

# The Role of the Riau Province National Unity and Political Agency in Political Education to Increase Voter Participation in the 2024 General Election

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## The Role of the Riau Province National Unity and Political Agency in Political Education to Increase Voter Participation in the 2024 General Election

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### Article Info

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**Abstract:** In order to make general elections and regional head elections in Indonesia a success, the role of all stakeholders is needed. The democratic festival, which is held every five years in Indonesia, is very crucial for the development and progress of the Indonesian nation. In this research, the author focuses on the role of the national and political unitary body of Riau Province in carrying out its authority in the political field related to political education for the voting public. Political education is to increase people's knowledge so that they can participate optimally in the political system. Based on 2019 Election data, Riau Province is ranked 10th in the Permanent Voter List with 3,863,197 voters, while the largest number of voters is in West Java Province. From the Provisional Voter List data, there was an increase of one million voters in Riau Province, namely 4,740,392 voters. The importance of political education for the community is to provide information and education related to General Elections and Regional Head Elections, increase voter participation and make voters smart in voting. The aim of this research is to see the role of the Riau Province National Unity and Politics Service in educating voters and find out the inhibiting factors in implementing the authority of the Riau Province National Unity and Politics Service. The method and type of this research is Qualitative Descriptive. The technique for attracting informants uses a proportional sampling technique and data collection techniques in this research are interviews, observation, literature study and documentation. The benefits of this research are as reference material both for the development of knowledge in the field of politics and for government administrators in increasing participation for the voting public and educating voters.

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## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is one of the largest democratic countries in Southeast Asia. One of the characteristics of a democratic country adopted by Indonesia is the existence of general elections. The first election was held in 1955, and the most recent was the 2019 election. Different from previous elections, the 2019 election was the first simultaneous election implemented in Indonesia. This simultaneity is due to the combination of the presidential/vice presidential elections, and the elections for the DPR RI, DPD RI, Provincial DPRD, and Regency/City DPRD. Before 2019, presidential/vice presidential elections and legislative elections were always separated. One of the strategic issues developing in the study of democracy and elections is the importance of political education and voter participation.

The importance of voter education and voter participation studies is because these studies are closely related to the success of an election. Simply put, the higher the voter participation, the better the level of electoral success. On the other hand, the lower the voter participation, the lower the level of success in holding elections. Although it needs to be mentioned that the presence or absence of voters is not always due to the role of election organizers such as the General Election Commission, but there can also be other variables such as the ideology held by voters.

In a democracy, politics is an entity that is less liked, even hated. This is because the behavior of politicians is inconsistent between words and actions in the field. Our politics displays too much conflict and even mixes political interests with SARA issues, giving rise to violence which causes many people to become victims, both physically and mentally. Apart from that, many politicians have fallen into disgraceful behavior regarding state assets (corruption), both at the executive, legislative and even judicial levels. This causes apathy in society to participate in politics. So the tendency of the voting public is not to vote, accepting payment for voting and other problems.

Indonesia's democracy index in 2023 will decrease to 6.71 and Indonesia will drop from its previous ranking of 52 to 54 out of 167 countries. This is caused by many things as explained above. One way to increase scores and increase Indonesia's ranking in the democracy index is political education. The role of government and stakeholders is highly expected in resolving problems in our democracy and in our current politics. This study relates to roles whose derivatives are authority and then the duties and functions of the government. In government science, the study of roles, authority, duties and functions is the main and characteristic in the study of government science. From a study of government science, it is hoped that innovative formulations, policies and programs will emerge, which in this case are related to political education carried out by the Riau Province Department of National Unity and Politics.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses qualitative analysis methods, qualitative analysis is defined as research that can understand phenomena about what is experienced by research subjects such as behavior, perceptions, motivations, actions, etc. holistically and by means of descriptions in the form of words and discussion. in a special natural context and by utilizing various natural methods. In the initial stage, the chairman and research team carried out observation activities, as an effort to identify problems and explore information and data that became a reference to determine the urgency of this research to be researched. The sources of data obtained were through reputable online media and Riau government policy documents on official government pages. Next, the team leader directly observed the phenomenon of the exercise of authority in the government's role in the political sector. Then the next step, after

obtaining data and information about political education, is that the team leader continues to prepare a draft proposal as an initial stage with the content describing the problems to be researched. The personnel directly involved in observation activities and preparing proposals are member 1 and member 2. Meanwhile, the person who will carry out pre-research observations is the team leader.

In the second stage, what the research team will carry out is holding a joint meeting to determine the informants who will be asked for interviews, as well as determining a number of reputable local online media to be used as reference sources for coding data. The informants who will be interviewed are (1 person) Head of the National Unity and Politics Service for Riau Province, (2 people) party heads, (2 people) heads of non-governmental organizations observing ELECTIONS, people who have received political education. After mapping who the informants were, the research team prepared an interview draft in the form of a structured collection of questions referring to the concepts of role, political education and political participation.

In the third stage, the research team will carry out in-depth interviews with each informant. The results of the interviews obtained can then be analyzed together. It is likely that there will be additional informants in the interview which will then be adjusted to the recommendations of the initial informant because in principle the determination uses the snowball sampling technique. Snowball sampling is an initial identification process starting from a person or case that falls within the research criteria. Furthermore, this research uses the N-Vivo 12 plus software with the aim of processing interview data into statistical data which can then be visualized as supporting data in this research.

In the fourth stage, the research team will go directly into the field as a direct observation process with the aim of finding additional information related to the research object. This observation activity is the most important part of the research series. The research location chosen by the team leader is Riau province. Data obtained from observations include photographs, documentation and interviews with stakeholders involved in political education providers. Additional documents will be found, such as archives obtained from agencies involved in political education.

The data analysis method used in this research is that in the initial stage the research team will process interview data from a number of informants using the N-Vivo 12 Plus software with data output of numbers and images. In the second stage, the research team collected a number of data from reputable online media news by coding relevant sentences in the research question. The results of the interviews and image or numerical data were used by the research team to support the analysis. After the data has been processed and the results can be found, the final process will be carried out which will become the output of this research, namely accredited national journals as mandatory outputs and textbooks as additional outputs in this research.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Research relating to the role of government in political education to increase voter participation in general elections has been researched by various authors at both national and international levels. Political education studies were carried out only at the beginner voter level (1). In subsequent research, related research focused on voter participation, not looking at the role of government and political education (2). The next article is concerned with the role of government in politics and does not discuss political education and political participation (3). In this research there are three concepts that the author uses, namely:



**A. Role**

According to terminology, a role is a set of behaviors that are expected to be possessed by those in society. In English, a role is called a "role" whose definition is "person's task or duty in undertaking." It means "a person's duties or obligations in a business or job." Role is defined as a set of behaviors that people in society are expected to have. Meanwhile, a role is an action carried out by a person in an event. Role is a dynamic aspect of position (status). If someone carries out their rights and obligations in accordance with their position, they are carrying out a role. The distinction between position and role is for the purposes of science. The two cannot be separated because one depends on the other and vice versa. There is no role without a position or position without a role.

Role indicators are aspects that measure a role. These measurements are used as benchmarks in a role. Indicators or role measurements are very necessary because they will be beneficial for many parties. The literature survey regarding indicators that measure roles is as follows. According to Mintzberg in the book *Introduction to Management* and the book *Leadership in Management* written by Siswanto and Miftah Thoha (2012: 21 and 12), there are three roles played by leaders in organizations, namely:

1. Interpersonal Role, in an interpersonal role, superiors must act as figures, as leaders and as liaisons so that the organization they manage runs smoothly.
2. Roles related to information (Informational Role), the interpersonal role above places superiors in a unique position in terms of obtaining information.
3. Decision Maker Role, in this role the superior must be involved in a strategy making process within the organization he leads. Mintzberg concluded that the superior's large division of tasks was essentially used fully to think about the organization's strategy-making system. Siswanto (2012: 21).

**B. Political Education**

Political education in English is often referred to as political socialization. According to Supriyadi (1999:70) the words political education and political socialization have close or almost the same meaning so they can be used interchangeably. Alfian (1981:235) added that political socialization can be considered political education in a loose sense. Furthermore, Alfian (1981: 235) explains the deeper meaning of political education, namely political education as a conscious effort to change the process of political socialization in society so that they truly understand and appreciate the values contained in the ideal political system that is to be built. According to Kartini Kartono (1996:64) political education is a deliberate and systematic educational effort to shape individuals so they are able to become ethical/morally responsible participants in achieving political goals. Meanwhile, Rusadi Kantaprawira (1988:54) views political education as an effort to increase people's political knowledge so that they can participate optimally in the political system, in accordance with the understanding of popular sovereignty or democracy that the people must be able to carry out their duties of participation. Kosasih Djahiri (1995:18) states that political education is education or guidance, coaching the citizens of a country to understand, love and have a high sense of belonging to the nation, state and all existing institutional structures. In Indonesia, political education is regulated by Presidential Instruction Number 12 of 1982 concerning Political Education of the Young Generation (19882:2). In principle, political education of the young generation is a series of efforts to increase and strengthen political and

state awareness in order to support the preservation of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution as a culture. national politics. Political education must also be part of the process of renewing the political life of the Indonesian nation which is currently being carried out in the context of efforts to create a political system that is truly democratic, stable, dynamic, effective and efficient.

### C. Political Participation

Political participation is an important aspect of a democracy. Political participation is a characteristic of political modernization. Since political decisions made and implemented by the government concern and influence the lives of citizens, citizens have the right to participate in determining the content of political decisions. Therefore, what is meant by political participation according to Huntington and Nelson quoted by Cholisin (2007: 151) is the activity of citizens acting as individuals intended to influence government decision making. Furthermore, Ramlan Surbakti as quoted by Cholisin (2007: 150) provides a brief definition of political participation as a form of participation of ordinary citizens in determining all decisions that concern or affect their lives. According to Miriam Budiarmo, (in Cholisin 2007: 150) states that political participation can generally be defined as the activity of a person or group of people to actively participate in political life, namely by electing state leaders and directly or indirectly influencing public policy). These activities include actions such as voting in general elections, attending general meetings, becoming a member of a party or interest group, having contact with government officials or members of parliament.

The explanation of the various literature above which is referenced from a number of reputable and indexed national/international scientific journals can briefly describe the state of the art of the research that will be carried out, namely research related to the role of regional and central government in describing the problems faced for research that focuses on Political education and political participation. So, through this internal UIR research, the author is interested in researching the government's role in political education to increase political participation in the 2024 general elections and regional head elections.

Indonesia's democracy index in 2023 will decrease to 6.71 and Indonesia will drop from its previous ranking of 52 to 54 out of 167 countries. This is caused by many things as explained above. One way to increase scores and increase Indonesia's ranking in the democracy index is political education. The role of government and stakeholders is highly expected in resolving problems in our democracy and in our current politics. This study relates to roles whose derivatives are authority and then the duties and functions of the government. In government science, the study of roles, authority, duties and functions is the main and characteristic in the study of government science. From a study of government science, it is hoped that innovative formulations, policies and programs will emerge, which in this case are related to political education carried out by the Riau Province Department of National Unity and Politics.

Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), there were 34.75 million people who did not exercise their right to vote or were white (golput) in the 2019 Election. This number is equivalent to 18.02% of the entire 2019 Election permanent voter list (DPT). 192.77 million people. The number of abstaining voters in the 2019 election decreased by 40.69% compared to the previous period. In the 2014 elections, the number of abstention voters reached 58.61 million people or 30.22%. Based on data from the Riau Province KPU in Pekanbaru, Thursday, voter participation for the

Presidential Election reached 78.15 percent. This number has increased significantly compared to participation during the 2014 presidential election which was only 62.73 percent.

The highest participation rate for the presidential election was in Kuantan Singingi Regency with 81.95 percent. Meanwhile, the lowest was in Indragiri Hilir Regency with 70.69 percent. Areas where voter participation was less than 75 percent also occurred in Meranti Islands Regency with 71.98 percent. Then, participation in the legislative elections for the DPR RI in Riau Province reached 77.99 percent, for the DPD RI election 77.88 percent, DPRD Riau Province 78.03 percent and district/city DPRD 79.99 percent.

Based on the results of the research that has been carried out, it can be analyzed that the Riau Province National and Political Unity Agency carries out political education through three activities, namely; Community outreach activities (socialization of political legislation), Facilitation of Settlement of Political Party Disputes, and finally Coordination of political discussion forums in line with research findings. The forms of political education carried out by the Kesbangpolimas of Riau Province are Socialization, Discussion, Provision of Political Parties, Socialization of Laws on Political Parties, Verification of Administration of Political Party Financial Assistance, Monitoring the Existence of Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Organizations and Foundations, Development of Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Organizations and Foundations, and Improving the Performance of Political Party Leaders.

## CONCLUSION

The importance of political education for the community is to provide information and education related to General Elections and Regional Head Elections, increase voter participation and make voters smart in voting. The importance of voter education and voter participation studies is because these studies are closely related to the success of an election. Simply put, the higher the voter participation, the better the level of electoral success. The role of government and stakeholders is highly expected in resolving problems in our democracy and in our current politics. This study relates to roles whose derivatives are authority and then the duties and functions of the government. In government science, the study of roles, authority, duties and functions is the main and characteristic in the study of government science. From a study of government science, it is hoped that innovative formulations, policies and programs will emerge, which in this case are related to political education carried out by the Riau Province Department of National Unity and Politics.

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