

## Analysis of Factors Influencing Young Voters in the 2024 Bengkulu Province Regional Head Election

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### Abstract

Political participation of young voters has a strategic role in local democracy. This research aims to analyze the factors inhibiting young voters' participation in the 2024 Bengkulu regional election using Chi-Square analysis. This descriptive-analytic quantitative research involved 124 respondents aged 17-29 in the 2024 Bengkulu regional election, analyzing four variables: political knowledge, psychological factors, social environment, and technical constraints. Using the Fisher Exact test, the results showed no significant relationship between the variables and the voting decision. Interestingly, the participation rate of young voters is quite high, indicating the complexity of the dynamics of political participation of the younger generation. The research findings provide a new perspective on the dynamics of young voters' political participation, providing a foundation for the development of strategies to increase young people's political engagement in future elections.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

General elections are a form of implementation of people's sovereignty in a democratic state system. Thus, the involvement of the people in elections is a form of popular participation. General elections are intended as a formal vehicle for shaping the order of state and society (State and Social formation) general elections aim to present a better government order [1]. Based on Law No. 8/2015 on the Amendment of Law No.1/2015 on the amendment of Law No. 1/2014, the House of Representatives transformed the mechanism of regional head elections into a simultaneous direct election system for governors, regents, and mayors. This practice is known as Pilkada, which systematically involves local citizens in the local democratic process.

In the context of local elections, young voters have a strategic role. According to Law No. 10 of 2008, first-time voters are individuals aged 17 years or older who are exercising their right to vote for the first time. Despite having no previous experience in the context of elections, they have significant potential to contribute to the dynamics of regional politics. Demographically, based on data from the Central Bureau of Statistics of Bengkulu Province in 2024, the population aged 15-29 years amounted to 516,710 people, equivalent to 24.46% of the total population. This demographic composition shows great potential for strategic political participation of young voters, especially in the context of the 2024 Bengkulu regional election.

Young voters are often both the subject and object of political activity. As subjects, they play an active role in determining the direction of state policy through their votes. However, as objects, they need adequate political guidance and education. According to Andriyendi (2023), some of the factors that influence the low participation of young voters include the level of political knowledge, attitudes, psychological factors, the influence of social networks, and technical challenges. If this is not addressed, there is a risk of an increase in the number of people who choose not to exercise their right to vote (nonvoters), which is a form of irresponsibility towards the sustainability of the nation and state.

The political participation of the community, including young voters, is a fundamental pillar in realizing the ideal democratic process to create good and clean governance. Therefore, it is important to understand the factors that inhibit the participation of young voters in the regional elections, so that appropriate solutions can be found to

increase their involvement in this local democratic process. This study aims to analyze the factors inhibiting young voters' participation in the 2024 Bengkulu regional election using Chi-Square analysis.

## 2. METHOD

The research method used in this analysis is a quantitative approach with descriptive-analytic. This research aims to identify and analyze the factors that influence the political participation of young voters in the 2024 Regional Head Elections (Pilkada) in Bengkulu Province. The research population includes young voters aged 17-29 years spread across 9 regencies and 1 city in Bengkulu Province, with a total population of 462,896 people. Sampling was conducted using a stratified random sampling method, where the population was grouped by administrative region (district/city) to ensure proportional representation of each stratum.

The data used is primary data collected through an online questionnaire using Google Forms. The research instrument was designed in a structured manner with closed-ended questions that focused on variables such as the level of political knowledge, attitudes and psychological factors, social influences, and technical obstacles faced by young voters. The questionnaire was distributed through digital platforms to facilitate accessibility and expand the reach of respondents. The sample size was calculated using the Slovin formula as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N\alpha^2} \quad (1)$$

where N is the population size, and  $\alpha$  is the significance level (0.). Substitute the values:  $\frac{462.896}{1+462.896 \times 0,1^2} = \frac{462.896}{4629,96} \approx 99,978402 \approx 100$ . The calculation results show that the minimum sample size required is 100 respondents. Through online questionnaire distribution using Google Forms, 124 respondents with valid answers were collected.

The research steps included: (1) formulation of research objectives to identify factors affecting the political participation of young voters, (2) determination of population and sampling method using stratified random sampling, (3) preparation of a closed questionnaire with variables such as level of political knowledge, attitudes, social influence, and technical constraints, (4) distribution of questionnaires through digital platforms to facilitate accessibility, (5) data processing using R software with Chi-Square statistical test and alternative Fisher's Exact Test if there are cells with expected frequencies less than 5, and (6) interpretation of results to provide a comprehensive understanding of the political participation patterns of young voters.

Data analysis was conducted using the Chi-Square statistical test to test the relationship between the independent variables (knowledge, attitudes, psychological factors, social environment, technical constraints) and the dependent variable (level of political participation of young voters) with cells found in the contingency table with expected frequencies less than 5, then Fisher's Exact Test as an alternative to maintain the validity of the analysis. All data processing was conducted using R statistical software to ensure the accuracy of the results.

**Table 1.** Variables and Indicators

Variables	Indicators
Political knowledge	1. Understanding of the election function 2. Knowledge of the right to vote 3. Information related to candidates
Attitudes and psychological factors	1. Belief in the importance of individual voice 2. Belief in elections as a means of democracy
Social environment	1. Family and friend support 2. Influence of social discussions and media
Technical Constraints	1. Barriers to accessing information 2. Availability of administrative documents 3. Location and timing of selection
Political Participation	1. Making choices 2. Attendance at polling stations

This method is designed to provide a comprehensive picture of the pattern of political participation of young voters in Bengkulu while identifying factors that significantly influence their level of engagement in the local democratic process. This approach is expected to provide a strong empirical basis for the formulation of strategies to increase the political participation of young voters in the 2024 Bengkulu regional election.

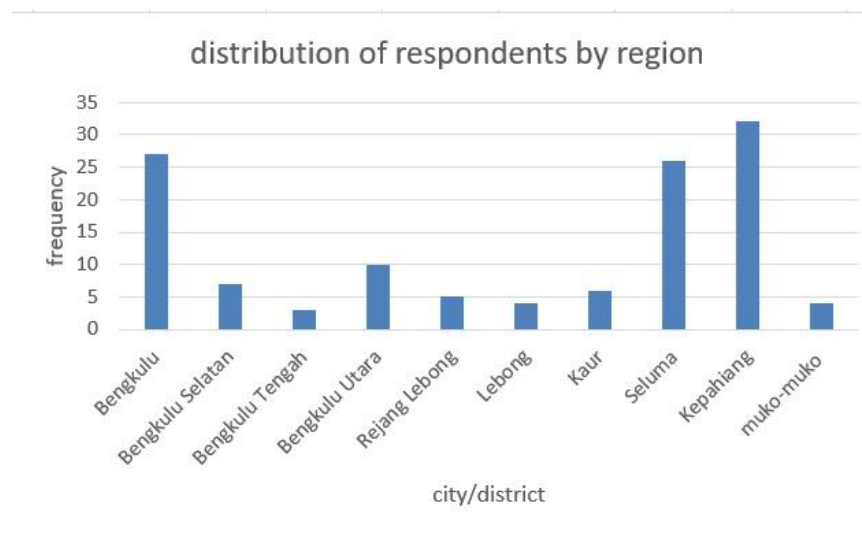
### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Respondents in this study are young voters in Bengkulu Province with the following characteristics. They are individuals aged between 17 to 24 years old who are categorized as novice voters or first-time voters. This group was chosen to provide an overview of the demographic profile of young voters in the region.

**Table 2.** Distribution of respondents based on age

No	Age	Frequency	Percentage
1	17	10	8%
2	18	24	19%
3	19	60	48%
4	20	20	16%
5	21	3	2%
6	22	4	3%
7	23	2	2%
8	24	1	1%

Based on Table 2, it can be seen that as many as 8% or 10 people are 17 years old, for the age of 18 as many as 24 respondents (19%), 19 years old as many as 60 or 48%, for the age of 20 as many as 20 respondents or 16%, and for the ages of 21, 22, 23, and 24 in order there are as many as 2%, 3%, 2%, and 1%. Most of the respondents in this study were 19 years old.



**Figure 1.** Distribution of respondents by region

Based on the figure above, it can be seen that the respondents in this study were spread across 10 cities/regencies in Bengkulu Province. Most of the respondents in this study came from Kepahiang Regency, Bengkulu City, and Seluma Regency.

This research analyzes the factors that influence young voter participation in the 2024 Bengkulu regional election, focusing on the relationship between factors and voting decisions. The research subjects are young voters

aged 17-25 years in Bengkulu Province, to identify the dynamics of political participation of the younger generation through a quantitative approach. Sampling was conducted using the Slovin formula method to obtain an accurate representation of the population of young voters in the region. The minimum sample size required to represent the research with a 10% error is 99.98. Based on the questionnaires that have been distributed, the number of samples obtained is 124 respondents.

The results in this study include univariate analysis conducted on each research variable and bivariate analysis used to determine whether there is a relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. The univariate results are as follows:

**Table 3.** Results of research on the distribution of respondents based on political knowledge ( $x_1$ )

$x_1$	Frequency	Percentage
Low	0	0%
Medium	90	73%
High	34	27%

Measures of low, medium, and high are obtained from the average of respondents' answers. Respondents who have an average of 1.00-2.00 are categorized as low, while if the average value is in the range of 2.01-4.00 it is categorized as medium, and the high category is in the range of 4.01-5.00. Based on Table 2, it can be seen that there are no respondents who have a low level of knowledge. Respondents who have moderate political knowledge are 90 people (73%). While respondents who have high political knowledge are 34 people (27%).

**Table 4.** Results of research on the distribution of respondents based on psychology ( $x_2$ )

$x_2$	Frequency	Percentage
Low	0	0%
Medium	105	85%
High	19	15%

Based on Table 4, it can be seen that based on psychological factors there are no respondents who have a low category. Respondents who have a medium category are 105 people (85%). While respondents who were in the high category were 19 people (15%).

**Table 5.** The results of research on the distribution of respondents based on the environment ( $x_3$ )

$x_3$	Frequency	Percentage
Low	16	13%
Medium	103	83%
High	5	4%

Based on Table 5, it can be seen that based on environmental factors, there are 16 respondents in the low category (13%). Respondents who have a medium category are 103 people (83%). While respondents who were in the high category were 5 people (4%).

**Table 6.** Results of research on the distribution of respondents based on technical barriers ( $x_4$ )

$x_4$	Frequency	Percentage
Low	42	34%
Medium	78	63%
High	4	3%

Based on Table 6, it can be seen that based on the technical barrier factor, there are 42 respondents in the low category (34%). Respondents who have a medium category are 78 people (63%). While respondents who were in the high category were 45 people (3%). Bivariate analysis was used to determine the effect of two variables, namely the relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable.

**Table 7.** Cross tabulation between political knowledge ( $x_1$ ) and voting decisions ( $y$ )

$x_1$	$y$			<i>P Value</i>
	Yes	No	Total	
Low	0	0	0	0.234
Medium	77	13	90	
High	32	2	34	

Based on Table 7, 77 respondents who have moderate political knowledge and vote and 13 people who do not vote. Respondents who have high political knowledge and vote as many as 32 people and do not vote are 2 people.

Because there is an expected count value that is less than five or there are elements that are worth 0. It is not feasible to use the Chi-Square test. Therefore, an alternative test, namely the Fisher test, obtained a p-value of 0.234 ( $p > 0.1$ ). This means that it fails to reject  $H_0$ , indicating that there is no relationship between political knowledge factors and voting decisions for young voters.

**Table 8.** Cross tabulation between psychological factors ( $x_2$ ) and voting decisions ( $y$ )

$x_2$	$y$			<i>P Value</i>
	Yes	No	Total	
Low	0	0	0	0.2945
Medium	92	13	105	
High	15	4	19	

Based on Table 8, respondents have moderate psychological values, and vote are 92 people and 13 people do not vote. For respondents who have high psychological values and vote as many as 15 people do not vote there are 4 people. Based on the Fisher test, the p-value is 0.2945 ( $p > 0.1$ ). This means that it fails to reject  $H_0$ , indicating that there is no relationship between psychological factors and voting decisions for young voters.

**Table 9.** Cross tabulation between environmental factors ( $x_3$ ) and voting decisions ( $y$ )

$x_3$	$y$			<i>P Value</i>
	Yes	No	Total	
Low	15	1	16	0.6269
Medium	87	16	103	
High	5	0	5	

Based on Table 9, respondents in the environmental factor respondents who were in the low category and chose as many as 15 people and 1 person who did not choose. Respondents who were in the medium category and chose as many as 87 people and those who did not vote were 16 people. Respondents who were in the high category chose as many as 5 people and did not choose 0 people. Based on the Fisher test, the p-value is 0.6269 ( $p > 0.1$ ). This means that it fails to reject  $H_0$ , indicating that there is no relationship between environmental factors and voting decisions for young voters.

Based on Table 10, respondents in the technical obstacle factor, respondents who were in the low category chose as many as 39 people and those who did not choose were 3 people. Respondents who were in the medium category and chose as many as 64 people and those who did not choose were 14 people. Respondents who were in

the high category chose as many as 4 people and did not choose 0 people. Based on the Fisher test, the p-value is 0.2762 ( $p > 0.1$ ). This means that it fails to reject  $H_0$ , indicating that there is no relationship between technical barriers and voting decisions for young voters.

**Tabel 10.** Cross tabulation between technical barrier factors ( $x_4$ ) and voting decisions ( $y$ )

$x_4$	$y$			$P\ Value$
	Yes	No	Total	
Low	39	3	42	0.2762
Medium	64	14	78	
High	4	0	4	

a. Hypothesis

- 1)  $H_0$ : There is no relationship between the level of political knowledge and voting decisions.  
 $H_1$ : There is a relationship between the level of political knowledge and voting decisions.
- 2)  $H_0$ : There is no relationship between psychological factors and voting decisions.  
 $H_1$ : There is a relationship between psychological factors and voting decisions.
- 3)  $H_0$ : There is no relationship between environmental factors and voting decisions.  
 $H_1$ : There is a relationship between environmental factors and voting decisions.
- 4)  $H_0$ : There is no relationship between technical barrier factors and voting decisions.  
 $H_1$ : There is a relationship between technical barrier factors and voting decisions.

b. Significant level

$$\alpha = 10\%$$

c. Test statistics

$$p = \frac{(A + B)! (C + D)! (A + C)! (B + D)!}{N! A! B! C! D!} \quad (2)$$

d. Rejection criteria

Reject  $H_0$  if  $p\text{-value} \leq \alpha$

e. Conclusion

Based on the results of the Fisher test, the four variables tested do not have a significant relationship with young voters' voting decisions. Thus, these factors cannot be considered major obstacles for young voters in deciding to vote. In addition, based on Figure 2, the participation of young voters in the 2024 Bengkulu regional election was observed to be quite high compared to young voters who did not vote. This suggests that the inhibiting factors tested in this study are not significant enough to influence the participation of young voters.

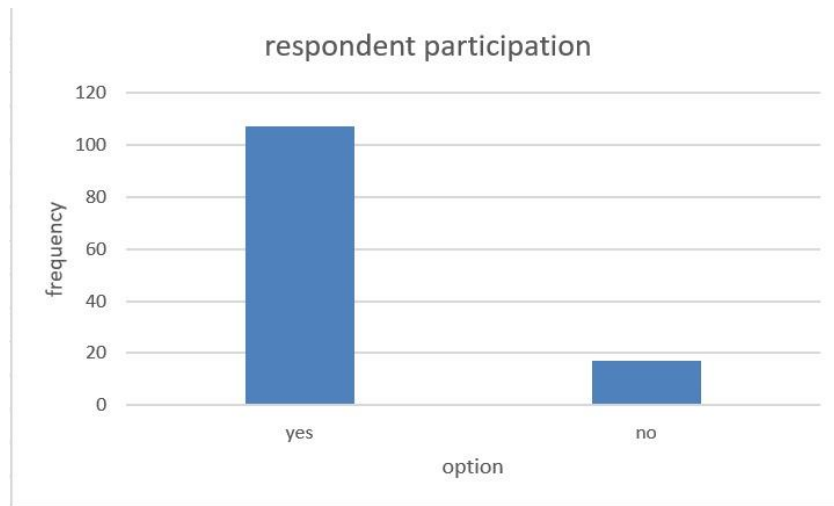


Figure 2. Graph of respondents' voting decisions

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship between the level of political knowledge, attitudes and psychological factors, social environment, and technical constraints with the decision to vote for young voters in the 2024 Bengkulu regional election. Nevertheless, the level of participation of young voters is quite high, which indicates that the tested inhibiting factors are not significant. have a dominant influence on their engagement. These results emphasize the importance of other approaches in understanding and improving young voters' political participation, such as strengthening relevant political education and promoting the accessibility of electoral information.

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