

Novice Voter Education Amid Covid 19 Pandemic: Integration of Voter Education with Sociology Learning

Emizal Amri, Reno Fernandes*, Nora Susilawati

Department of Sociology Education, Universitas Negeri Padang,
Padang, Indonesia



Abstract – The benchmark for electoral success is the presence of rational voters. Novice voters are a vulnerable and irrational group of voters in determining their political choices. Therefore organizing voter education to novice voters is a must. The 2020 Regional Head Election in Indonesia coincides with the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. This makes the education of voters that is usually always held to novice voters face-to-face difficult to implement. COVID-19 makes the Electoral Commission (KPU) only able to organize the socialization and education of voters using mass media and chamber media. The purpose of the research presents voter education integrated with sociology subject teaching materials in high school presented with online learning design. This research uses research & development (R&D) methods. The results showed that during the COVID-19 pandemic, voter education to novice voters became difficult to implement in both extracurricular and intracurricular activities. sociology teaching materials integrated with voter education have very valid values.

Keywords – Voter Education, Novice Voters, Elections, COVID 19

I. INTRODUCTION

The Educational Institution serves as a transmission and cultural transformation channel (Zais, 1976). The Curriculum in schools should not be detached from the culture in society (Plate, 2012). Educational institutions can also make government programs aimed at youth (Beyene *et al.*, 2019). One of the government programs that can be integrated with educational institutions is the education of voters to novice voters. In holding elections in Indonesia the novice voter is one of the target groups that should be concerned to see the quantity and quantity of political partisans. Novice voters are the first to cast their ballots in the general election meaning that the voters who at the time of the vote are 17 years old or married (Lestari *et al.*, 2018). Usually, the chemo of this novice voter is at the age of the student in high school (Sayuti and Aras, 2016). The purpose of the voter education program

is to increase the literacy and political participation of novice voters in elections (Maharani and Nidia, 2019).

In Indonesia, the socialization and education of voters to novice voters is important to implement. The number of novice ists in each election has always increased significantly even having the number of political parties winning or candidate pairs in elections (Ananda and Gistituati, 2020). On the other hand, novice voters in the country are still unstable, their political participation can often be mobilized (Rafni, 2020). This condition makes an insistence on the importance of providing political literacy to these novice voters (Abdullah, 2018).

To be able to increase literacy and political participation of novice voters. The KPU always conducts the socialization and education of voters to students or commonly referred to as novice voters. Activities carried out to novice voters

involving educational institutions can be training activities, seminars, engaging in student extracurricular activities (Rafni and Suryanef, 2019). Research (Sutisna, 2017^a) reveals voter education can be conducted intracurricular through the implementation of connective learning in the subject of citizenship education. Relatively similar (Amri *et al.*, 2019) revealed in his research that voter education can also be implemented intracurricularly by integrating it with the subjects of social sciences (IPS) groups.

The above research is a model of voter education to novice voters that has been successfully implemented and can achieve the purpose of voter education effectively. But it should be realized that the beginner voter education model is based on direct interaction where in the event of a COVID-19 pandemic can not be applied. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in people having to carry out social distancing where direct interaction activities should be restricted (Nicola *et al.*, 2020). The Social distancing policy also has the impact of school closures at all levels and replaces them with distance learning (Viner *et al.*, 2020).

In the atmosphere of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Indonesia must face regional head elections. Elections to elect governors and regents/mayors were held simultaneously in 270 regions, covering 9 provinces, 224 districts, and 37 cities. While polling day is planned for December 9, 2020 (Purnamasari, 2020). Concurrent elections are a step to achieve local accountability, political equity, and local responsiveness (Akbar, 2016). Elections are expected to produce leaders who can bring people to feel the improvement of social, political, and economic conditions. Therefore, the implementation of elections must be supported by community participation. Participation is expected not only quantity but must be supported by the quality of participation (Jandevi, 2019). The characteristics of qualified political participation are the performance of literate, intelligent and politically critical voters so that their political preferences are the rational choice (Aldrich, 2018). Rational (intelligent and critical) voters can simply be described as voters who not only have electoral knowledge and awareness (elections) but also free from various forms of intimidation; have resistance to unhealthy transactional attacks or inducements and break rules such as money politics; and understand well the importance of the voice they have and the political consequences of his future choices (Ida *et al.*, 2020).

To produce community participation in elections that are written is to carry out the education of voters. Voter education is conducted by political parties, non-governmental organizations and governments through related agencies such

as the KPU. The problem in this study is that voter education conducted by the KPU to novice voters cannot be done in a face-to-face manner due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, this study wants to look at how the education of voters conducted by the KPU amid the COVID-19 pandemic and expose the relevant voter education strategy conducted amid the COVID-19 pandemic by involving educational institutions?.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

The study used the Research & Development (R&D) method of researchers using a development model owned by Dick & Carry called ADDIE (Branch and Kopcha, 2014). As for developing voter education to novice voters during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is to integrate voter education materials in materials in sociology subjects at the high school level. The data analysis used is mixed, i.e qualitative combined analysis and quantitative data analysis. The qualitative analysis seeks to analyze the situation of the electorate education that has been conducted by the KPU to implement the 2020 regional head selection stage and learning materials at the high school level. Research is focused on one subject only, i.e sociology subjects. Furthermore, quantitative analysis was conducted to test the validity of sociology subject teaching materials that have been integrated with voter education materials owned by the KPU. The validity of teaching materials is carried out by 3 experts including sociology lecturers, sociology teachers, and KPU Commissioners. This step is to measure the validity of teaching materials based on criteria variable content, language, and presentation. This research was conducted in Padang city which coincided with the process of conducting the selection of regional heads in Sumatera Barat. The data collection methods used in this study are in-depth interviews, polls, participatory observations, and documentation.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

The Importance of Voter Education in Elections

In quantity, Political participation targeted by the KPU in each election is 70 %. While the measure of the quality of election organizing is the presence of rational voters and people's political choices are not based on short-term political interests such as money, power and individual political compensation. More than that, the election should be able to educate voters to use rational and scientific calculations based on knowledge, awareness and a sense of responsibility to build a nation and a state.

To realize the presence of rational voters in each election by optimizing the education of voters. Voter Education is an

activity that is always organized by KPU. The basis in carrying out voter education is founded in the Regulation of the Electoral Commission (PKPU) of the Republic of Indonesia No. 10 of 2018 on Socialization, Voter Education and Community Participation in elections. In the PKPU mentioned the scope of voter education materials include: democracy, state institutions, elections, and political participation (KPU, 2015).

Voter education is an important device in organizing elections to help election organizers conduct elections properly. The ultimate goal of voter education is to increase voter participation, reduce the number of unauthorized ballots and ensure compliance with ethical considerations in voting (Ngwoke and Agusi, 2018). Thus, voter education gives citizens the basic information necessary to exercise their suffrage and expression of political will. It can be transmitted through face-to-face meetings, television messages, radio, print media, outdoor media and social media. Based on research (Rafni and Suryanef, 2019) the most effective voter education to provide value planting is through face-to-face methods.

Extracurricular Beginner Voter Education

The education of the electorate is carried out taking into account segmentation in the community. Segmentation is the social flushing that exists in society. Society is sorted into potential homogeneous voter groups. Whether it is potential in terms of numbers or potential in terms of the problems faced (Maswanganyi, 2018). The segmentation includes pre-voters, novice voters, women, marginalized groups and people with disabilities (Thomas, 2016). Each segment of the

electorate has different needs, characteristics, and behaviours so the model used to organize voter education must also be different (Ford, 2020).

Novice voters are a handful of voters who should get special attention. The novice voter group has a very large population. It is based on novice voters in elections in Indonesia is the deciding group because it has a large number (Ananda and Gistituati, 2020). Based on data released by the Ministry of Home Affairs the number of novice voters in the 2019 general election amounted to 12.5 % of the total number of voters (Detik.com, 2018). On the other hand, novice voters in the country are still unstable, their political participation can often be mobilized (Rafni, 2020). Research conducted by (Amsori, 2017; Nur Wardhani, 2018) stated that the political participation of novice voters in every general election is low. While according to (Suryanef and Rafni, 2015) The phenomenon of low political participation of novice voters is due to the limited education of voters given to them both in terms of space, time and the model used.

So far various efforts to organize voter education to novice voters have been made by KPU. Voter education for novice voters is usually done through the cooperation of KPU with Educational Institutions As an example of voter education that has been conducted by KPU Padang City: Seminar with students of High School (KPU Goes to school), Festival Band, Involved in the election of the chairman of the council and activities of The Democratic Jamboede (Rafni, 2020). Here are photos of activities that have been done by KPU Padang City:



Fig. 1 1) KPU goes to school, KPU program of Padang city in the framework of voter education in 2018 Padang City); 2) KPU facilitated the election of the chairman of the council at one of the high schools in Padang City in 2018; 3) Student Democracy Jambothee, KPU Program of Padang City to Education Voters in 2017; and 4) Music Festival to socialize the 2019 election (Source: Pan page Facebook KPU Padang City)

Intracurricular Voter Education: Integration of Voter Education with Sociology Subjects

The above activities are the steps of the KPU to socialize and education of voters. In addition to extracurricular activities such as the example above voter education to the novice, voters can also be implemented in an intracurricular setting that is voter education integrated with the subjects in high school. according to (Sutisna, 2017b) One alternative way to improve political literacy is more effective and productive than voter socialization and education activities, especially for novice voters in the high school/equivalent student segment is through contextual teaching and learning approaches in citizenship education subjects. (Amri *et al.*, 2019) in his research stated that voter education can be implemented intracurricularly by integrating voter education materials with sociology subjects. The process of integrating

the educational materials of the selector does not add to the lesson hours or the burden of learning students. but sociology teaching materials can be combined contextually with the phenomena of democracy and elections in the surrounding environment.

This situation led us, researchers, to try to create teaching materials on sociology subjects in high school that were integrated with voter education. At the time of this research, the study was conducted in high school in the 12th week where the basic competency that will be imprisoned in grade XII in high school is understanding the contributing factors of social inequality and its association with social change amid globalization (Permendikbud No.24/2016). Basic competencies are integrated with voter education materials issued by the KPU. The form of integration can be seen in

Table 1. Conformity of competency achievement indicators, teaching materials and scope of voter education teaching materials

Competency Achievement Indicators	Material Coverage Teaching	Material Teaching Voter Education Integration
- Analyze forms of social inequality as a result of social change amid globalization in Indonesian society - Analyze the consequences of social inequality in society - Analyze the effect of social change and globalization on social inequality in society - Describe critical attitudes in the face of social inequality due to social change amid globalization - Analyze efforts to address social inequality as a result of social change amid globalization	Social inequality as a result of social change amid globalization - Globalization and its impact on social change at the local level - Various factors causing inequality as a result of social change amid globalization - Globalization and the impact of social inequality in society. Strategies and various empowerment approaches to address social inequality due to globalization	Social inequality as a result of social change amid globalization - Changes in the Political System and its impact on Social Change (Democracy) (<i>The Rise of Digital Printing Business, the Rise of Buzzer</i>) - The influence of the Political System and leadership on people's social inequality. (Elections, Leadership, Government Policy) - Government Policy as a Strategy in addressing social inequality. (Political Participation)

Source: Processed from the curriculum sociology learning syllabus 2013.

In this study, the validity of teaching and learning was carried out. Validity was carried out by 4 people consisting of 3 people including Lecturers, Sociology Teachers and

KPU Commissioners. The validation test can be seen in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Validity results of sociology teaching materials integrated with voter education

Variable Criteria	Indicators	1	2	3	Average	%
Contents	Conformity with Basic Competencies	4	4	5	4,3	87
	Material Substance Truth	5	4	4	4,3	87
	Teaching Material Description	4	5	5	4,7	93
	Contextual Use of Facts	5	5	5	5,0	100
	Suitability of Teaching Materials with Voter Education Materials	5	5	4	4,7	93
linguistics	Readability	4	4	5	4,3	87
	Clarity of Information	5	5	5	5	100
	Good and correct conformity of Indonesian language rules (EYD)	4	5	4	4,7	93
	Language according to the stage of student development	4	4	4	4	80
	Effective and efficient use of language	4	5	5	4,7	93
Presentation	Clarity of indicators to be achieved	5	4	5	4,7	93
	Has instructions for using teaching materials books	5	5	5	5	100
	Serving Order	5	5	5	5	100
	Interactive Materials	4	4	4	4	80
	The images presented are related and support the clarity of teaching materials	5	5	5	5	100
	Clarity of Information	5	4	5	4,7	87
	Total	4,6	4,6	4,7	4,6	92

Descriptions:

- 1 = Validator 1 (Sociology Lecturer)
- 2 = Validator 2 (Sociology Teacher)
- 3 = Validator 3 (KPU Commissioners)

Based on the validity of materials in teaching materials conducted by experts such as sociology lecturers, sociology teachers, and commissioners KPU obtained very good validity results that are in the range of 92 % with an average value of 3 validators 4.6 %. Thus sociology teaching materials integrated with the education of these voters become feasible to be used and tested to students.

Education Of Novice Voters In COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in people having to carry out social distancing where direct interaction activities should be restricted (Nicola et al., 2020). The Social distancing policy also has the impact of school closures at all levels and replaces them with distance learning (Viner et al., 2020). In these conditions, the socialization and education of voters in the selection of concurrent regional heads 2020 makes activities that are usually unworkable. All voter education models in both extracurricular and intracurricular forms above are in face-to-face settings. This means extracurricular activities can only be carried out through in-person meetings. Similarly, the intracurricular voter education of voter education design is carried out through face-to-face learning in the class.

Based on the results of interviews with the Chairman of KPU Padang City, he said the voter education program for novice voters could not be organized because with the COVID-19 protocol we cannot present students in election socialization activities conducted by KPU. So voter education activities are carried out using only media such as social media and billboards and banners. Voter education is only informed about the stages and schedule of the 2020 election. While substance about electoral values cannot be given. Here are some forms of socialization conducted by KPU Padang City.

On the educational side, Pandemi COVID-19 resulted in face-to-face learning that could not be implemented. The step taken by educational institutions is to learn online using various communication media such as Google Class Room, Whatsapp Group, and other LMS. Based on the data of interviews conducted with several teachers in a high school located in Padang city, he said the learning condition in the school occurs in an emergency atmosphere. The tutors have not been able to elaborate on the teaching materials to the fullest. This situation makes learning only provide a transfer

of knowledge containing textbook material derived from package books and Student Skills Sheet (LKS).

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IV. CONCLUSION

The results showed that voter education for novice voters was supported by the KPU in cooperation with educational institutions. Two models of voter education can be implemented by the KPU, i.e extracurricular and intracurricular. Extra-curricular Activities are Seminar with students of High School (KPU Goes to school), Festival Band, Involved in the election of the chairman of the council, and the activities of the Democratic Jamboree. The second voter education model is intracurricular. This model is implemented by integrating voter education with existing subjects in high school such as Citizenship Education and Sociology. COVID-19 in Indonesia makes voter education unenforceable face-to-face and Teachers have limitations in floating teaching materials. While this momentum coincides with the simultaneous Regional Head Election in Indonesia which requires maximum beginner voter education activities. Researchers develop teaching materials that can be used by sociology teachers in teaching sociology subject matter and simultaneously implementing voter education to novice voters. Based on the validity test of teaching materials obtained based on the validity of the material on teaching materials conducted by experts such as sociology lecturers, sociology teachers and commissioners KPU obtained very good validity results that are in the range of 92 % with an average score of 3 validators 4.6 %. Thus, sociology teaching materials integrated with the education of these voters become feasible to be used and tested to students.

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