Political Participation During Pandemic In The Local Election Of Soppeng Regency, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT - This study aims to find out how the Political Participation of the Community in the Implementation of the 2020 Simultaneous Regional Elections in Soppeng Regency and also to find out the supporting and inhibiting factors of Community Political Participation in the Implementation of the 2020 Simultaneous Regional Elections. The type of research used is a qualitative research method and the type of research is descriptive. Data collection techniques using observation and interviews. The process of data analysis was carried out in several stages, namely checking all data, interview results, data reduction, presenting data and drawing conclusions. The results of the study show that the Political Participation of the Community in the Implementation of the 2020 Simultaneous Regional Head Elections in Soppeng Regency is influenced by several indicators, namely (1) Social and Economic Status. (2) Situation (3) Political awareness (4) Trust in the government. The supporting factor in public political participation is the political awareness of the community to choose its leader, while the inhibiting factors are bad weather, Covid-19, and the number of immigrants.

Keywords: Political Participation; Pandemic; Local Election

Introduction

Participation means involvement in an activity, in a political context it refers to the participation of citizens in the political process (Abrianti, 2021). Community participation is the participation of citizens in politics not only to support decisions or policies that have been outlined by their leaders, but also to participate in choosing their leadership (election of President and Vice President, election of Regional Head and Deputy Regional Head and General Election) and many more. The complete Indonesian dictionary explains that participation is participating in an activity, the activity can be formal or informal (Fadhil, 2013). Participation is defined as an effort to participate in the community in an activity either in the form of statements or activities. Furthermore, it is explained that participation is the participation of the community in development programs. Basically, participation is divided into two, namely self-directed participation and mobilized participation. Self-initiated participation means that participation and participation is based on self-awareness and volition, while mobilized participation means participation and participation on the basis of the influence of others. (Meliyana, 2020).

Participation is one of the important aspects of democracy. The underlying assumption of democracy and participation is that the person who knows better what is good for himself is the person himself. Therefore, because of the political decisions made and implemented by the government, especially those involving and influencing the community, the community have the right to participate in determining the content of the political decision. Therefore, the participation of ordinary citizens in determining all decisions concerning or affecting their lives. One of the

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containers that can be used as a tool to measure the political participation of the community is the implementation of simultaneous local elections (Repi, 2015).

Political participation is the activity of a person or group of people to actively participate in political life, namely by electing state leaders directly or indirectly, influencing government policies. According to Ramlan Surbakti, what is meant by political participation is the participation of ordinary citizens in determining all decisions concerns or affects his life. In the 14th century the right to participate in political decision-making, to vote, or to occupy government office was restricted to a small group of people who were powerful, wealthy and descended from prominent people. Local election regulation can be an entry point for this arrangement (Nurgiansah, 2021; Pinilih, 2017)

Political participation is the activity of a person or group to participate actively in political life, among others, by choosing the path of state leaders and, directly or indirectly, influencing government policies. These activities include actions such as voting in general elections, attending general meetings, holding relations or lobbying with government or parliamentary officials, becoming members of a party or a social movement and so on. (Miriam, 2008).

The election of regional heads is a means of implementing people's sovereignty in the regions. This is a development in the system of governance in Indonesia. It is necessary to have the cooperation of the various parties involved to share the advantages in order to reduce the various existing weaknesses, especially those related to the ability of human resources. (Usmania, 2014). In government in Indonesia, one of the known principles is the principle of autonomy, which means there is flexibility for local governments to regulate their own regions. Pilkada is a means to elect regional heads and people's representatives in DPRD, where they are directly elected by the community in their area, thus the legitimacy of the position of regional heads and DPRD members becomes more representative. (Prayudi, 2017).

Regional head elections are a form of community political participation as a manifestation of people's sovereignty because at the time of regional head elections, the people are the party that most determines the political process in their territory by voting. (Usfinit, 2014). We understand that responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the regional elections must be fast and responsive. However, it must still be remembered that the various policies taken must still rely on democratic principles and efforts to realize elections with integrity (Hasibuan, 2020). Therefore, the Government must remain open and provide space for proportional participation in drafting the Perppu. to prepare for the implementation of the stages after full concentration on handling Covid-19, ensure the availability of a budget in the midst of the economic recovery process that will definitely be affected by the corona outbreak, and take into account that the position of regional head does not remain vacant for too long. (Nuryanti et al., 2020). So that the content material to be regulated by the Perppu can cover all legal requirements for the legality of holding elections and be able to contribute to realizing fair and democratic elections (Spinelli, 2020). The hallmark of a democratic state is how much the state involves the community in planning and conducting general elections. Because the political participation of the people (voters) is an important aspect in a democratic state order (Liando, 2013)

Since 2005 in Indonesia, a new democratic procedure has been conditioned to replace and fill the position of regional head, which is conceptually called local election. In the scenario, it is imagined that the community members need local election. (Wasisto, 2020). Through the local election, the population in an area can freely support someone to become a regional head, in accordance with their various aspirations, and in accordance with their respective rationalities. There are various forms of community participation in decision making, such as attendance at meetings, discussions, contributions of ideas, responses to or rejection of the programs offered. (Dwiningrum,

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2011). In this regard, each actor who becomes a candidate is required to make a political commitment, as another interpretation of the importance of the social contract, to fight for the aspirations of the people, whose main issue is usually not far from the issue of people's welfare and a sense of social justice. (Rizal, 2019).

Method

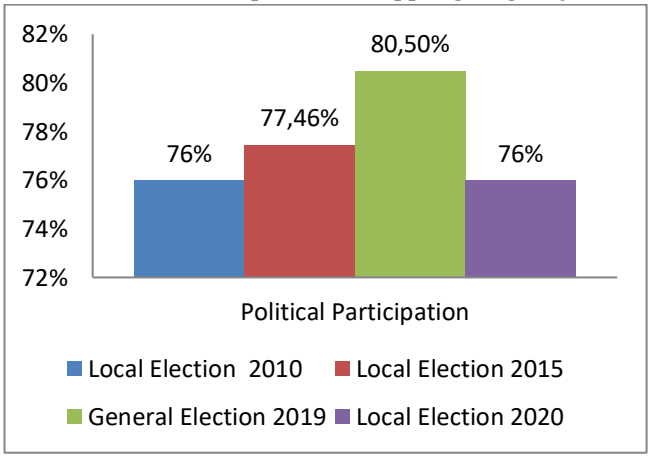
This research is located at the Office of the General Election Commission (KPU) of Soppeng Regency and is more focused on Lilirilau District, which is the agency responsible for coordinating, organizing and controlling the stages of organizing elections carried out by the Soppeng Regency KPU. This study uses qualitative research methods that are intended to see the phenomenon. Qualitative research is research to describe events, people's behavior or a situation in a certain place in detail in the form of a narrative. This type of research is descriptive which is intended to provide a clear description and narrative of the problem to be studied based on what the researcher has done or experienced. This study aims to obtain a complete picture of a thing from a human point of view, qualitative research relates to the ideas, opinions, or beliefs of the people being studied and all of them cannot be measured by numbers. The informants of this study were determined by purposive sampling, which was chosen deliberately for interviews, both from the General Election Commission and from the community according to the research location.

Data analysis techniques were carried out using qualitative data analysis techniques by analyzing data that had been obtained from the field. main data and data that are complementary. Presentation of Data, from the data obtained from the field then between what is needed and what is not needed then grouping and given problem boundaries. Conclusion Drawing, after presenting the data, the initial conclusions are made. This conclusion was drawn after the research. In the process of collecting data, the researcher conducted an analysis and meaning of the data that had been collected (Sinatriyo, 2019).

Result and Discussion

Soppeng Regency is one of the regencies that has just carried out the democratic process, namely the regional head election to be precise on December 9, 2020. This is a place to choose good leaders. The election of regional heads is actually an event to provide opportunities for the community to participate in choosing leaders. In the implementation of this election, of course, there are several institutions involved starting from the KPU, Bawaslu, and up to the lowest level

Grafik 4.3 Political Participation in Soppeng Regency 2010-2020



Source : Data processed by researchers, 2022

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Political participation in Soppeng Regency when viewed from the use of voting rights in political contestation has a fairly good participation rate, in 2010 political participation was only 76% then increased in 2016 namely in the regional head election where political participation at that time reached 77.46%. Political participation then increased again in 2019 when the general election the percentage of public participation in the election reached 80.50% at that time political dynamics were indeed happening due to the intense competition between presidential candidate pairs in the executive and political parties fighting for seats in the legislature.

The last political contestation was presented in 2020 when the covid-19 pandemic was at its peak, with the pandemic political participation in the simultaneous regional elections fell to 76%, even though the Soppeng Regency KPU was targeting 80%. Even though it did not reach the target on political participation, the level of political participation in Soppeng Regency in the 2020 Pilkada was already quite high, even almost the same as the average national political participation of 76.13%. According to (Surbakti, 2003) In the process of selecting regional heads, of course there are several factors so that people participate and do not participate, namely: (1) Social and Economic Status. (2) Situation (3) Political awareness (4) Trust in the government.

Social and Economic Status

The people who participated in the holding of the 2020 simultaneous regional elections in Lilirilau District, Soppeng Regency, were not because of their lineage, not because of the position that would be promised or their connection with one's economy, they did have an interest and concern for politics, even though we see from a background that is not actually the case. understand politics but have a political concern. Social status in question is social status related to one's position, occupation, descent. From these three we can see the reasons for the community to participate during this covid-19 pandemic. It is possible that from the social status in question there is one that makes the community's reasons for participating, whether the community participates because they have a lineage or there is a family relationship, whether the community chooses because in the future they will be promised a better position, will the community be promised a job so that they participate. Likewise with economic status in this case the level of one's wealth. The point is that often times we find people who are in a position to be more respectable and become a point to attract people's voices or hearts. However, related to social and economic status, it is not their reason to participate. They are not promised anything, whether it be in the form of a position, will be given a job or have a lineage. Issues such as social and economic status are not a priority. They do have a political interest or concern for politics because they think that with us participating we will choose a leader. and whoever is elected will lead us, so there are no more excuses and regrets in the future if you don't participate, especially during this pandemic when it is associated with the economy, it might distract the public.

Situation

The situation on the day of 2020 simultaneous regional elections, the most significant weather factor on people's participation or participation in democratic parties, is more to the weather or conditions at the time of the elections, the weather at that time was not very supportive. The situation in question is the conditions that occur during the local election related to community participation in voting, for example the weather and threats during the local election. The community is that the most significant so that people do not vote is the weather at that time. The weather on the D day of the Pilkada is indeed very did not support the heavy rain that was pouring so that it made people late to vote and some even did not vote because of the rain and did not have time. The delay in this case was because at the time of the election the summons or form c had been given their respective schedules

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as a form of implementing health protocols, so that when it rains it becomes an obstacle to come to the polling station according to a predetermined schedule, some even think that when the given schedule has passed, they can no longer vote, however. Related to the threat at the time of the regional elections to be held at the time of it pops up berry The confusing hoax said that all those who would participate in voting had to go through a rapid or swab test, but when it reached the organizers, in this case the KPU, the KPU immediately intervened instructing its staff to the village level to convey that the news was just a hoax. However, based on the results of the Covid-19 interview, it is not a significant influence on the level of public political participation compared to the weather at that time. Because if we look at the community, some people are also indifferent to this Covid-19 and assume that they have complied with health protocols. based on what was recommended by the local government and that made the community indirectly that this covid-19 had nothing to do with the election.

Political Awareness

People's participation in voting is indeed because they are aware of their rights and obligations as citizens. Indeed, he understands and knows that they must choose to make their choice, not because of bribes or whatever. Political awareness in question is awareness of our rights and obligations as citizens where indeed we must participate, and matters relating to one's knowledge about the community and political environment, especially during the covid-19 pandemic. If we look at political awareness, it really needs to be grown in society to all people who have fulfilled the requirements to vote such as beginner voters and others, but not only in this election but in the upcoming general election, this must also be appreciated by the people who vote because of their political awareness, not because of friction or friction. outside influences will be the reason for them. The presence of the community in this political participation will have a good impact on our democratic process.

Trust in government

Trust in the government referred to here is in the making and implementation of its policies or with its vision, mission and track record. The reason for them to participate in the simultaneous local elections is because there are those who see it in terms of policy making to the implementation of policies, in terms of their track record they believe in terms of track records and the vision and mission that has been conveyed. It is also important that the government makes and implements appropriate policies, not only from one side because that is where the community will judge what it looks like, as well as a track record that must be good in front of the community and the vision and mission submitted must be implemented so that people can continue to believe so that they can change their perception of good government and politics. So with public trust in the government which is seen from various perspectives, it will have a good impact on society, government and politics.

Supporting and Inhibiting Factors of Political Participation

There are several things that are indeed an inhibiting factor in the implementation of the simultaneous local elections, the most significant is the weather factor that occurred on the day of the election, the Covid-19 factor but that is not a significant factor because this pandemic is a global problem that we must go through together. So what needs to be done is only to comply with the health protocol from the government, this was also conveyed by the organizers in this case the KPU in the implementation of the 2020 simultaneous elections.

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The supporting factor is political awareness in every community, they understand themselves that they have to vote and indeed they already believe in the government by looking at the policy making and implementation and vision, mission and track record. because of the weather that occurred on polling day, so that some of them were late or some even did not vote because of that, talking about covid-19 is not a significant reason or thing so that people don't vote, it is different with immigrants because there are many people who are outside the region so that they do not have time to vote even though they have been registered on the permanent voter list.

Political participation is very important for the progress of democracy, so the general election commission of Soppeng Regency formed volunteers who target various bases in society by providing political understanding so that they can use their political rights as well as possible.

Table 1. The basis on which to increase political participation

Special Needs Base	This base targets people who are in remote areas, border areas, or prison residents, and garden workers who are still lacking information and knowledge about the importance of community political participation.
Disability Base	This basis is targeted at people who experience limitations such as physical, mental, and intellectual. By conducting socialization to persons with disabilities, at least they assume that the voices of disabilities are also needed in the election so that their perception of disability is that only those who are underdeveloped can change.
Religious Base	This base is targeted at voters who are oriented to religious leaders considering the various religions that are adhered to so there is a need for collaboration between the organizers in various ways, such as visiting places of worshipers, socializing the importance of participating without any religious background.
Family Base	This basis targets the smallest unit in society, namely the family, because in the end even voters who are in the middle of society will return to their families. For example, socialization to mothers
Community Base	This base is aimed at a group of people who have more concerns. If they can embrace and provide an understanding of one or two people to community members who have influence in the community, the other members will be given more socialization, for example, socialization in the bikers community.
Marginal Base	Marginal bases target people who do not have access to valid information and self-confidence so that they make it an excuse not to vote and also do not have an encouragement or some kind of motivation because they often consider themselves to have no influence on things like that in terms of This is politics. An example of socialization is socialization to people who have below average income.
Netizen Base	This base targets people who actively communicate on social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and other social media because in an era like today social media also has a tremendous influence, it can be said that people who are active on social media will never end, so this makes the organizers take the initiative to participate in socializing the importance of community political participation. For example, socialization through Facebook using brochures or pamphlets.
Young Voter Base	This basis is targeted at young voters who have voting rights and who have not exceeded the age of 30. These voters usually target students, because they

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	will become voters with a long-term structure, therefore education is needed so that they are not indifferent and are apathetic.
Beginner Voter Base	This basis targets people who are just going to vote for the first time, people who tend to vote for the first time then in the next election will vote and vice versa, for example to voters in high school
Female Base	This basis is targeted at women because women are considered to be able to motivate and educate the environment, for example, the family has a tremendous influence that will shape character. For example, socialization to women's groups.

Source : Soppeng General Election Commission, 2021

Based on what was conveyed by the KPU commissioner regarding the efforts or strategies taken to increase public participation, socialization was carried out to the community, both face-to-face and online, for example on social media. In increasing the political participation of the people, the KPU also formed democratic volunteers consisting of 25 people who apply to a district head as an effort to increase community participation.

Conclusion

In the regional head election in Soppeng Regency, the political participation of the community is determined by several conditions, namely (1) Social and Economic Status. (2) Situation (3) Political awareness (4) Trust in the government. Of the four indicators, social status and economic status do not have much effect on political participation. However, Political awareness and Trust in the Government are indicators that greatly affect the level of public political participation. The supporting factor in public political participation in the political awareness of the community to choose its leader, while the inhibiting factors are bad weather, Covid-19, and the number of immigrants.

The strategy taken to increase public political participation is to conduct outreach to the community, both face-to-face and online. Then the General Elections Commission established a democracy to provide political understanding to the public

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