

# Factors Influencing Young Voters' Political Participation in the 2020 Regional Elections in Yogyakarta

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## ABSTRAK

In the midst of the pandemic, which caused a profound crisis for the people, the government continued to hold the 2020 simultaneous Regional Head Elections (PILKADA). This decision faced opposition from the public, with surveys conducted by research institutions showing that much of the opposition was dominated by the youth demographic. The purpose of this study is to explore the factors influencing political participation among young voters in the 2020 Regional Head Elections in the Special Region of Yogyakarta (DIY). This research uses a quantitative approach, with data collected through a questionnaire distributed via Google Forms, gathering responses from 50 participants. Data analysis was carried out using SmartPLS software. This study employs the EUCS (End User Computing Satisfaction) model to examine the factors that influence political participation among young voters in the 2020 PILKADA in DIY, focusing on several variables: Attitude, Work Experience, Track Record, and Education Level. The results, based on the R-Square value, show that the factors influencing young voters' political participation in the 2020 simultaneous Regional Head Elections in DIY namely Attitude (S), Work Experience (PK), Track Record (RJ), and Education Level (TP) account for 0,960. Therefore, it can be concluded that the political participation of young voters in the 2020 simultaneous Regional Head Elections in DIY is influenced by these factors to an extent of 96.0%.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic that began in early 2020 has had a significant impact on people's lives as well as government administration. This situation has pushed the government to think more creatively and optimally in facing the crisis caused by Covid-19, which the people of Indonesia are enduring. While the government's main focus has been on the health sector, it has not neglected other aspects of governance that have also been affected by the pandemic. Indonesia quickly implemented innovations to adapt to the challenges posed by the pandemic. The monetary crisis that hit Indonesia in 1997-1998 caused widespread hardship, plunging various aspects of life into turmoil. This situation led to a loss of public trust in the government's ability to lead Indonesia toward a better future. However, the current crisis is different. This time, the crisis is the result of a non-natural disaster that has affected countries around the world.

The 2020 simultaneous Regional Head Elections (*Pemilihan Kepala Daerah—Pilkada*) were different because they were held amidst the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia. There were both pro and con reactions to the government's agenda regarding this political event. Some people felt that the government was unable to prioritize the collective interests of the public, such as health especially during the pandemic over the interests of a few individuals who were focused on vying for power. A survey conducted by Kompas on March 24-25, 2020, with 930 respondents from 27 provinces across Indonesia, found that 91.8% of respondents agreed that the 2020 *Pilkada* should be postponed due to concerns over the rapid spread of Covid-19 in the country. Meanwhile, the remaining respondents disagreed or were unsure. (Kompas, 2020b). In another survey conducted by Charta Politika, 54.2% of respondents disagreed with holding the 2020 *Pilkada*, while 31.8% agreed that it should proceed, and 14.1% did not respond. (Kompas, 2020a). Despite the widespread opposition to holding the simultaneous elections in 2020, there were still some people with an open mindset who believed that the elections should proceed, as they saw it as an opportunity for generational renewal and political reform. These supporters argued that holding the 2020 *Pilkada* would lead to greater prosperity for the people in the future.

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Support for the government's decision to proceed with the 2020 simultaneous Regional Head Elections (*Pilkada*) came primarily from the group of people over 40 years old, while those aged 21 and below largely opposed the government's plan. This is particularly interesting because the younger generation is the future of the nation, and they will bear the responsibility of continuing the development of the country. On the other hand, the youth represent the largest demographic group in Indonesia, making up 82% of the population ([Change.org, 2020](#)).

Young voters are individuals aged 17 to 29 who have full rights to cast their vote in electoral contests. They represent one of the key demographic groups targeted by the government for socialization and educational initiatives, as the size of this group within the voter base is considered significant ([Farisi & Maulana, 2020](#)). The group of young voters consists of various subgroups, including high school students, university students, as well as individuals who are employed or unemployed. As a result, the size of this demographic group can be considered fairly representative within the general population.

The Special Region of Yogyakarta is a center of education in Indonesia, which has led to the establishment of many higher education institutions, both public and private. The large number of universities in Yogyakarta has contributed to a significant young population in the region. In 2020, the Special Region of Yogyakarta had three regencies that participated in the simultaneous Regional Head Elections (*Pilkada*). These three regencies were Sleman, Bantul, and Gunungkidul.

The large number of universities in the Special Region of Yogyakarta has also influenced the views of the public, especially young voters, encouraging them to express their opinions regarding the implementation of the 2020 simultaneous Regional Head Elections (*Pilkada*). Many academics from the universities in DIY also opposed the holding of the simultaneous elections in 2020. ([Padmaratri, 2020](#)) Academics argued that the reasons for opposing the simultaneous Regional Head Elections (*Pilkada*) and calling for their postponement were as follows: First, the implementation of the *Pilkada* would greatly increase the potential for the spread of Covid-19. Second, holding the *Pilkada* would require a large budget, which could be better allocated for Covid-19 management. Third, the elections could disrupt public services, as many regional heads had already completed their terms and temporary replacements had been appointed. Fourth, many election organizers and participants had already tested positive for Covid-19. Fifth, there was no guarantee that health protocols would be strictly enforced. ([S, 2020](#)) The views of academics from universities in the Special Region of Yogyakarta provide an insight into the political participation of young voters in the 2020 simultaneous Regional Head Elections (*Pilkada*).

According to P.A. Sitepu, political participation is an activity carried out by the public, either directly or indirectly, related to various government policies. This can be done by individuals or groups, both individually and collectively ([Padmaratri, 2020](#)). On the other hand, it is also stated that political participation is an activity carried out both individually and collectively to actively engage in political life, such as by choosing national leaders either directly or indirectly, and influencing every policy issued by the government ([Sitepu, 2012](#)). Political participation is the activity of individuals or organizations to actively engage in political life. For example, participating in elections, protesting to influence decision making, and becoming a member of a political party ([Kaelola, 2009](#)). According to Davis, as cited in Sastroadmojo, political participation is a mental and emotional commitment that encourages individuals to contribute to the goals or ideals of a group or to take responsibility for them ([Sastroadmojo, 1995](#)).

Political participation can be seen from the factors that influence it, namely the attitude of voters, the track record of the *Pilkada* candidates, the work experience of the *Pilkada* candidates, and the education level of the voters. According to Almond, attitude is an orientation that is unique to each citizen towards the political system and its various components, as well as their attitude towards the role of citizens within that system ([Citrayanti & Yuhertiana, 2021](#)).

The work experience, in the study conducted by [Widiastuti & Yuliawati \(2018\)](#), showed that one of the considerations for respondents when casting their votes in the legislative candidate elections was the candidates' work experience.

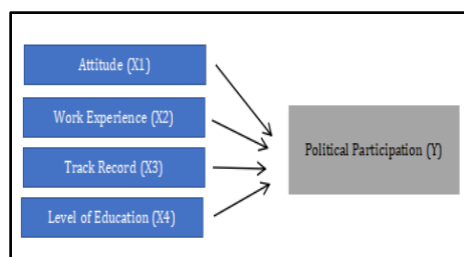
According to the KBBI (Indonesian Dictionary), a track record is defined as a record of a person's or organization's past performance. By searching for information about someone's track record, we can make more informed decisions, such as in the case of the 2020 simultaneous Regional Head Elections (*Pilkada*) ([Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia, 2016](#)).

Higher education has a significant impact on political participation in many countries. This is because higher education provides information and knowledge about politics, helps develop analytical skills, and fosters interest and expertise in political matters. Educated individuals are more likely to be aware of government policies and their impact on their lives, which leads them to pay more attention to political developments, gather more information about political dynamics, and become more competent in political matters. ([Kpu & Tahun, 2016](#))

A previous study titled "Factors Influencing Voting Decisions Among Young Voters in the 2020 Pilkada (A Case Study of 2017 Student Voters at UPN 'Veteran' East Java)" found that work experience, education level, the socio-economic background of regional head candidates, regional financial information, and political culture all had a positive impact on young voters' decisions in the 2020 simultaneous Regional Head Elections (*Pilkada*). Meanwhile, this study aims to explore and describe the factors influencing political participation among young voters in the 2020 simultaneous *Pilkada*.

Thus, this study formulates the research questions as follows: (1) Does the attitude of young voters influence their political participation in the 2020 *Pilkada*? (2) Does the work experience of the candidates influence the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada*? (3) Does the track record of the candidates influence the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada*? (4) Does the education level of voters influence the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada*?

This study aims to identify the factors that influence political participation among young voters in the Special Region of Yogyakarta during the 2020 simultaneous regional head elections. The researcher proposes the following hypotheses regarding the factors that affect the political participation of young voters in the Special Region of Yogyakarta during the 2020 simultaneous regional head elections, as outlined below:



Picture 1. Research Model

#### Hypotheses:

H1: Attitude (X1) has an impact on the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY (Y).

H2: Work Experience (X2) has an impact on the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY (Y).

H3: Track Record (X3) has an impact on the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY (Y).

H4: Education Level (X4) has an impact on the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY (Y).

## 2. METHODS

### Type of Research

This study uses a quantitative method with data collected through a questionnaire via Google Forms, involving 50 respondents. Data management is carried out using SmartPLS software. The study applies the EUCS (End User Computing Satisfaction) model theory to examine the factors influencing the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in the Special Region of Yogyakarta (DIY) through several variables, including Attitude, Work Experience, Track Record, and Education Level.

### Data Collection

This study uses a data collection technique assisted by Google Forms to create a questionnaire that is distributed to respondents. The researcher also employs snowball sampling to identify one respondent who can be used as a reference to obtain other respondents. The population for this study is determined using the Slovin formula, with a sample of 50 respondents. The data source for this study is primary data, obtained from the 50 completed questionnaires distributed to respondents, who are students from Yogyakarta studying at Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta State University, Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University, Islamic University of Indonesia, and Sanata Dharma University, with the class year of 2018. These students are from the regencies of Sleman, Bantul, and Gunungkidul in the Special Region of Yogyakarta in 2022. Secondary data is obtained through online media such as literature reviews, journal articles, books, and other sources.

### Sampling Technique

This study uses random sampling, with the population consisting of students in Yogyakarta who are enrolled at Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta State University, Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University, Islamic University of Indonesia, and Sanata Dharma University, with the class year of 2018. These students come from the regencies of Sleman, Bantul, and Gunungkidul. The purpose of using this sampling technique is to identify young voters who have the right to vote in the 2020 Pilkada in these regencies in the Special Region of Yogyakarta.

### Data Processing and Analysis Technique

Data processing in this study is supported by SmartPLS software to test the relationships between the research variables or to validate the hypotheses made by the researcher regarding the influence of factors on the political participation of young voters in the 2020 simultaneous *Pilkada* in DIY, as well as performing regression analysis to obtain accurate results. The questionnaire scale uses a Likert scale (1. Strongly Disagree, 2. Disagree, 3. Neutral, 4. Agree, and 5. Strongly Agree).

**Table 1. Operational Definition**

Variable	Indicator
Political Participation (Y)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Voters are involved as supporters or sympathizers, members of political parties supporting the 2020 Pilkada candidates</li> <li>2. Voters exercise their right to vote by coming to the TPS</li> <li>3. Voters voice or engage in campaign to reject 2020 regional elections</li> </ol>
<b>Factors Influencing Political Participation of Young Voters in the 2020 Regional Elections in DIY</b>	
Attitude (X1)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Voters prefer to stay at home as an effort to reduce the transmission of Covid-19.</li> <li>2. Voters want to channel aspirations that are in accordance with their choices.</li> <li>3. Voters approve 2020 regional elections</li> </ol>
Work Experience (X2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Political candidates have good knowledge in their field</li> <li>2. Political candidates have good skills in their field</li> <li>3. Political candidates understand the tasks well in their fields.</li> </ol>
Track Record (X3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regional election candidates have a clear and good hereditary background.</li> <li>2. <i>Pilkada</i> candidates have a clear and good organizational background</li> <li>3. <i>Pilkada</i> candidates have a clear and good ideological background</li> </ol>
Level of Education (X4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The level of education of voters enables voters to have knowledge about elections.</li> <li>2. The level of education of voters enables voters to have sufficient knowledge of the national and political situation.</li> <li>3. The level of education of voters enables voters to have knowledge of community problems.</li> </ol>

Source: Processed from primary data (2022)

### 3. DISCUSSIONS

#### Variable Reliability Test

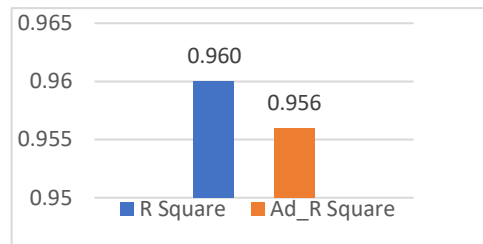
**Table 2. Results of Composite Reliability and Cronbach's Alpha Examination**

Construction	Cronbach's Alpha	Rho_A	Composite Reliability	Average Variance Extracted	
Political Participation	0.805	0.827	0.887	0.725	Reliable
Work Experience	0.728	0.725	0.847	0.643	Reliable
Track Record	0.761	0.848	0.858	0.673	Reliable
Attitude	0.762	0.780	0.865	0.682	Reliable
Level of Education	0.798	0.815	0.883	0.717	Reliable

Source: Processed by primary data (2022)

The data above shows the results of the reliability test (Composite Reliability and Cronbach Alpha output), indicating that it is reliable. According to Nunnally (1967) and Hinkle (2004), in social research, a Cronbach Alpha value of >0.60 for each variable indicates that the construct or variable is dependable (Susanto et al., 2019). In addition, according to Budhiasa (2016) in the study by Suyudi et al. (2020), a research construct is considered reliable if the Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability scores reach at least 0.60. (Suyudi et al., 2020). The variable with the highest accuracy is the Political Participation variable, which has the largest Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.805 and the highest Composite Reliability score of 0.887. Meanwhile, the variable with the lowest values is Work Experience, with a Cronbach's Alpha of 0.728 and Composite Reliability of 0.847. Based on the explanation of the reliability test results, where the highest and lowest values are both above 0.60, it can be concluded that each variable in this study has good reliability.

**Regression Analysis**

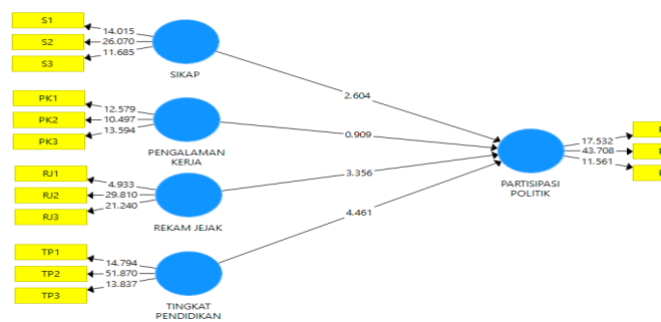


**Picture 2. Regression Results of Young Voters' Political Participation in the 2020 Regional Elections in DIY**

Source: Processed from primary data (2022)

Based on the R-Square diagram above, the output for Political Participation of Young Voters in the 2020 Pilkada in DIY explains Work Experience, Track Record, Attitude, and Education Level at 0.960. From this, it can be concluded that the interpretation of Political Participation of Young Voters in the 2020 Pilkada in DIY is 96.0%. The structural R-square model identifies three scales: 19%-33% (weak/moderate), 33%-67% (moderate), and >67% (strong/good/substantial). When looking at the regression results and the R-Square interpretation for the Political Participation variable of Young Voters above, the scale falls into the strong or good category. Therefore, it can be said that the independent variables have a significant impact on the dependent variable, as shown by the regression test results.

**Hypothesis Testing**



**Picture 3. Validated Research Model**  
 Source: Processed from primary data (2022)

Through the diagram above, it can be seen that hypothesis testing is conducted between the independent and dependent variables using the bootstrapping method in SmartPLS software. The purpose of this test is to assess the validity and reliability of the data in the study. This testing uses T-statistics and P-value, which will be presented in a t-table format. According to Haryono (2017) in Nurjannah et al. (2022), to determine whether the research data is valid, the T-statistic value should be greater than >1.96, and the P-value should be less than <0.05. (Nurjanah et al., 2022).

The following table shows the results of the hypothesis test of factors influencing the political participation of young voters in the 2020 Pilkada in DIY:

**Table 3.** Hypothesis Test of Factors Influencing Political Participation of Young Voters in the 2020 Regional Elections in DIY

Variable	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	STDEV	T-Statistics ((O/STDEV))	P value	Hypothesis
Work Experience	0.066	0.073	0.060	1.087	0.278	Rejected
Track Record	0.073	0.168	0.048	3.589	0.000	Accepted
Attitude	0.240	0.246	0.098	2.452	0.015	Accepted
Level of Education	0.555	0.544	0.122	4.562	0.000	Accepted

Source: Processed from primary data (2022)

1. **Work Experience Hypothesis – Young Voters’ Political Participation**  
Based on the table above, the hypothesis of Work Experience affecting the Political Participation of Young Voters has a T-statistic value of 1.087. This value indicates that the T-statistic result does not exceed  $>1.96$ . Meanwhile, the P-value is 0.278, which is greater than the standard P-value threshold of  $<0.05$ . This means that it can be concluded that the Work Experience of the candidate does not have a significant impact on the Political Participation of Young Voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY.
2. **Track Record Hypothesis – Political Participation of Young Voters**  
Based on the table above, the hypothesis of Track Record affecting the Political Participation of Young Voters has a T-statistic value of 3.589. This value indicates that the T-statistic result exceeds  $>1.96$ . Meanwhile, the P-value is 0.000, which is smaller than the standard P-value threshold of  $<0.05$ . This means that it can be concluded that the Track Record of the candidate has a significant impact on the Political Participation of Young Voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY.
3. **Attitude Hypothesis – Political Participation of Young Voters**  
Based on the table above, the hypothesis of Attitude affecting the Political Participation of Young Voters has a T-statistic value of 2.452. This value indicates that the T-statistic result exceeds  $>1.96$ . Meanwhile, the P-value is 0.015, which is smaller than the standard P-value threshold of  $<0.05$ . This means that it can be concluded that the Attitude of young voters has a significant impact on the Political Participation of Young Voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY.
4. **Hypothesis of Education Level – Political Participation of Young Voters**  
Based on the table above, the hypothesis of Education Level affecting the Political Participation of Young Voters has a T-statistic value of 4.562. This value indicates that the T-statistic result exceeds  $>1.96$ . Meanwhile, the P-value is 0.000, which is smaller than the standard P-value threshold of  $<0.05$ . This means that it can be concluded that the Education Level of young voters has a significant impact on the Political Participation of Young Voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY.

#### 4. RESULT

The results of the reliability test in this study show that the Accuracy variable has the highest Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.805 and the highest Composite Reliability score of 0.887. Meanwhile, the variable with the lowest value is Work Experience, with a Cronbach's Alpha of 0.728 and a Composite Reliability score of 0.847. Based on the explanation of the reliability test results, where the highest and lowest values are above 0.60, it can be concluded that each variable in this study has good reliability.

Based on the regression analysis in this study, the output for Political Participation of Young Voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY explains 0,960 of the variances in Work Experience, Track Record, Attitude, and Education Level. From this statement, it can be concluded that the interpretation of Political Participation of Young Voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY accounts for 96.0%. Looking at the interpretation of the regression results and R-Square for the Political Participation of Young Voters variable, the scale obtained falls into the strong or good category. Therefore, it can be said that the independent variables have a strong impact on the dependent variable based on the regression test results.

Based on the hypothesis testing results, it was found that the influence of Work Experience from the candidate on the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY does not have a significant impact on the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY. This is evidenced by the data from respondents who participated in the survey, where they indicated that their political participation was not influenced by the candidates' work experience. This is reflected in the T-statistic value of 1.087, which does not meet the minimum standard of  $>1.96$ . Additionally, the P-value of 0.278 exceeds the minimum standard of  $<0.05$ . Therefore, this study does not support or confirm the theory regarding the impact of work experience on political participation.

In contrast, for the variable of Track Record, it was empirically found that Track Record has a significant impact on the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY. This is evidenced

by the survey data, where respondents indicated that the background of the candidates influenced the political participation of young voters, as shown by the T-statistic value of 3.589. This value indicates that the T-statistic exceeds the minimum threshold of >1.96. Additionally, the P-value of 0.000 is smaller than the standard P-value threshold of <0.05. Therefore, it can be concluded that the Track Record of the candidates has a significant influence on the political participation of young voters in the 2020 Pilkada in DIY.

Next, the variable of Attitude was also empirically tested for its effect on young voters and was found to have a significant impact on political participation in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY. The attitude of young voters is an internal factor, representing the unique orientation of each individual toward the political system and its various forms, as well as their attitude toward their role in that system and their political participation in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY. This variable has a T-statistic value of 2.452, indicating that the T-statistic exceeds the threshold of >1.96. Furthermore, the P-value is 0.015, which is smaller than the standard P-value threshold of <0.05. Therefore, it can be concluded that the attitude of young voters has a significant influence on their political participation in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY.

The variable of Education Level also has a significant impact on the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY. Data from the respondents who participated in the survey indicate that the education level of voters enables them to have sufficient knowledge about elections, the national situation, politics, and the issues facing society. This situation influences the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY. This is demonstrated by a T-statistic value of 4.562, which indicates that the T-statistic exceeds the threshold of >1.96. Moreover, the P-value is 0.000, which is smaller than the standard P-value threshold of <0.05. Therefore, it can be concluded that the education level of young voters has a significant influence on their political participation in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis conducted, this study concludes that the reliability test results for the four variables used show that all variables have very good reliability. Furthermore, based on the regression analysis, the R-Square value indicates that Attitude, Work Experience, Track Record, and Education Level have a very strong influence on the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY. According to the hypothesis testing conducted between the independent and dependent variables using the bootstrapping method in SmartPLS software to assess the validity and reliability of the data, it was found that the Work Experience variable does not have a significant effect on the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY. In contrast, the variables of Attitude, Track Record, and Education Level have a significant influence on the political participation of young voters in the 2020 *Pilkada* in DIY.

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