaneously in order to create a democratic country, where the regional leaders are elected by the majority vote ".

In essence, the general election is viewed as an available means of sustaining the sovereignty of the people in accordance with the principle of engagement in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution. The simultaneous elections are essentially considered as a democratic medium in which the leaders for the certain regions are elected directly by the people and they along with the government are given an authority to set up the politics and the continuity of the regional government (Brender and Drazen, 2013).

Although every Indonesian citizen (male and female) has the rights to vote, the Election Constitution sets the age restrictions in order to participate in the general election. The time limits for

setting the general restriction are the time registration of the voters for the general election:

- Above the age 17;
- Under the age of 17 but he or she already got married.

With respect to the provision of the age limit as mentioned above, it is based on the development of political life in Indonesia. In fact, the citizens of the Republic of Indonesia which has reached the age of 17 years, they will be given a political responsibility for the state and society. Therefore, the right is automatically given to Indonesian citizen to choose the representatives to sit the House of Representatives (Warren, 2013). As it is clearly explained in accordance with the general election, it is assumed to be needed to know more about the election from the perspective of health. According to Stokes (1999), "the elderly people are divided into three categories consisting of: young old (65-74 years-old); middle old (75-84 years-old); and old (over 85 years-old)". Meanwhile, according to Setyonegoro, "elderly people are defined as people whose age are over 65 years-old. Furthermore, elderly people are divided into these categories covering 70-75 years-old (young old); 75-80 years-old (old); and more than 80 years-old (very old)".

In principle, the elderly period is the final stage of the development in the life cycle of a man. Meanwhile, according to the Article 1 paragraph (2), (3), (4) Constitution No. 13 of 1998 on Health, it is said that "the elderly people are those who have reached the age of more than 60 years". According to Dra. Mrs. Jos Masdani (psychology of the University of Indonesia), the elderly is a continuation of adult age between the age of 65 years to the death.

Based on those aforesaid opinions, it can be concluded that the elderly is a period of elderly people whose age are over 60 years-old. However, they are still active in following the Democratic Party since they have a duty to participate in the general election as a good citizen.

3 METHODS

The method employed in this study was a qualitative-descriptive in which the data were obtained from informants representing the data source. With respect to the research subject in the form of person, this study employed a purposive technique. In this regard, the elderly, KPUD, and the social offices were chosen as the research subjects involved in the General Election of 2017. In addition, the subjects in the form

of papers were taken from the literature in order to support the research on the fulfillment of political rights of the elderly people in the implementation of General Election of 2017. In this study, the data and information were collected through various techniques taken from various sources, either human beings or non-human beings. In addition, the collection of information and data were executed through the techniques of in-depth interviews and literature studies. In regard to the data analysis techniques, this study applied the three activities taking place simultaneously in the forms of data reduction, data presentation, drawing conclusions/verification.

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In principle, political rights in the general election are considered as the rights given to all people, regardless of teenagers, adults, or elderly people. According to Article 1 paragraph (2), (3), (4) Act No. 13 of 1998 on Health, it is said that "the elderly people are those who have reached the age of more than 60 years. WHO projected that the elderly population in Indonesia will reach 11.34% or recorded 28.8 million people in the coming 2020. On the other hand, the number of people under the age of five years (toddlers) is around 6.9%. This numbers explain that that the number of elderly population will be in a strategic position in the next 2020. Therefore, the service and the fulfillment of the rights, including the political rights of the elderly people are regarded as the to-be-executed things.

In making use of the right to vote, there are a number of raised questions consisting of 'why do many people take political actions while others do not? Why do people choose PDIP, Golkar, PAN, PPP, Hanura while other parties are not elected? Why does one particular region have a tendency to choose one political party, while the other is not elected? What are the factors that shape the political choices of the society, including the elderly people?

In this regard, there are some factors viewed as the determinants of the political choice of the elderly people towards a particular political party in the general election. Based on the research results, two general factors have been identified covering: (1) internal factors, and (2) external factors. In one side, it is found that there are three things in the internal factors that are considered as the representatives of the voter behavior in the general election consisting of perception, motivation, and attitude of the elderly people towards the candidates whom they have

chosen. In the other side, the external factors are influenced by the family environment, surrounding communities, mass media, and the candidates themselves.

4.1 Internal Factors

Internal factors are considered as one of the factors coming from the individuals that affect their participation in the general election and in voicing their political choices for a particular candidate. Based on the results of this study, it is obvious that there are four dominant aspects that influence the voter choices internally, namely: (1) candidate factors, (2) perception, (3) motivation, (4) attitude of the elderly people towards the candidates whom they have chosen. The theoretical approach of voter behavior patterns (Voting Behavior) is well-known as the Michigan Model theory or the psychological approach theory (Bartels, 2012). According to this theory, the behavior of choosing a person is determined by the psychological impulse that forms someone's political choices. The psychological bond is caused by the existence of the closeness between the voters and the parties or candidates; and also caused by the determinant triage covering party identification, candidate orientation, and issue orientation (Dalton, 2002). Party identification is defined as a long process of socialization that will foster close relationships between individuals and political parties and other community organizations. Through this identification, a person will always feel as the part of the political party, therefore, it will create a tendency to keep voting the candidates from such political party for a long time (Gunther and Diamond, 2003). The candidate's orientation refers to the assessment of the character or personality and the value displayed by the candidate in either the family environment or the community environment, such as the wisdom, courtesy, fairness, courage, leader-minded, rescuer, and the others. Orientation issues and policies are also considered as an important thing. This assumption is based on the ability to represent policies or programs and strategies used by the political candidates in dealing with an existing problem. Some of these factors, that will promote perceptions of the voters and become motivations, promote the behavior to vote one candidate of a particular political party.

Those explanations above can be identified in Dalton's explanation. In particular, the behavioral process in electing some particular candidates on the psychological theory is analogically like a funnel causality filter as shown in Figure 1 (Dalton, 2002).

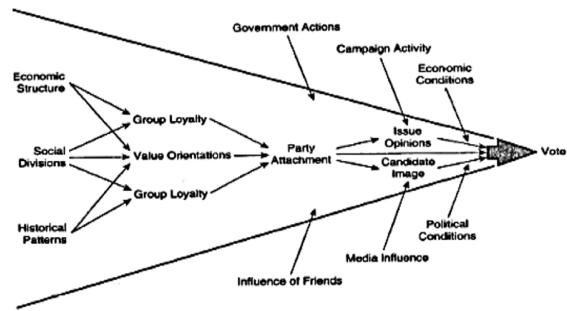


Figure 1: Funnel Causality.

This model explains that the individual voice decisions are based on the three attitudes: partisanship, opinion on the issue, and image of the candidate. In fact, it can convince the voters which will have an impact directly or indirectly on the community behavior in choosing the candidates (Dalton, 2002). Therefore, the effectiveness of the candidate campaign, the identity and popularity of the candidate, the electability and the bearer party of the candidates are considered as some other mandatory things that should be considered by the political parties in order to be able to mobilize and encourage people to vote in the general election.

4.2 External Factors

External factors are considered as the factors that come from the outside environment of the individuals, usually from the nearest environment. Based on the results of this study, it is obvious that the external factors that can motivate the elderly voters to give their political rights in the election consist of: (1) family environment, (2) surrounding community environment, and (3) mass media. These aforementioned factors are explained through the Sociological Approach or the Columbia Study pioneered by Lezarsfeild in 1940. The sociological approach concerns on the influence of social characteristics (occupation, education, and others) and sociological backgrounds (religion, region, gender, age, etc.) of the people towards their political behaviors (Bartels, 2012). In other words, social groupings such as, age (old-young); gender (male-female); religions and the like are considered to have a decisive role in shaping the social groupings, either formally such as one's membership in religious organizations, professional organizations, occupational groups and so on; or informally such as family, friendships, or other small groups are vital in understanding one's political behavior, since these groups have a great role in shaping one's attitude, perception and orientation.

This assumption is based on the social circle theory, in which each individual will be attached to the nearest circle in a particular society (Pachur et al., 2005). In some contexts, a person lives in a condition with his or her status, family, religion, residence, work environment, age, culture. As a whole, it can be defined that the social circles as the suppressors for individuals are used to determine the choices and political decisions in the general election (Armingeon and Schädel, 2015).

Based on the results of this present study, it is obvious that there is a great influence from the family environment. The influence is based on the political preferences of the mother dan father. Therefore, it will create a certain political preference towards the children specifically and the family generally (Pomper, 1978).

Similar to the surrounding environment, the membership of elderly people in a social group, either in a formal level (the membership of elderly people in a religious or professional organization and occupational group) or non-formal (friendship, small groups) can influence their political views and behaviors. From this group there can be interactions and discussion that can ultimately influence the political attitude of the elderly people. As an illustration, a close correlation between religion and voter behavior can always be found in which the religious values are always present in private and public life of Indonesian society.

In this era, media are considered as one of the vital means of influencing the views and political behaviors of the society (Diehl et al., 2016), including the elderly people. Mass media is regarded as a means of conveying the messages from the sources to the public through the mediation of communication media, such as newspapers, radio, and television. Based on the results of this study, it is clear that the mass media has become one of the important means for the elderly in deciding the political views and choices. During the general election, mass media has significant roles, such as: (1) a means of socialization of the General Election. It aims to improve people's understanding and knowledge of the correct phases of general election. In addition, mass media also provides more information on the existing ways and rules of election. Therefore, it can minimize the occurrence of errors during the general election; (2) one form of fair publication. Precisely, it also provides the voters with the understanding on publication processes by publishing the information as a whole regarding the candidates participating in the general election.

5 CONCLUSIONS

It can be concluded that the determinant factor of the formation of political choice, elderly people does not get fair treatment and discriminatory, especially in political rights. As we know there are political rights that can be obtained by elderly people in the general election. Therefore, the government should uphold the principal of justice to establish a democratic system of government.

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