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# Political Education for Beginner Voters Through Civics Learning to Increase Awareness of Political Hoaxes

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## ABSTRACT

Beginner voters tend to change easily in terms of believing in something, especially in elections and politics, so they may become a favorite target for prospective candidates and political parties in getting votes. If novice voters do not have sufficient knowledge about politics, they will be easily influenced and will be easily influenced by hoaxes on social media, therefore political education is needed that is integrated into Civics subjects. This article belongs to the literature study which comes from books and journals. One way that can be done to educate prospective voters, especially first-time voters, to take part in elections so that they are increasingly aware of hoaxes and not affected by them is by increasing understanding through political education in Civics learning. Political education is not directly in the curriculum or learning but is integrated into lesson plans through Civics learning that is adapted to the independent learning curriculum. So that later political education carried out through PPKn learning can increase the vigilance of novice voters against political hoaxes on social media to produce qualified and responsible first-time voters, so that in the future it is hoped that the character of voters will be formed in honest and fair general elections so that the possibility of someone becoming a good citizen will be even greater.

**Keywords:** *Beginner Voters, Political Education, Pancasila, and Citizenship Education.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The government of the State of Indonesia is in the hands of the people, therefore Indonesia adheres to a democratic system. The people will run the government by electing their representatives who will occupy positions in the government through a system of direct general elections (elections). General elections are one proof of people's sovereignty, this is because the people directly participate and vote to elect leaders who will represent the people's votes later. So that it can be said that there is no democratic country without providing opportunities for its citizens to participate in elections which are held systematically and periodically. In general Elections (Elections) in Indonesia, one of the objectives is to elect representatives of the people who will occupy a position in government, be it legislative (DPR, DPRD, DPD) or executive (Regent/Mayor, Governor, President).

Elections are a means for citizens to elect candidates for representatives of the people, elections are also a stage for candidates for representatives of the people to compete to win the hearts of voters from all walks of life, from first-time voters to voters who have exercised their right to vote several times. Beginner voters are citizens based on statutory provisions who are considered capable of casting their right to vote because they have met the requirements as a voter, one of which is that they are 17 years old and have a KTP for the first time casting their votes in a general election. Beginner voters need to master political science so that they are not mistaken in channeling their aspirations and voices so that elections can run smoothly and democratically. The political system in Indonesia which uses a multi-party system means that in every election there are various political parties which of course will compete with each other to collect people's votes through a direct election system. One way to do this is by way of a campaign, which defines a campaign as a planned

communication act to create a certain influence on a large number of community groups that are carried out systematically and continuously as an effort to introduce themselves to gather votes and support for general elections.

The purpose of political parties or candidates for people's representatives to carry out campaigns is to convey their vision, mission, and ideas if elected later. Therefore, it is undeniable that there is a group of people who use various methods to win the votes of the people who will elect them as representatives of the people. The Association for General Elections and Democracy (Perludem) said that one thing that attracted quite a lot of attention during the 2019 General Election was the circulation of fake news (hoaxes) [1]. The phenomenon of spreading hoaxes in general elections shows weaknesses in Indonesia's political education system [2]. Hoaxes or fake news are a form of internet crime that looks simple, and is not difficult to do, but has a huge effect on people's social life. Both of these opinions indicate that hoaxes can be regarded as character assassination in the form of cybercrime [3]. So that there is a need for a fairly in-depth understanding of hoaxes, especially hoaxes in politics, therefore one way is to add a special portion in political education, namely an understanding of the dangers of political hoaxes.

Hoaxes often appear massively when it starts to enter the political year, even though online media has long been popular in Indonesia, there are still many Indonesian people who are not used to filtering news online. According to a survey by the Ministry of Communication and Informatics in collaboration with Katadata Insight Center (KIC), out of 10,000 respondents, 26.7% usually access the internet to get information. However, not a few are not used to choosing the news that is consumed. As many as 69.9% of respondents never find out if there is a strange news site address. Then 58.7% of respondents have never read the "About Us" or "about us" section on a news site [4]. Another 44.7% of respondents access news from only one source and only 17% read more than one source. These indicators show that Indonesian people are more likely to be exposed to information or misinformation.

Political education has an important role in shaping people's knowledge and character about rights and obligations as citizens, as well as understanding the importance of maintaining integrity in general elections. However, in reality, many people still do not have a sufficient understanding of General Elections and are easily influenced by fake news spread on social media. Therefore, proper political education is needed, one of the ways is through PPKn learning to increase

awareness of hoaxes for first-time voters who have no experience in participating in general elections so that later their votes and support can be on target and not easy to be used by irresponsible parties.

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

This article belongs to the literature study which comes from books and journals. Mestika Zed explained that library research is a series of activities related to methods of collecting library data, reading, recording, and processing research materials. In conducting a literature study, researchers must ensure that the literature used is up-to-date, relevant, and credible. In addition, care must also be taken regarding the selection of literature sources that include different perspectives and points of view to ensure a comprehensive and objective analysis. After conducting a literature study, researchers can perform data analysis using relevant analytical methods, namely content analysis and text analysis. In research on political education for novice voters through Civics learning which will focus on research from various credible and actual journals and provide data that is by the subject matter of the discussion.

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **3.1 Hoaxes in General Elections**

The dissemination of news and information is increasingly massive on the internet, not only delivered by news sites that are well-known among the public but now the dissemination of information can be easily carried out by anyone who of course can access the internet. Individuals or groups of people who can access the internet if they are not equipped with sufficient knowledge about how to use the internet wisely and responsibly can result in the spreading of more information or news that cannot be justified or indicated as hoaxes. A hoax is information or news that is wrong or the truth cannot be ascertained [5] or it can be said that Hoax is an activity to trick or trick readers into believing in something that is something that not true.

The background to the emergence of hoaxes is based on various interests, which in turn will create various forms, ranging from misinformation to disinformation. Misinformation, namely the dissemination of information that is wrong or incorrect but without an element of intent, but in disinformation, there is the possibility of an intentional element to create and disseminate information that is not true. In the General Election, hoaxes occur because there are interests from irresponsible parties, and aim to cause confusion and pit against each other in society regarding the General Election. Various hoaxes, propaganda is one form of

hoax with the greatest chance of causing the worst consequences. This is because propaganda misuses content, deliberate context errors, false content or information, manipulates content or information, and even creates incorrect content to achieve the desired results.

Credible information or news is now increasingly difficult to find, especially when a general election is taking place, a Mastel Survey revealed that out of 1,146 respondents, 44.3% of them received hoax news every day and 17.2% received hoax news not only once a day. More and more, hoaxes are increasingly circulating among the public, especially on online media, the most widespread hoaxes are websites, amounting to 34.90%, chat applications (Whatsapp, WeChat, Telegram) amounting to 62.80%, and the most are through social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok) which reaches 92.40%, meanwhile, data released by the Ministry of Communication and Informatics states that there are as many as 800,000 sites in Indonesia which have indications of being an attacker. hoax bars and hate speech [6].

The main problem is not the message or news being spread, but the intent and purpose of spreading the message. Propaganda actors interpret the message as a tool to create doubt and uncertainty in the direction of people's thinking so that people begin to doubt the credibility, legitimacy, and even objectivity of authority sources that should be trusted. Hoaxes in General Elections are a national threat because they cause disturbances in various aspects, namely security defense, political ideology, and public morals. Handling hoaxes requires cooperation from various parties, by finding sources of hoax news, suppressing and stopping its spread, as well as providing literacy and correct information [7]. This is done to minimize the consequences caused by the circulation of hoax content in politics which may harm various parties.

Social media is one of the media used by candidates for representatives of the people to convey various kinds of ideas and improve self-image to attract the hearts of prospective voters to vote in general elections. The tendency to choose based on the popularity of candidates will reduce elections to popularity battles, not the arena of selecting capable candidates for leadership. Use of social media that is used for campaign purposes in the form of figure-based political competition, it is very easy the spread hoaxes that contain negative campaigns and black campaigns. Therefore, novice voters need to have the ability to sort out information that is circulating so they are not trapped in spreading hoaxes [8].

Political education to increase awareness of political hoaxes is necessary. During the 2019 election period,

the Ministry of Communication and Information found a lot of hoax news through a media survey. The survey measurements were carried out from August 2018 to April 23 2019 and it was found that the information or the majority of hoax news was dominated by political news. As many as 549 political news were recorded from 1,610 hoax findings during this period. This is a serious concern, to avoid the effects of hoax news such as division and disintegration. Especially for novice voters who have no experience in participating in general elections.

### **3.2 Beginner Voters**

Indonesian citizens who are capable and considered adults are marked by possession of an ID card (KTP) which requires that they are 17 years old or married even though they are not yet 17 years old. When it meets the requirements to have a KTP, a citizen has the right to exercise his right to vote. Voters who have never before voted in a general election and then have the right to vote and use it for the first time are called novice voters. A dynamic and changeable view is one of the characteristics of the majority of first-time voters, this is because knowledge of politics is felt to be insufficient so first-time voters are vulnerable to becoming targets for potential candidates and political parties to gain votes. One way that can be done to educate prospective voters, especially novice voters, to be more aware of political hoaxes and not be affected by them is by increasing understanding through political education in Civics learning. Understanding knowledge about General Elections will prevent first-time voters from hoaxing news, money politics, and matters related to black campaigns, to create a good and healthy democracy [9].

Beginner voters tend to be vulnerable to being used by various interest groups whose main goal is to get votes during general elections. The interest group in question is a group that seeks to improve a public policy that can benefit its group. Something simple and easy to understand is one of the things that novice voters want. The majority of them are not enthusiastic about something complicated to understand. Enthusiasm and high enthusiasm to vote in every general election are one of the advantages of first-time voters. This is because new voters have the right to vote in elections and will cast their votes [10].

Beginner voters use social media as a tool for social interaction. Social media is considered to make it easier for novice voters to communicate between friends, acquaintances, and relatives who are in the area. The data obtained by Dimas et al in their research stated that novice voters used social media to expand social interaction which could provide information about candidate pairs, for example in the election of the

Regent in the 2020 East Tanjung Jabung Regency Pilkada. Based on the processing results that had been carried out, it showed that the use of social media Instagram which is carried out through the characteristics of Instagram social media in the network indicator is 79.7% which belongs to the high category [11].

The votes of first-time voters in the 2019 general election are a group of voters that are taken into account by candidates because this is because the number of first-time voters is quite large, reaching 14 million voters, Beginner voters seem easier to influence in voting because their level of political knowledge and experience is still relatively low. Another fact that states that the delivery of ideas and campaigns can easily be done through social media is of course something that is in line because social media is a favorite for millennials or youth to seek information and look for sources of political reference, especially by first-time voters. Therefore, adequate political education needs to be obtained by first-time voters so that the votes cast in general elections can be more effective and not easily exploited.

The further dream is that in the future these novice voters can become conduits for the political aspirations of the citizens by becoming superior cadres who go into government and make policies that prioritize the virtues of the people. One of the political functions carried out by existing political structures in society is political education. The benefit of political education is to provide an understanding to the public about various values, beliefs, and perceptions about the political system through a process of open dialogue, critical, rational, and full awareness, and responsible delivery of opinions. One of the expected positive impacts of political education is that it can increase citizen participation in the life of society, nation, and state. Quality political education is needed to form good citizens who understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Therefore political education must be able to become good habituation, one of the ways is to enter Civic Education learning.

### **3.3. Political Education in PPKn**

Political education is an intentional and systematic learning activity that aims to direct each individual to always learn and participate in carrying out political activities. Cholisin says political education is a deliberate conscious effort to influence individuals to be more active in carrying out political activities and have high responsibility and ethics in the activities of each political participation. At present, the implementation of political education in the general public tends to be ineffective and not running well because there are few regulations or laws that are specific in detail to regulate

education and political procedures. There is only one law that regulates and explains political education, namely the Republic of Indonesia Constitution Number 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties. The law explains that political education is one of the duties and functions of the establishment of political parties, but the state, in this case, the government, does not directly carry out political education. This provision is strengthened by Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 36 of 2010 concerning Guidelines for Facility for the Implementation of Political Education which explains that the state only facilitates political education programs carried out by political agents or in this case political parties. [12] Students' political understanding at school can be obtained through Pancasila and Citizenship Education subjects. Pancasila and Citizenship Education which teaches political education is the delivery of material about democracy and politics.

PPKn aims to make students become good and law-abiding citizens because the material taught is in the form of procedures for good behavior and mutual respect in social life that is guided by the values of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. PPKn (Pancasila and Citizenship Education) is one of the subjects at every level of education, this is because PPKn contains material on Pancasila, democracy, General Elections, and others. Political education in PPKn lessons is not directly in the curriculum or learning but is integrated into the Learning Implementation Plan or RPP PPKn which is adapted to the independent learning curriculum [13].

As an example, there is material on politics, namely the system and dynamics of Pancasila democracy in KD 2.2 to behave politely in a Pancasila democracy by the 1945 Constitution, which is contained in class IX (Nine) material [14]. Forming good human attitudes and behavior is one of the goals of providing political material to students. This material can be inserted through democratic values which are manifested into democratic attitudes and behavior in school and community life. Democratic life needs to be known, understood, internalized, and applied for the realization of the implementation of democratic principles. Democratic citizens as supporters of stable democracy will not be formed by themselves, but need to be cultivated in a planned, systematic, programmed, and continuous manner, especially through formal political education through Civic Education learning.

Political education in Civic Education learning is not only delivered in theory but also in the form of practice with the intention that it can guide students in voting during the General Elections later. In addition, knowledge about political hoaxes on social media is important through political education. The purpose of

PPKn is to make students have Pancasila characters, be able to think critically, and actively develop their potential within the school environment and outside of school. Political education is a means for novice voters to deepen their understanding of their political orientation which must be possessed to form political awareness and qualified political skills.

Implementation of Political Education in Civics Learning is applied through curriculum development as an early introduction to politics in schools [15]. PPKn has an important role in developing students' awareness as citizens [16]. The content of the material in PPKn is not limited to teaching how to become good citizens, but also forming citizens to have an attitude of tolerance and independence. In addition to the content of the material, PPKn teachers are no less important because they have a role in providing material about political education in schools. Because material on political education is in Civics learning. Thus, a teacher, especially a Civics teacher, must prepare his students to be ready to enter politics to become the nation's next generation as well as a competent and qualified political elite. Civics teachers must provide students with an understanding of political education, whether during the learning process or through various kinds of news and media. This is due to the increasingly massive role of social media and the internet in human life, but if it is misused to spread misleading information or hoaxes, it may have a negative impact in the future.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Beginner voters are a group of voters who are vulnerable to being exploited by political parties and candidates for people's representatives. This is because it is felt that novice voters do not have sufficient insight to channel their right to vote responsibly so they can easily be influenced by political hoax news. Political education in Civics learning is integrated into the curriculum through lesson plans or RPP and adapted to the independent learning curriculum. In addition, political education is a way to enrich insight and literacy to channel the right to vote in general elections so that they can increase awareness of hoaxes on social media so that the votes of first-time voters in general elections can be channeled wisely and responsibly. Increasing awareness of political hoaxes is important to obtain accurate and reliable information so that it can be used as a reference for participating in political contests in Indonesia.

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