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Analysis of Political Education Programmes on the Quality of Voter Participation in the 2024 General Election

Noprianto¹, Sastro M. Wantu², Lucyane Djaafar³.

¹Gorontalo State University, Gorontalo, Indonesia, nopriantokebang@gmail.com.

²Gorontalo State University, Gorontalo, Indonesia, sastrowantu@ung.ac.id.

³Gorontalo State University, Gorontalo, Indonesia, lucyanedjaafar@ung.ac.id.

Corresponding Author: nopriantokebang@gmail.com¹

Abstract: This study aims to analyse political education programs and their impact on the level of voter participation in the 2024 General Election in Banggai Regency. Using a qualitative method with a case study approach, data was collected through observation, interviews, and documentation. Primary data was obtained from the General Election Commission, Election Supervisory Agency, political parties, National and Political Unity, and voters in Banggai Regency. Secondary data was obtained from journals, books, and reports on the implementation of the 2024 elections. The results showed that political education programs such as voter education socialisation. The results of this programme have implications for voter participation, which is reflected in the increase in turnout in the 2024 elections to 80.83%, compared to 79.47% in the 2019 elections. Nonetheless, several factors such as voters' limited cognitive, affective and evaluative abilities, as well as limited access to information and economic instability, proved to be obstacles affecting political participation. This study recommends that election administrators improve the effectiveness of political education programmes by actively involving voters in these programmes, in order to encourage more optimal participation.

Keyword: Political Education, Political Participation, 2024 Elections in Banggai Regency.

INTRODUCTION

Discussions about democratic countries that use elections as a tool to channel people's voting rights are often hampered by the problem of citizens' ability to actively participate in elections, local elections, and similar elections. The ability refers to the cognitive, affective and evaluative contexts. Ironically, although elections are considered a key pillar of democracy to express the will of the people, many citizens find it difficult to actively participate in the electoral process, leading to debates about the extent to which democracy truly encourages full participation. Not surprisingly, in 2021, Indonesia's democracy index report ranked 73 out of 179 countries in terms of freedom of democracy. (Jati, 2021). The contradiction regarding the meaning of democracy lies in the variation of treatment applied by each country in its

implementation. Nonetheless, almost all modern countries uphold democracy with the main principles of popular sovereignty and the recognition of citizens' political rights. One of the concrete forms of this democracy is the holding of elections, which not only aims as a tool to legitimise the legality of government, but also to legitimise the legitimate succession of power. (Antari, 2018).

The idea of a democratic state has long been a part of Indonesia. Since its independence, the principles of governance and the relationship between the government and the people have been based on the concept of democracy. However, the democracy implemented is not liberal democracy, but democracy based on national values. In the context of elections, democracy in Indonesia emphasises mutual protection, people's critical attitude towards leaders, deliberation to reach agreement, and mutual cooperation. The implementation of elections in Indonesia is carried out in accordance with legal procedures based on Pancasila, which is the philosophical basis and evaluative norm in the Indonesian legal system. (Nuna & Moonti, 2019).

Elections are a tangible manifestation of popular sovereignty, enabling active participation of the people in determining the direction of government that will shape the future of the country. In Indonesia, general elections serve as an instrument in forming a democratic government through a mechanism that upholds the principles of honesty and justice. This electoral system is recognised by countries based on the principle of popular sovereignty, and is applied in various political systems, whether democracy, authoritarianism or totalitarianism. The essence of elections is rooted in two main principles that have been debated in the dynamics of state life: the doctrine of popular sovereignty and the concept of democracy. Democracy is the embodiment of popular sovereignty, where elections are a direct reflection of that democracy (Zazili, 2012). Elections can be considered democratic if all citizens who have the right to vote can participate in the elections in a direct, general, free, secret, honest and fair manner. Direct elections allow each voter to voice their choice according to their conscience without intermediaries. General elections provide equal opportunity for every citizen to participate without discrimination. Free elections ensure that voters can make decisions without pressure or coercion from any party. Secret elections keep voters' choices confidential, so that they are not known by others. The principle of honesty requires organisers and governments to apply the applicable rules with integrity, while the principle of justice demands equal treatment for all voters and election participants. (Dedi, 2019).

Elections are often faced with serious challenges that threaten the integrity of democracy, such as corruption and fraud. Such acts not only undermine people's trust in the political system, but also result in unfairness in electoral processes and outcomes. Unequal access to information is another factor that exacerbates the situation, preventing some voters from obtaining accurate and equal information and potentially reducing the quality of their political decisions. Low turnout also reflects people's apathy or distrust towards elections, which is commonly caused by information inequality. These inequalities are further compounded when certain groups, such as minorities or those with limited access, experience barriers to exercising their right to vote. As a result, these groups are underrepresented, and inequities in government representation are increasingly difficult to avoid. These challenges create a cycle of systemic failure that requires structural reforms for elections to be fair, inclusive and transparent. (Suryani & Azmi, 2017).

Political education is a systematic process of transferring knowledge about the dynamics of state politics to the community, which is expected to be manifested in active participation in general elections. The effectiveness of political education implemented by political parties, KPU, and Bawaslu can be evaluated through the level of voter participation in elections, with a low abstention rate reflecting the success of the political education programme. This aims to shape and foster individual political orientation so that they have a deep understanding of their political rights and obligations, as well as play an active role in democratic mechanisms.

(Kusuma et al., 2020). To form a society that has substantial political awareness and a deep understanding of the rights, obligations and responsibilities of citizens. Through political education, it is hoped that collective awareness will be created to actively participate in the dynamics of national politics, thus supporting the stability and sustainability of the democratic system and strengthening social cohesion in the context of nation and state. (Rahman, 2018).

As Gabriel Almond said, identifying public political participation in two main forms:

(1) Direct or conventional participation, which involves actions such as forming and joining political interest groups, participating in campaigns, voting, and actively engaging in political discussions. (2) Indirect or non-conventional participation, which includes involvement through other channels such as petitioning, staging demonstrations, strikes, and extreme actions such as vandalism, bombings, and political violence. (Djibalu et al., 2023). Referring to the thoughts of Huntington and Nelson, conventional political participation is an activity in which individuals act to influence government decisions. Evaluation of voter participation can be seen from political activities carried out before and after the election. High levels of political knowledge and awareness among voters contribute to the potential for optimal participation outcomes. Conversely, low levels of turnout often reflect a lack of political knowledge and awareness among the public, which in turn can negatively impact the overall quality of democracy. (Nuridin et al., 2023).

Miriam Budiarto suggests that there are various factors that influence voter participation in general elections. First, socio-economic factors play an important role, where the class or category of individuals in society can be measured through indicators that combine education, type of work, and income. Secondly, political factors involve people's participation in political discussions, as well as their perceptions, understanding, interests and concerns for the social environment. The political decision-making process also plays a role in determining the patterns and guidelines taken by voters. Third, individual and neighbourhood physical factors include candidate popularity. When people know and trust a candidate, the candidate's experience and track record become elements that attract voters' attention. Fourth, cultural values are the foundation in the formation of democracy, which includes political ethics, techniques and civilisation of society. This value includes political beliefs, appreciation, insight, and attitudes towards the political process. (Yusran & Sapar, 2022).

It is also what affects people's political participation is influenced by employment factors and low levels of trust in prospective leaders, which in turn leads to a decrease in community participation in the political process. In the practice of political culture, the main problem faced is the lack of political education, which makes people tend to be trapped in a pattern of participation that focuses on centralised power, both in formal and non-formal contexts. To overcome this challenge and increase political awareness, a mature and sustainable approach to education is required. Effective political education can provide a better understanding of the political process, encourage active participation, and strengthen people's trust in potential leaders and political institutions. (Djibalu et al., 2023).

Voter participation in elections in Banggai Regency is largely due to low political awareness and education. Although the number of Permanent Voters List (DPT) has increased, many voters do not fully realise the importance of their right to vote or feel uninformed to make informed decisions. This indicates that political education institutions have not optimised their role in educating the public about the importance of political participation and changing mindsets related to an unhealthy political culture. As a result, although the number of registered voters in the 2024 elections has increased, this increase has not been reflected in maximum participation.

In addition, several other factors affect the effectiveness of political education in Banggai Regency, including limited access to information, economic pressure and political apathy. Limited access to information prevents people from adequately understanding politics and the

electoral process. Meanwhile, economic pressures encourage most citizens to prioritise meeting basic needs over engaging in political activities. Political apathy, arising from distrust of the political system or disillusionment with leaders, also reduces people's interest in participating in elections. The combination of these factors is the main cause of the low voter turnout in the 2024 elections in Banggai Regency.

Political education is the process of internalising the nation's political culture, including political ideals, operational norms, and organisational systems rooted in the values of Pancasila. Effective political education plays an important role in shaping healthy and directed political participation, with the aim of encouraging people to be actively involved in the ideal political system, namely Pancasila Democracy. With strong political education, people have a deep understanding of their political rights and obligations, so that they can participate in democratic processes that reflect the values of togetherness and tolerance that are relevant to Indonesia's pluralistic society. (Prayugo & Prayitno, 2022). Political awareness is an important component of political education that every citizen needs to have. This political awareness includes a deep understanding of the rights and obligations as citizens, as well as interest and concern for the social and political environment. Effective political education aims to raise this awareness, encouraging citizens to actively participate in political life and make decisions based on a critical understanding of the political process. With good political awareness, people's political participation is expected to be more substantial, thus strengthening democracy and the political system as a whole. (Chen & Madni, 2024).

This study aims to analyse the impact of the Political Education Program on the quality of voter participation in the 2024 General Election in Banggai Regency. Political education is a process that aims to increase political awareness among the public, so that they can understand their rights and responsibilities as voters as well as issues relevant to politics and governance. Voter participation, which includes all forms of individual involvement in elections, is a key indicator for the sustainability of democracy. In this context, factors such as limited access to information, economic pressures and political apathy need to be analysed in depth. Limited access to information can prevent voters from acquiring the necessary knowledge about candidates and issues, potentially influencing their choices. In addition, economic pressures often lead individuals to focus more on their daily needs, thus reducing their involvement in politics. Political apathy, which can arise from dissatisfaction with the system or the belief that individual votes do not matter, can also reduce the motivation to participate in elections. therefore, this study will be more focuses on the context of Political Education Programme Analysis on the Quality of Voter Participation in the 2024 General Election.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative method with a case study approach. A case study is an exploration of "a bounded system" or "a case/variety of cases" over time through in-depth data collection and involving various "rich" sources of information in a context. The bounded system is bounded by time and place while the case can be studied from a programme, event, activity or an individual. (Creswell (1998), in (Gani & Djafar, L, 2016). Data collection techniques in this study include observation, interviews and documentation. Furthermore, the sources of this study consisted of primary data and secondary data. Primary data was collected through direct interviews with various parties such as the General Election Commission (KPU), Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), Office of National Unity and Politics (Kesbangpol), representatives of political parties, and the community in Banggai Regency. Meanwhile, secondary data was obtained through journal articles, books and report data from election organisers in Banggai Regency.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Strengthening Voter Participation through Political Education in Banggai Regency in the 2024 Elections

Political education is the process of providing knowledge to the public about state politics and is ultimately implemented in general election activities. The success or failure of political education carried out by political parties to the community can be seen by the level of community participation during general elections, the fewer people who abstain, the more successful political parties in conducting political party education to the community. This is because political party education is basically shaping and fostering individual political orientation Rusadi, (2004), in (Kusuma et al., 2020). According to Surono, political education aims to create a politically aware society, increasing citizens' awareness of their rights, obligations and responsibilities towards the nation and state. (Rahman, 2018). In line with this view, Mohammad Nuh stated that political education is not only about understanding the role of individuals in government, political parties, and bureaucracy, but it is also a process that develops a person's maturity and intelligence in assuming individual and collective responsibilities to solve the nation's problems according to his authority. This includes the formation of a healthy mentality and ethics in politics. (Rahman, 2018).

Highlighting the above statement, political education is an effort to develop young people's awareness of various problems of power and the ability to participate in political life. Political education can be done through various means such as discussions, lectures, and participation in political activities. This process is a dialogue between the giver and receiver of the message, where through these interactions, people learn values, norms, and ideal political symbols from various elements in the political system, including the government, schools, and political parties. Political socialisation is a form of political education in a broader sense. This process, whether we realise it or not, is experienced by all members of society, both elite and lay. (Yahzinka, 2019). Political education changes the understanding of citizens' political rights and obligations. Influence social conditions, and increase interest in engaging in political participation. (Sunarso, 2007) In short, political education aims to shape citizens' awareness of their rights and obligations under the constitution. (Sutarna et al., 2023). Political education is more than just the combination of the words "education" and "politics"; it is an in-depth understanding of the broad concept of political education. Political education is defined as education for citizens, which aims to develop the ability of individuals to actualise themselves as independent individuals, as well as improve their role as citizens who understand the identity and purpose of political education itself. (Handoyo, & Lestari, 2017)

In response to this, in the context of political education in the 2024 elections in Banggai district, the findings of the research are that the lack of political education has led to low voter turnout in general elections Weak political education has an impact on the low level of voter participation in the electoral process. Less than optimal political education causes some people to not understand the importance of voting rights as a tool to determine the direction of policies and leadership that will have a direct impact on people's lives. This lack of political awareness makes many voters feel apathetic and do not see the importance of participating in elections. In addition, limited political education programmes that cover all levels of society, especially in remote areas, exacerbate this condition. Unequal access to political education means that some voters do not have adequate information about the candidates or programmes being promoted, so their political participation is minimal or done without deep understanding.

Based on the findings of voter participation in the 2019 and 2024 elections in Banggai Regency, there is an analysis of the number of Permanent Voter Lists (DPT) and the number of voter participation. In 2019, there were 129,309 male voters and 126,651 female voters, with a total DPT of 255,960. In 2024, the number of DPT increased to 271,439, consisting of 136,858 male voters and 134,581 female voters. However, although the number of DPT increased by 15,479

voters or around 6%, voter participation did not show a comparable increase. In 2019, the voter turnout was 206,902 out of a total of 255,960 DPT, which means the turnout rate was around 80.83%. In 2024, voter turnout was 215,707 out of a total of 271,439 DPT, which means a turnout rate of approximately 79.47%. Thus, while the number of voters increased, the percentage of voter turnout actually decreased slightly, indicating that more people were registered to vote but did not actively exercise their right to vote. The absence of comprehensive political education also resulted in the public's lack of ability to understand the electoral process and their rights as citizens. Without a strong foundation of political education, people become more vulnerable to misleading information and manipulation in political campaigns. In the long run, weak political education impacts not only on low voter turnout, but also on the overall quality of democracy. An ideal democratic system demands active and conscious participation from the people; therefore, equitable and comprehensive political education is an essential requirement to build a strong democracy and quality political participation.

On the other hand, the results of this study reveal similarities in the implementation of the 2024 elections in Banggai Regency. The findings show that political education, understanding of citizens' rights, and dissemination of information to the community are often suboptimal. Although there are various efforts to convey information related to these three aspects, many of them are inaccurate or incomplete, making them ineffective in increasing individual political awareness. This leads to limited active participation in the democratic process, which in turn weakens the legitimacy of the election itself. Therefore, it is imperative to improve information delivery strategies to make them more effective and inclusive, so that they can be more effective in raising people's political awareness. Support individual capacity building and strengthen existing social and political structures within communities. These efforts will not only increase voter turnout, but also contribute to strengthening democracy in Banggai Regency. (Husna & Fahrimal, 2021).

The above indicates that the function of political education is the process of providing knowledge to the public about state politics which is ultimately reflected in their participation in general elections. The success of political education carried out by political parties can be measured by the level of public participation in general elections. The lower the abstention rate, the more successful political parties are in educating the public about politics. This is because the main goal of political education is to shape and foster individual political orientation. (Kusuma et al., 2020). Political education is basically reconstructing existing values and building new values. Typically education, this provides a process of knowledge transformation, the formation of certain attitudes and intended behavioural changes. The first aspect concerns the cognitive dimension, while the second and third aspects are affective and behaviouristic. Thus political education has an important and strategic meaning, which moves citizens (voters) to have adequate political knowledge, as well as awareness of the importance of an ideal political system and intelligent and critical political behaviour. (Nasiwan, 2005).

Political education involves efforts made by educational institutions, both formal and non-formal, to shape and develop political personalities in accordance with the political culture adopted by these institutions. The purpose of this political education is to increase the political awareness of citizens at various levels, so that they can understand and realise their own political rights and obligations. In addition, political education also aims to shape the ability of active political participation, so that citizens can contribute to solving common problems in society and encourage change towards better conditions. (Arifin, 2018). Political education aims to increase people's knowledge so that they can participate optimally in the political system. Within the framework of popular sovereignty or democracy, people must be able to carry out the task of participation. Forms of political education can be delivered through: a) Reading materials such as newspapers, magazines, and various mass publications that help shape public opinion; b) Audiovisual media such as radio broadcasts, television, and films; c)

Community institutions or associations such as NGOs, or citizen discussion group forums and formal and non-formal educational institutions. (Rahman, 2018).

Barriers to Access to Information, Economics and Voter Apathy in the 2024 Elections in Banggai Regency

Various factors impede political education in elections. These factors include limited access to information, economic constraints, intense political competition, apathy towards politics, and a lack of tradition of citizen participation in collective activities. In addition, the weakness of civil society organisations (social differentiation), high levels of poverty and low levels of citizen literacy are also major obstacles. Low literacy levels reduce citizens' ability to protect their civil liberties. The proportional representation electoral system is also considered to provide loopholes for political parties to commit abuses Lehoucq, (2003), in (Rahmatunnisa, M. 2017). Limited access to information about politics and the democratic process can be a major barrier to political education. Without adequate information, people find it difficult to understand and participate in the political process effectively. Non-neutral or polarised media further exacerbates this situation, as it can present information that are not objective, thus forming a biased understanding and distorting reality. (Norris, 2001).

In this context, the importance of a free and objective media cannot be underestimated. When the media acts as a provider of accurate and balanced information, the public can better understand political issues in depth. Conversely, when the media is polarised, society becomes divided and the political education that is expected to strengthen democracy is hampered. (Norris, 2001) asserts that adequate access to information is the foundation for political education. Low levels of general education are a major barrier to effective political participation. When people do not have a strong educational foundation, their understanding of political issues is limited, preventing them from engaging meaningfully in the political process. Almond and Verba emphasise that political literacy requires a solid educational foundation. Imagine a nation where every citizen has access to quality education. their understanding of their rights and obligations as citizens would be better, enabling active and critical participation in democracy. Without adequate education, people are vulnerable to political manipulation and misunderstanding, hindering the development of a healthy and sustainable democracy. (Fachrudin, 2021)

Political cultures that tend to be authoritarian or paternalistic can hinder democratic political education, as people accustomed to these cultures are often reluctant or afraid to participate in politics. Inglehart and Welzel explain that this fear stems from long experience with oppressive systems, where people's voices are often ignored or silenced. As a result, people become passive and less involved in public affairs, leading to low political participation and understanding of rights and obligations as citizens. Transformation towards a more democratic political culture is essential to build healthy and dynamic political participation, where every individual feels empowered to contribute to the political process. (Rasul & Rahim, n.d. 2015). Economic problems such as poverty significantly hinder participation in political education, according to Lipset (1959). Individuals struggling to fulfil their basic needs are less likely to have the time or resources to study politics. Poverty not only results in pressing life priorities, such as earning a living, but also limits access to education and information necessary to understand the political process. Consequently, this inability exacerbates inequalities in political participation, where those with less economic means are often sidelined in political activities. Therefore, to achieve an inclusive democracy, it is necessary to reduce economic disparities and increase access to political education for all levels of society. (Nurhidayat, 2009). One of the constraining factors in education reveals that apathy or indifference to politics is often the result of distrust of the existing political system. This distrust can arise due to rampant corruption, systemic injustice, or the failure of the government to fulfil the basic

needs of the people. When people feel that the political system is not transparent or fair, their interest in participating in the political process may fade. The result is a society that tends to become passive or avoid active political engagement, which in turn can undermine democracy itself. According to Putnam, to overcome this political apathy, deep reforms in the political system are needed to restore public trust and rebuild the spirit of active participation in public affairs. (Fadli, 2020).

In research on the 2024 General Election in Banggai Regency, several problems were found that affect voter participation, including barriers to access to information, economic factors, and voter apathy. Barriers to accessing information are one of the main issues is that many people, especially those with low levels of education, find it difficult to obtain accurate information about legislative candidates, their programmes and election mechanisms. This is exacerbated by the lack of political socialisation and education from relevant institutions, as well as low digital literacy, which results in a disconnection from constructive political discussions. In addition, economic factors contribute significantly to low voter turnout, where many citizens are trapped in difficult economic conditions and focus more on fulfilling basic needs than on politics. This economic instability creates a view that elections have no direct impact on daily life, coupled with a distrust of political elites who are perceived to be indifferent to people's aspirations. In addition, apathy among voters poses a serious challenge, where a sense of hopelessness about the political and economic situation leads individuals to feel disconnected from the democratic process. Distrust of electoral integrity and previous negative experiences lead to the perception that participation in elections is a futile exercise, especially among the younger generation. As such, these three issues are interrelated and require a holistic approach to increase voter turnout in Banggai Regency in future elections.

One of the main problems found in this research is the barrier to accessing adequate information about elections. Many people in Banggai Regency, especially those with low levels of education, experience difficulties in obtaining accurate information about legislative candidates, their programmes and the election mechanism itself. The lack of socialisation and political education from relevant institutions exacerbates this situation, leading to people's lack of understanding about the importance of their voting rights. On the other hand, the region's low digital literacy hinders access to online information sources, leaving citizens cut off from constructive and up-to-date political discussions. This has serious consequences for people's political awareness and, ultimately, their participation in elections.

Economic aspects also have a significant impact on voter turnout. In the context of Banggai District, many citizens are trapped in difficult economic conditions, which makes them focus more on fulfilling their daily needs than on politics. This economic instability often creates a view that elections have no direct impact on their lives. Distrust of political elites who are perceived to be insensitive to people's aspirations further exacerbates this situation, leading to the notion that their votes will not bring about meaningful change. As such, these economic challenges pose a significant barrier to people's engagement in the democratic process.

Apathy among voters is another significant problem in the context of the 2024 elections. A sense of hopelessness about the political and economic situation often leads people to feel disconnected from the democratic process, resulting in a powerlessness to participate. Distrust of electoral integrity, coupled with negative experiences with politics, creates the perception that participation in elections is a futile exercise. This attitude, especially among the younger generation, points to the need for more strategic interventions to improve political education and people's trust in the democratic system. Overcoming this apathy is critical to encouraging more active and meaningful participation in future elections.

Access to political information through online media and television has made it easier for people, especially millennials, to understand current political issues and form attitudes that can increase political participation, but research results show that despite widespread access to

information, active political participation remains low. Active participation, such as joining a political party, participating in protests, or contacting government officials to express their aspirations, do not seem to be widely practised by millennials. Most of them tend to be passive recipients of information without engaging in concrete actions to support or reject existing policies. However, this access to information still influences their intention to exercise their right to vote, as evidenced by their willingness to vote in legislative and presidential elections. This finding suggests that access to information alone is not enough to increase active political engagement; additional strategies are needed to mobilise people to participate more directly in the political process. (Juditha & Darmawan, 2018).

People's political participation is strongly influenced by various factors, one of which is their economic background, which is divided into three main categories: upper, middle and lower economic levels. These economic levels shape people's views and levels of engagement in the political process, as each group has different priorities, needs and constraints. For people from different economic strata, there are variations in the challenges they face, ranging from limited access to political information to limited opportunities for active engagement and the ability to understand the impact of policies on their well-being. These socio-economic factors play an important role in shaping people's attitudes and decisions regarding electoral participation. Thus, it can be concluded that political participation depends not only on political interest or awareness, but also on socio-economic influences that shape their perceptions and readiness to contribute to the democratic process. (Abednego, 2019).

The level of public political participation in exercising their right to vote in regional elections is still relatively low, which poses a serious challenge to the success of democracy in Indonesia. This phenomenon is reflected in the high number of white groups (golput), which is often identified as a form of public apathy towards national political conditions. The high number of abstentions indicates that people are dissatisfied or distrustful of the political system or candidates, so they choose not to participate in the polls. This low level of participation is not only caused by external factors such as the quality of candidates or policies that are not pro-people, but also by internal factors such as the lack of political awareness in society. Political awareness, which includes an understanding of the rights and responsibilities as citizens and the impact of elections on daily life, is an important aspect that still needs to be improved. Therefore, comprehensive political socialisation and education efforts are needed to overcome this obstacle, in order to achieve higher political participation and strengthen the foundations of democracy in Indonesia. (Dewi et al., 2022).

Community political participation in Banggai Regency is still faced with constraints on access to information, economic conditions, and apathy towards politics. Limited access to information makes it difficult for the community to obtain a comprehensive understanding of candidates, programmes and the impact of elections. Limited digital literacy and low levels of political socialisation also contribute to the lack of accurate information received by the community. In addition, economic conditions are also a significant barrier, especially for low-income groups who prioritise fulfilling their daily needs over engaging in political activities. This has led to the perception that political involvement has no direct impact on their welfare, so they prefer to focus on economic matters. Apathy towards politics also grows due to distrust in the integrity of the political process and a lack of tangible change from previous elections, leading many citizens to feel that political participation, including voting, provides no meaningful benefits. This combination of constraints poses a major challenge to increasing political participation in Banggai Regency, pointing to the need for a more holistic approach. More inclusive and strategic to increase public awareness and engagement in the political process.

CONCLUSION

Political education programmes have had a significant impact in raising people's awareness and understanding of the importance of political engagement. Through various educational initiatives, such as seminars, workshops and socialisation campaigns, people have started to show greater interest in participating in the electoral process. Increased understanding of their rights and obligations as voters and the impact of political decisions on their daily lives are key factors that encourage people to actively exercise their voting rights. However, despite progress in participation, challenges remain, particularly related to unequal access to information and socio-economic conditions that influence voter decisions. Some segments of society still experience difficulties in accessing accurate political information, which could potentially reduce their participation in elections. Therefore, there needs to be a sustained effort to increase inclusive and strategic political education programmes and improve information channels to reach all segments of society. This is crucial to ensure that all voters feel they have a voice and can contribute to a better democratic process.

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