



THE INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL AWARENESS ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF FIRST-TIME VOTERS IN THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS (PEMILU).

PENGARUH KESADARAN POLITIK TERHADAP PARTISIPASI POLITIK PEMILIH PEMULA PADA PEMILIHAN UMUM (PEMILU) TAHUN 2024.

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the extent to which political awareness influences political participation among first-time voters. The study used a quantitative approach with a correlational method. The sample was 124 first-time voters from a total population of 182 PPKn students from the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Cenderawasih University, who were selected using a purposive sampling technique. Data were collected through a Likert scale questionnaire and analyzed using validity, reliability, Pearson correlation, and simple linear regression tests using SPSS 26. The results showed that the majority of respondents had a high to very high level of political awareness, as did their level of political participation. Statistical analysis showed a very strong relationship between political awareness and political participation (r = 0.826), with a significant positive effect of 68.2%. Based on the research results, it can be concluded that the higher the political awareness of first-time voters, the higher their participation in elections. Political awareness is a key factor driving the involvement of the younger generation in the democratic process. Therefore, first-time voters are expected to be more active and critical in determining their political choices, while political parties and prospective leaders need to convey clear, transparent, and educational political messages. Furthermore, educational institutions play a strategic role in fostering students' political awareness as part of civic education, thereby shaping a generation that is critical, participatory, and responsible for the future of Indonesian democracy.

Keywords: Participation, Election, Politics





Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis sejauh mana kesadaran politik berpengaruh terhadap partisipasi politik pada pemilih pemula. Penelitian menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif dengan metode korelasional. Sampel penelitian adalah 124 mahasiswa pemilih pemula dari total populasi 182 mahasiswa PPKn FKIP Universitas Cenderawasih, yang dipilih dengan teknik purposive sampling. Data dikumpulkan melalui kuesioner skala Likert dan dianalisis dengan uji validitas, reliabilitas, korelasi Pearson, serta regresi linear sederhana menggunakan SPSS 26. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan mayoritas responden memiliki tingkat kesadaran politik yang tinggi hingga sangat tinggi, begitu pula tingkat partisipasi politik mereka. Analisis statistik memperlihatkan adanya hubungan yang sangat kuat antara kesadaran politik dan partisipasi politik (r = 0.826), dengan pengaruh positif signifikan sebesar 68.2%. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, dapat disimpulkan bahwa semakin tinggi kesadaran politik pemilih pemula, maka semakin tinggi pula partisipasi mereka dalam pemilu. Kesadaran politik menjadi faktor kunci yang mendorong keterlibatan generasi muda dalam proses demokrasi. Oleh karena itu, pemilih pemula diharapkan semakin aktif dan kritis dalam menentukan pilihan politiknya, sementara partai politik dan calon pemimpin perlu menyampaikan pesan politik yang jelas, transparan, dan mendidik. Selain itu, lembaga pendidikan memiliki peran strategis dalam menumbuhkan kesadaran politik mahasiswa sebagai bagian dari pendidikan kewarganegaraan, sehingga dapat membentuk generasi yang berdaya kritis, partisipatif, dan bertanggung jawab terhadap masa depan demokrasi Indonesia.

Kata Kunci: Partisipasi, Pemilu, Politik

1. INTRODUCTION

Democracy is known as a form of government that originates from, is run by, and serves the interests of the people. A democratic system provides equal opportunities for all citizens to govern. A government that upholds democracy is one in which power rests with the people, or at least, the people are involved in the political, governmental, and state decision-making process (Abdulkarim, 2007:15). Political participation is an important foundation in a democratic system because through participation, citizens can directly or indirectly influence the political decision-making process. One of the most common forms of political participation is involvement in elections, which reflects the extent to which people feel involved in the political system. However, political participation is not always evenly distributed across age groups. According to Erikson (1968), the transition from late adolescence to early adulthood is a crucial period in the development of civic and political attitudes, during which a person's basic personality structure tends to be stable, with relatively little change thereafter.

First-time voters, those newly eligible to vote (generally aged 17–21), often exhibit fluctuating or even low levels of political participation (KPU, 2019). This highlights the need for a more in-depth study of the factors influencing their involvement in political activities. One factor believed to significantly influence political participation is political awareness. Political awareness reflects an individual's level of knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and assessments of the political system and the processes that occur within it. According to Almond and Verba (1990), political awareness consists of three orientations: cognitive (knowledge of politics), affective (attitudes toward the political system), and evaluative (assessment of the





political system). First-time voters who have a good understanding of political institutions and their roles within the government system tend to be more active in political participation. Therefore, understanding the dimensions of political awareness is crucial for increasing the political participation of young voters.

Several previous studies have shown a positive relationship between political awareness and political participation (Setiadi, 2020; Rahmawati, 2021). However, most of these studies have not explicitly used Almond and Verba's theoretical framework, which classifies political orientation into three main dimensions. This approach could provide a deeper understanding of how individuals process political information and how this influences their behavior.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed a quantitative approach with a correlational approach. This approach was chosen because it aimed to measure and analyze the relationships between variables in numerical form that could be statistically analyzed. Through this approach, researchers could test formulated hypotheses and obtain an objective picture of the relationships between the variables under study (Sugiyono, 2022). In this study, the researcher used a purposive sampling technique to determine the sample from the existing population. Sugiyono (2022) stated that purposive sampling is a sampling technique based on certain considerations, so several criteria are used. The operational definition of each variable in this study is 1) Political awareness is defined as an individual's orientation towards the political system which includes cognitive, affective and evaluative aspects (Almon and Verba, 1990); 2) Political participation is defined as an individual's involvement in political activities based on the intention and attitude to influence the political process (Ajzen and Fishbein, 2010). In this study, researchers used data collection techniques in the form of observation, interviews, documentation. The data analysis technique used in this study was quantitative data analysis, consisting of descriptive and inferential data analysis. SPSS Version 26 was used by the researchers to test the quantitative data obtained. Inferential analysis involves various tests in determining the final research results.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Respondents' Level of Political Awareness

The independent variable in this study is political awareness. This awareness is divided into three categories: cognitive, affective, and evaluative. Each category has four questions, totaling 12 questions. The following is the total score of respondents' answers, summed for each question. This total score is used to determine the respondents' level of political awareness. The following table shows respondents' political awareness:





Table 3. Total Score for Political Awareness Variable

Kategori	Skor Total	Frekuensi
Sangat Rendah	12 - 21,6	0
Rendah	21,7 - 31,3	0
Sedang	31,4 - 41	15
Tinggi	41,1 - 50,7	45
Sangat Tinggi	50,8 - 60	64
Total		124

Sumber: Data diolah, 2025

Based on the table above, of the 124 respondents, 15 respondents had a moderate level of awareness, 45 respondents had a high level of awareness and 64 respondents had a high level of political awareness.

Tingkat Partisipasi Politik Responden

The dependent variable in this study is political participation. Political participation is divided into three categories: attitude toward participation (3 questions), intention to participate (3 questions), and actual behavior (4 questions).

The following is the total score of respondents' answers, summed for each question. This total score is used to determine the respondents' level of political participation. The following table shows respondents' political awareness:

Table 4. Total Score for Political Participation Variables

Kategori	Skor Total	Frekuensi
Sangat Rendah	10 – 18	0
Rendah	19 – 27	0
Sedang	28 – 36	21
Tinggi	37 – 45	81
Sangat Tinggi	46 - 50	22
Tota	al	124

Sumber: Data diolah, 2025

Dari tabel di atas, dapat diketahui bahwa partisipasi politik dengan kategori sedang sebanyak 21 responden, kategori tinggi 81 responden dan kategori sangat tinggi 22 responden.

B. Research Instrument Test Results

1. Validity Test

A validity test is used to measure the validity of a questionnaire. A questionnaire is considered valid if the questions in the questionnaire are able to reveal what the questionnaire is intended to measure (Ghozali, 2016). The validity of an item can be determined by





correlating the item score with the total score. If the correlation r is above 0.05, it can be concluded that the instrument item is invalid. Conversely, if the correlation r is below 0.05, the instrument item is valid and should be revised or discarded. Validity testing uses a computer program, IBM SPSS version 25, as a measuring tool.

In this study, the question had an N value of 124. The R table was determined by looking at the probability using a two-tailed test with a significance level of 0.05. Next, the degrees of freedom (df) were calculated, i.e., df = n-2. So it can be seen that the value of df = 124-2 = 122. With the R table of validity test in this analysis, which is 0.176. The complete validity test can be seen in the following table:

a. Validitas Variabel Kesadaran Politik (X) Tabel 5. Validitas Variabel Kesadaran Politik

Variabel	R _{hitung}	$\mathbf{R}_{ ext{tabel}}$	Keterangan
Kesadaran Politik (X)			
X1	0,532	0,176	Valid
X2	0,640	0,176	Valid
X3	0,679	0,176	Valid
X4	0,550	0,176	Valid
X5	0,682	0,176	Valid
X6	0,467	0,176	Valid
X7	0,623	0,176	Valid
X8	0,594	0,176	Valid
X9	0,420	0,176	Valid
X10	0,509	0,176	Valid
X11	0,597	0,176	Valid
X12	0,505	0,176	Valid

Sumber: Data diolah, 2025

Based on the validity test results in the table above, all questions on variable X, namely political awareness, consisting of 12 data points, are valid. This is because the calculated R correlation value is greater than the table R value, which is 0.176.

b. Validitas Variabel Partisipasi Politik (Y)

Tabel 6. Validitas Variabel Partisipasi Politik

Variabel	R _{hitung}	R _{tabel}	Keterangan
Partisipasi Politik (Y)			
Y1	0,488	0,176	Valid
Y2	0,446	0,176	Valid
Y3	0,377	0,176	Valid
Y4	0,424	0,176	Valid
Y5	0,442	0,176	Valid
Y6	0,588	0,176	Valid





Y7	0,705	0,176	Valid
Y8	0,745	0,176	Valid
Y9	0,541	0,176	Valid
Y10	0,551	0,176	Valid

Source: Processed data, 2025

Based on the validity test results in the table above, all questions on variable Y, namely political participation, consisting of 10 data points, are valid. This is because the calculated R correlation value is greater than the R table, which is 0.176.

2. Reliability Test

Reliability testing is used to demonstrate and prove that a data instrument is sufficiently reliable to be used as a data collection tool because the instrument is sound (Sugiyono, 2019). The alpha coefficient is considered reliable when the Cronbach's Alpha value is > 0.6. The data calculation will be performed using IBM SPSS version 26. The results of the reliability test for each variable can be seen in the following table:

Table 7. Reliability of Political Awareness

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.810	12

Based on the table above, it is known that the results of the reliability test analysis on the political awareness variable (X) obtained a reliable value with a Cronbach Alpha result of 0.810. A variable can be said to be reliable if the Cronbach Alpha value is >0.6, so the data results indicate that the entire question is reliable.

Table 8. Reliability of Political Participation

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.721	10

Based on the table above, it is known that the results of the reliability test analysis on the political participation variable (Y) obtained a reliable value with a Cronbach Alpha result of 0.721. A variable can be said to be reliable if the Cronbach Alpha value is >0.6, so the data results indicate that the entire question is reliable.



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C. Classical Assumption Test Results

1. Normality Test

The normality test aims to determine whether the confounding variables or residuals in the regression model have a normal distribution. A regression equation is considered good if the independent and dependent variables are normally distributed (Ghozali, 2016). The normality test was performed using a normal probability plot using the IBM SPSS version 26 statistical program. This study used the One Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test with a significance level of 0.05, with the following decision-making process:

- a. If the sig value is > 0.05, the data is normally distributed.
- b. If the sig value is < 0.05, the data is not normally distributed.

Table 9. Normality Test Results

One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test

Unstandardized Residual

N		124
Normal Parameters ^{a,b} Mean		.0000000
	Std. Deviation	2.56240559
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	.060
	Positive	.059
	Negative	060
Test Statistic		.060
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.200 ^{c,d}

- a. Test distribution is Normal.
- b. Calculated from data.
- c. Lilliefors Significance Correction.
- d. This is a lower bound of the true significance.

Source: Processed data, 2025

Based on Table 5 above, the results of the normality test indicate that the Asymp Sig. (2tailed) value is 0.200, which is greater than 0.05. Therefore, the data in this analysis is normally distributed.

2. Linearity Test

The linearity test aims to determine whether the obtained regression equation is linear. If the results indicate it is not linear, the regression analysis cannot proceed. The criteria for the linearity test are:

- a. Significant Deviation from Linearity >0.05, then the model is considered linear.
- b. Significant Deviation from Linearity ≤ 0.05 , then the model is considered nonlinear. Table 10. Linearity Test

ANOVA Table

			Sum of		Mean		
			Squares	df	Square	F	Sig.
Partisipasi	Between	(Combined)	1874.958	23	81.520	12.332	.000
Politik *	Groups	Linearity	1728.416	1	1728.41	261.459	.000
Kesadaran					6		
Politik		Deviation from	146.542	22	6.661	1.008	.463
		Linearity					
	Within Gro	oups	661.066	100	6.611		
	Total		2536.024	123			





Source: Processed data, 2025

The results of the linearity test can be seen in the table above, with a significance value of 0.463 for the Deviation from Linearity between the political awareness variable and the political participation variable. Based on the decision-making criteria, if the significance value is >0.05, the correlation between the independent variable and the dependent variable is linear. 3. Heteroscedasticity Test

The heteroscedasticity test assesses whether there is inequality in the variances of the residuals for all observations in a linear regression model. Heteroscedasticity is a condition where there is inequality in the variances of the error for all observations of each independent variable in a regression model. The purpose of the heteroscedasticity test is to determine whether there is inequality in the variances of the residuals between several observations in the regression model. According to Ghozali (2018), a good regression model is one that does not exhibit heteroscedasticity. The heteroscedasticity test in this study uses the Glejser Test. The test results can be seen in the following table.

Table 11. Heteroscedasticity Test

	Co	efficients ^a			
	Unstar	ndardized	Standardized		
	Coefficients C		Coefficients		
Model	В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1 (Constant)	3.306	1.247		2.651	.009
Kesadaran Politik	026	.025	094	-1.039	.301

a. Dependent Variable: ABS_RES

Based on the table above, the results of the heteroscedasticity test using the Glejser test indicate that the significant value of the X variable, namely political awareness, is 0.301. This value is greater than 0.05. Therefore, this analysis indicates that there is no heteroscedasticity in the regression model.

4. Simple Linear Regression Analysis

The effect of the independent variable, namely political awareness, on the dependent variable, namely political participation, can be determined using a simple linear regression analysis. This test was conducted using a computer with SPSS (Statistical Program for Social Science) version 26. The results are as follows:

Table 12. Simple Linear Regression Analysis

Coefficients^a Unstandardized Coefficients B Std. Error 8.571 2.045 .658 .041

a. Dependent Variable: Partisipasi Politik

The interpretation of this equation is as follows:

- 1. Based on the equation above, the constant value (a) is 8.571, meaning that if the political awareness variable has a value of 0, then the political participation value is 8.571.
- 2. The coefficient value of the political awareness variable (X) is 0.658, meaning that if political awareness increases by 1, political participation will increase by 0.658. The





regression coefficient between political awareness and political participation is positive. This indicates that as political awareness increases, political participation will also increase.

5. Coefficient of Determination

The results of the simple linear regression analysis also produced a coefficient of determination value of R2. This value can be seen in the following table.

Table 13. Coefficient of Determination

				Std. Error of the
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Estimate
1	.826a	.682	.679	2.57289

a. Predictors: (Constant), Kesadaran Politikb. Dependent Variable: Partisipasi Politik

Source: Processed data, 2025

Based on Table 4.9, the coefficient of determination (R2) can be seen in the R-square column, which is 0.682. This value indicates that the political awareness variable has a significant influence on the political participation variable of 0.682 (68.2%), while the remaining 31.8% is influenced by other variables outside the research model.

6. Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis testing is conducted to determine the validity of previously formulated hypotheses. There are two types of hypothesis testing: the T-test (Partial) and the F-test (Simultaneous).

a. F-Test

The results of the simultaneous testing in this analysis are shown in the following table. Table 14. F-Test

Aľ	VО	\mathbf{V}	\ a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1728.416	1	1728.416	261.100	.000 ^b
	Residual	807.608	122	6.620		
	Total	2536.024	123			

a. Dependent Variable: Partisipasi Politikb. Predictors: (Constant), Kesadaran Politik

Source: Processed data, 2025

Based on Table 4.10 above, with df (n1) = 1, df (n2) = 122, the Ftable value is 3.919. Therefore, the simultaneous test or F-test yields an F-count of 261.100 and an F-table of 3.919. This value indicates that F-count > F-table with a significance level of $0.000 < \alpha 0.05$. Based on the hypothesis, H0 is rejected and H1 is accepted. Overall, the independent variable, namely political awareness, has an influence on political participation as the dependent variable.

b. T-Test

Hypothesis testing is conducted to demonstrate the extent to which the independent variable influences the dependent variable individually. In this study, the hypothesis test was





used to determine the effect of political awareness on political participation. If the calculated t-value is greater than the calculated t-value, the independent variable influences the dependent variable. The results of the hypothesis test are as follows:

Table 15. Results of T-Test Analysis

Coefficients^a

Unstandardized Coefficients		
В	Std. Error	
8.571	2.045	
.658	.041	

a. Dependent Variable: Partisipasi Politik

Source: Processed data, 2025

1. Test results of the influence of political awareness on political participation

Based on the table above, the calculated t value is 16.159 and the t table is 1.980. It can be concluded that the calculated t value is > t table and the significance value is 0.000 < 0.05. Based on the hypothesis, Ha is accepted and H0 is rejected. Therefore, the political awareness variable has a partial positive and significant effect on political participation.

D. Correlation Test

The results of the correlation test in this study can be seen in the following table.

Table 16. Correlation Test

Correlations

		Kesadaran Politik
Kesadaran Politik	Pearson Correlation	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	
	N	124
Partisipasi Politik	Pearson Correlation	.826**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
	N	124

^{**.} Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The correlation value can be determined using the following correlation interval table. Table 17. Correlation Interval

Interval Koefisien	Tingkat Hubungan
0,00 - 0,199	Sangat rendah
0,20 - 0,399	Rendah
0,40 - 0,599	Cukup
0,60 - 0,799	Kuat
0,80 - 1,000	Sangat kuat





Based on the results of the correlation calculation with the SPSS program, it shows that the N value, namely the number of samples, is 124 respondents, while the correlation value can be seen in the Pearson correlation value. The magnitude of the correlation value between the political awareness variable and the political participation variable is 0.826 (**). Looking at the correlation interval in the table above, this value is included in the very strong correlation category. In addition, the sig. (2-tailed) value between the two variables is 0.000. Thus, it can be interpreted that there is a significant positive correlation or relationship between the two variables (0.000 <0.05).

E. Discussion

The results of the analysis of the main hypothesis in this study indicate that political awareness influences the political participation of first-time voters. The findings indicate that political awareness (X) influences political participation (Y). The statistical test results in Table 1 indicate a very strong correlation between political awareness and political participation. Political awareness also found a positive and significant effect on political participation. The results also indicate that the influence of political awareness on political participation was 0.682 (68.2%), while the remaining 31.8% was influenced by variables outside the research model. Therefore, political awareness is an important factor in determining political participation among first-time voters.

The findings indicate that political awareness (X) positively and significantly influences political participation (Y), with a significance value of 0.000 < 0.05. These findings are supported by research conducted by Sadeli et al., (2022), which found that there was a significant positive influence of political awareness on the political participation of the Cipatujah village community in Tasikmalaya district in the 2020 regional head elections. Thus, the higher the political awareness an individual has, the higher their political participation will be.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on research conducted on 124 first-time voters in the Civics Study Program, the conclusion is that political awareness has a positive and significant effect on political participation among first-time voters. Therefore, the higher the political awareness, the higher the political participation. Based on the conclusions of the research results, the researcher can provide suggestions for several related parties, such as for first-time voters are expected to be more selective in choosing candidates for national leaders by paying attention to the vision, mission and content of political messages conveyed during the campaign. In addition, it is hoped that first-time voters can play an active role in participating in the election so that a leader can be elected who can bring a better Indonesia. Then, for political actors, especially prospective national leaders and political parties are expected to be able to lead with a clear vision and mission, and a commitment to realizing positive change for society. In addition, prospective national leaders and political parties are expected to be able to be better in conveying political messages to the public so that it can raise political awareness in the community.

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