

Socioeconomic Influence in Determining Political Choices in Elections in Temanggung Regency

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the influence of socio-economic factors on political participation in elections in Temanggung Regency. The research method employed is a quantitative combination of a survey involving 600 respondents from various districts in Temanggung Regency. The results reveal that factors such as education level, type of employment, and economic sector significantly impact community political participation. Higher education levels tend to enhance political awareness and engagement. Meanwhile, the type of employment and economic sectors influence patterns of political involvement. Economic issues such as unemployment and poverty present significant challenges faced by the people of Temanggung ahead of the elections. The recommendations of this study include increasing access to education, economic empowerment, and inclusive policies to encourage broader and more representative political participation.

Keywords: Political Participation, Socioeconomic, Elections, Temanggung Regency, Education, Employment.

INTRODUCTION

Temanggung Regency, an area in Central Java, has unique and complex socio-economic dynamics. The political participation of the community in Temanggung Regency is a very important aspect in determining the direction of regional policy and development. The region has seen a shift from agricultural to industrial activities, which impacts the socio-economic landscape and, consequently, political engagement. The reclassification of rural areas into urban centers due to industrial growth has led to increased

local employment and economic activity, encouraging a more engaged population. However, political participation is not uniform across all socioeconomic strata. Factors such as socioeconomic status, trust in political parties, and the level of political education significantly affect voter participation and engagement.

Various factors, including the level of education, employment, and income of the community, influence political participation in Temanggung Regency. The level of education plays an important role in increasing political awareness and involvement in the democratic process. Research Berinsky & Lenz (2011) highlights the relationship between education and political participation, exploring the cause-and-effect relationship between the two factors. The results of the study show that education can increase people's political participation, with individuals who have higher education tending to be more active in political activities. Research (Persson, 2013) also highlights that the higher a person's education level, the greater their interest in politics, confidence in playing the role of a citizen, and a deeper commitment to the norms of being a good citizen. The study highlights the significant role of socio-economic factors in shaping political participation in Temanggung Regency, supported by robust data. Survey results from 600 respondents reveal that higher education levels correlate with greater political awareness, with university-educated individuals prioritizing unemployment (57.1%), while those with elementary or junior high education focus on poverty (47.4% and 51.9%, respectively). Employment type also influences political concerns, as farmers and fishermen cite poverty (40%) as their main issue, whereas civil servants and the unemployed emphasize unemployment (48% and 84.6%). District-specific data further underscore these trends, with Bejen and Gemawang reporting high poverty rates (53.3%) and Kranggan facing severe unemployment (66.7%). Additionally, income disparities affect engagement, as wealthier individuals participate more actively, while infrastructure gaps and patriarchal norms hinder marginalized groups. These findings advocate

for targeted policies, such as expanding education access, stabilizing agricultural economies, and promoting inclusivity, to enhance political participation across socio-economic strata (Temanggung, 2024).

The study by (Christiaensen et al., 2011) underscores how agricultural policies can mitigate rural-urban disparities and reduce poverty, which in turn may shape political behavior—particularly in agrarian regions like Temanggung, where farmers' reliance on commodity prices and subsidies could influence voting patterns or demands for pro-rural policies. Similarly, (Magagula and Tsvakirai, 2020) research on youth perceptions of agriculture highlights how negative views of the sector may deter engagement in agripreneurship, potentially exacerbating rural outmigration and altering electoral demographics. However, the analysis could more explicitly connect these findings to Temanggung's context by examining, for instance, whether local youth disengagement from farming correlates with lower political participation or demands for non-agricultural job policies.

Income levels have a significant relationship with political participation. Research by Bonomi Bezzo and Jeannet and Weiß shows that individuals with higher incomes tend to be more active in political activities, such as supporting campaigns or getting involved in political organizations, compared to lower-income individuals who may be more focused on meeting basic economic needs (Dawes et al., 2014). In addition, Kirbiš et al. highlighted that individuals with poor health conditions, which are often associated with low incomes, can also engage in political action, especially among younger citizens (Karatepe, 2013). Barsegyan and colleagues suggest that education can be a factor that offsets the family's income-related economic losses, which in turn can positively influence political participation (Hope, 2016).

Temanggung Regency, located in Central Java Province within the mountainous region of Sumbing and Sindoro, comprises 20 sub-districts. The regency has a notable history of high political participation, with voter turnout consistently exceeding 80% since the 1999 elections. This is a significant

achievement, particularly considering that the average voter participation rate in other districts and cities across Central Java falls below this figure (Fitriyah et al., 2021). In this context, (Arniti, 2020) emphasizes that political participation in legislative elections is a reflection of the people's sovereignty and fundamental democratic rights. However, this high turnout should not be interpreted solely as a success of democratic engagement—it also necessitates critical examination of the power dynamics and mobilization strategies at the local level.

(Haeril Haeril, 2023) highlights how inadequate infrastructure and limited accessibility hinder regional economic development, which in turn creates barriers to meaningful political participation. These structural limitations are often reinforced by practices of clientelism, where political support is exchanged for selective access to resources or services. In rural areas, relationships between local elites and communities, particularly farmers, can be transactional rather than participatory, raising concerns about the depth and quality of democratic engagement.

Meanwhile, (A'yun and Faidati, 2021) demonstrate that empowering socioeconomically vulnerable women can significantly improve household welfare. Yet, such empowerment programs must also be assessed through the lens of institutional sustainability and trust-building. Without structural support and inclusive institutions, participation can remain symbolic and disconnected from actual decision-making power.

Inclusive social policies for people with disabilities—such as barista training programs—represent efforts to integrate marginalized groups into the political and economic fabric. However, the long-term impact of these programs on political empowerment remains unclear. Their success hinges not only on economic inclusion but also on the development of political agency and institutional recognition.

The active role of local organizations, such as the Indonesian Tobacco Farmers Association (APTI), illustrates political mobilization among labor

groups who advocate for policies aligned with their economic interests. In the Indonesian context, this is often framed within a broader discourse of agrarian populism, where rural and farmer identities are emphasized in political narratives, though often without corresponding structural reforms.

The formation of farmer groups and enterprises like BUMP has expanded farmers' access to information and resources, indirectly enhancing their political engagement by increasing their stake in local governance processes. Minority groups, such as the Chinese community in Slawi Wetan Village (Adiputra, 2022), also reflect growing inclusivity in political participation, often facilitated through informal discussions and voting practices. However, their participation remains shaped by prevailing social hierarchies and cultural norms.

Overall, the interaction between socioeconomic conditions and occupational structures shapes a complex and dynamic political participation landscape in Temanggung Regency (Hadiati et al., 2022). To fully understand these dynamics, it is essential to move beyond descriptive analysis and apply critical political lenses, examining structural inequalities, institutional performance, and public trust. This study seeks to identify the factors influencing political participation and explore how policy interventions can enhance inclusive civic engagement to support more democratic and sustainable development outcomes (Failasopa et al., 2022).

In addition, inclusive social policies for people with disabilities in Temanggung, such as barista training programs, show efforts to integrate marginalized groups into the political process, thereby increasing overall participation. The role of local organizations, such as the Indonesian Tobacco Farmers Association (APTI), also highlights active political mobilization among certain groups of workers who advocate for policies that benefit their economic interests. The formation of farmer groups and companies such as BUMP has empowered farmers by providing access to resources and information, which indirectly increases their political participation by

increasing their ownership in local government. The political participation of minority communities, such as the Chinese community in Slawi Wetan Village, also reflects broader inclusivity in the political process, driven by informal discussions and voting activities(Adiputra, 2022)(Sistyawan, 2024a).

Overall, the interaction of socioeconomic factors and the nature of work significantly shaped the landscape of political participation in Temanggung Regency, reflecting a complex and dynamic engagement with the democratic process(Hadiati et al., 2022)(Sistyawan, 2024b). This study aims to identify the factors that affect political participation and how policies can be implemented to increase community involvement in the political process in order to support more inclusive and sustainable development(Failasopa et al., 2022).

Through increasing access to education and political awareness, it is hoped that the community can be more actively involved in the process of democracy and regional development (Zetra et al., 2022). Through policies that support the agricultural sector, increase commodity price stability, and empower farmers, it is hoped that the political participation of the farming community can be increased to achieve more inclusive and sustainable regional development. Through policies that support income equality, economic empowerment, and increased accessibility to the political process, it is hoped that political participation can be increased at all levels of society, thereby creating a more inclusive and representative political environment (Prayoga et al., 2023).

To enhance inclusive political participation in Temanggung Regency, broad goals such as income equality and agricultural empowerment must be translated into concrete and measurable policies. Local governments can implement political literacy programs through schools and community centres, while also partnering with civil society organizations to promote civic education. Support for the agricultural sector can take the form of fertilizer subsidies, commodity price stabilization, and the establishment of farmer

cooperatives that engage in policy formulation—drawing from successful precedents like the Village Law implementation and participatory Musrenbang planning forums in other regions. Income redistribution can be advanced through conditional cash transfer programs like PKH, while political parties should be mandated to conduct open community dialogues in marginalized areas to foster public trust. Through a multi-level governance approach involving national frameworks, local administrations, and active civil society participation, a more democratic, responsive, and representative development strategy can be realized.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a quantitative combination method to analyze socio-economic and demographic factors that affect political participation in Temanggung Regency. The quantitative method was carried out through a survey involving 600 respondents from various sub-districts in Temanggung Regency. Respondents were selected using a simple random sampling technique to ensure a good representation of the entire population (Temanggung, 2024).

The survey is designed to collect data on respondents' socioeconomic background, education level, type of employment, and income. The questionnaire used included questions about political attitudes and behaviours, participation levels in elections, and trust in the political process. The data obtained were analyzed using descriptive statistics to understand the distribution and tendency of political participation among various groups of society.

Descriptive analysis is used to explore the relationship between socioeconomic variables and levels of political participation. Data validation was carried out by comparing the survey results with previous literature and research. The research stages include instrument preparation, data collection, data processing, data analysis, and reporting. With this method, this study is

expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the factors that affect political participation in Temanggung Regency as well as recommendations to increase community involvement in the political process.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In determining political choices in elections in Temanggung Regency, socio-economic factors play a significant role. Research has shown that socioeconomic variables such as age, gender, marital status, employment status, household head, and size can influence an individual's participation in political processes (Rachael Moraa et al., 2021). Moreover, studies have highlighted the influence of socioeconomic status on vote choice. Scholars have investigated how parameters like region, religion, and socioeconomic status can affect political choices (Seijts & Clercy, 2020). Additionally, the impact of class preferences on political choices has been noted, indicating that socioeconomic foundations can significantly shape voting behavior (Kolomyts et al., 2021). This high level of political involvement in Temanggung Regency aligns with the findings of Verba, Schlozman & Brady (Verba et al., 1993) and Leighley and Nagler, which suggest that income level plays a crucial role in determining political participation, with individuals of higher income brackets typically exhibiting greater activity in political affairs compared to those with lower incomes.

In determining political choices during elections in Temanggung Regency, socio-economic factors play a significant role. Research confirms that variables such as age, gender, marital status, employment, and household composition influence political engagement (Rachael Moraa et al., 2021), while broader factors like region, religion, and class preferences also shape vote choice (Seijts & Clercy, 2020)(Kolomyts et al., 2021). However, to better integrate these diverse findings, this study could benefit from a cohesive theoretical lens. The Civic Voluntarism Model (CVM) emphasizes how individual resources, such as education, time, and income, facilitate political

engagement through both conventional and non-conventional channels (Nulman, 2020; Strömblad & Bengtsson, 2017). In parallel, Political Opportunity Structure (POS) theory highlights contextual facilitators and constraints, including access to infrastructure, institutional gateways, and policy environments (Pilati, 2012); , which are critical in shaping political participation. Furthermore, an intersectional perspective demonstrates the compounded effects of gender, poverty, and rural isolation, indicating that overlapping forms of disadvantage can significantly influence political behavior (Gayani Samarakoon et al., 2022; Logie et al., 2017). Integrating these frameworks offers a more nuanced analysis situating individual resource mobilization within a broader structural context of intersecting disadvantages, thereby enhancing the overall explanatory power of the study by linking micro-level behavior with macro-level political opportunities (Logie et al., 2017; Nulman, 2020; Pilati, 2012).

Understanding voters' socio-economic backgrounds is essential in political science, as factors like education, income, gender, and ethnicity shape political engagement (Henn & Foard, 2014). For example, higher education correlates with greater political awareness and participation (Persson, 2013), while income disparities influence participation rates—wealthier individuals often have more resources to engage politically (Cicatiello et al., 2015). These dynamics are particularly relevant in Temanggung, where farmers facing poverty (40%) prioritize different issues than civil servants concerned with unemployment (48%). By synthesizing these factors, the study reveals how socio-economic conditions collectively—not just individually—shape electoral behavior, avoiding oversimplification of isolated variables (Abdullahi et al., 2024).

Socio-Economic Dynamics of Temanggung Regency

Temanggung Regency, located in Central Java Province, has unique and dynamic socio-economic characteristics. The region has undergone a significant shift from the agricultural sector to the industrial sector, which has had a major impact on the economic and social structure of the community. These changes not only affect employment patterns but also the level of political participation of the community. In this context, the analysis of socioeconomic factors such as socioeconomic status, education level, type of employment, and income is crucial to understanding how these dynamics affect people's political choices (Sistyawan & Gashimov, 2024).

The socio-economic characteristics of Temanggung Regency, transitioning from agriculture to industry, have reshaped the economic and social fabric of the community. Understanding the impact of these changes on political choices requires analyzing factors such as socioeconomic status, education level, type of employment, and income (Oser et al., 2013). The industrial shift, as seen in Bekasi Regency, can lead to distinct suburban formations, influencing the socio-economic landscape (Kurnia et al., 2020). Moreover, mapping health facility coverage in Temanggung Regency is essential for understanding access to essential services, which can impact political decisions (Geofana, 2021)

Youth participation in Temanggung Regency, as studied in urban and rural villages, sheds light on how regional spatial profiles influence engagement, highlighting the importance of local context in political involvement (Azmi et al., 2024). Additionally, examining the interplay of political and socioeconomic factors in shaping health policies, as seen in Peru, underscores the significance of these dynamics in governance (Zuleta et al., 2023). The utilization of local cultural practices like Gotong Royong for political funding in local elections reflects the integration of tradition into contemporary political processes (Fatimah et al., 2023). Furthermore, the association between socioeconomic and demographic factors with healthcare

choices emphasizes the intricate relationship between individual characteristics and access to services (Liu & Liu, 2010).

Level of Education and Political Participation

To address disparities in political participation, targeted interventions are needed. *First*, local governments should prioritize adult education programs—especially in rural districts like Bejen and Gemawang, where low education correlates with poverty-focused voting (Table 1). Partnering with NGOs to deliver civic education via mobile units could bridge gaps in political awareness. *Second*, economic empowerment must tackle sector-specific challenges: stabilize crop prices for farmers (40% of whom cite poverty as their top issue) and expand vocational training in high-unemployment areas like Kranggan (66.7% unemployment, Table 2). *Third*, institutional reforms are critical: simplify voter registration for marginalized groups (e.g., via integrated ID/polling systems) and mandate gender quotas in local councils to counter patriarchal barriers (Abdullahi et al., 2023).

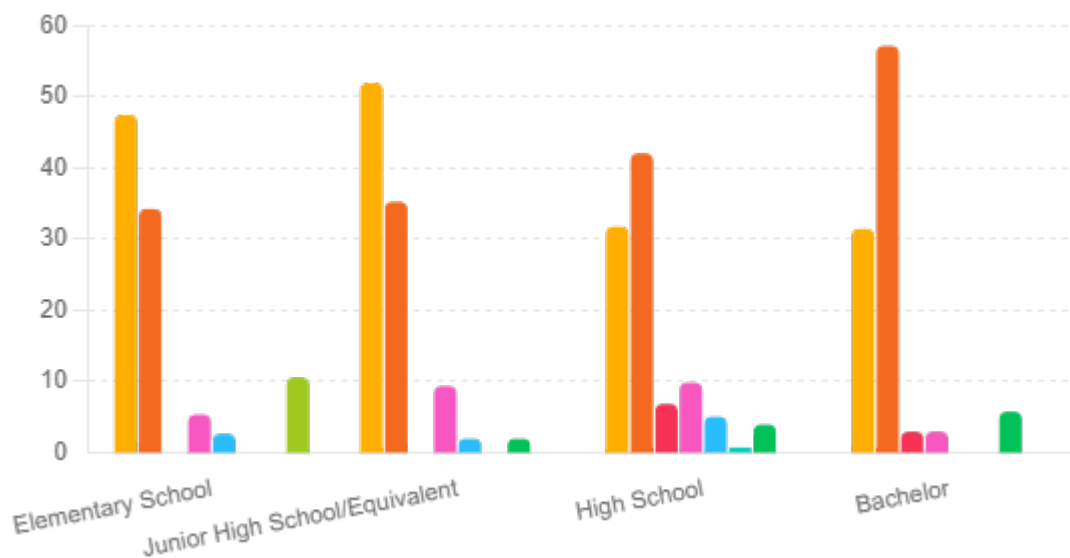
Research shows that individuals with higher levels of education tend to have higher political awareness and are more active in the democratic process. The results of the survey in Temanggung Regency show that respondents with higher education have a higher level of political participation compared to those with low education. Research by Berinsky & Lenz (Berinsky & Lenz, 2011) and Persson (Persson, 2013) supports these findings, which show a positive relationship between education levels and political participation. Education not only increases political awareness but also strengthens an individual's commitment to good citizenship norms.

Education significantly influences individuals' political participation levels. Berinsky & Lenz (Berinsky & Lenz, 2011) and Persson (Persson, 2013) found a positive correlation between education levels and political engagement. Vandenhoueten et al. (Participation et al., n.d.) demonstrated that disparities in political participation exist among students entering different types of education. Education not only enhances skills and knowledge but also

impacts political interest and efficacy, which is crucial for stimulating participation. Psychological engagement has been identified as a strong predictor of political participation (Pellicer et al., 2022).

Furthermore, education provides individuals with the skills to comprehend political issues, boosts beliefs in efficacy, and cultivates peer groups valuing political involvement. Studies have shown a strong association between education, political knowledge, interest, and voter turnout (STOYKOVA, 2021). Education improves information processing skills, directly influencing political efficacy and engagement (Saal et al., 2020).

Figure 1. Education Level: The Most Important Economic Problems Faced by the People of Temanggung Regency Ahead of the Election



Source: (Temanggung, 2024)

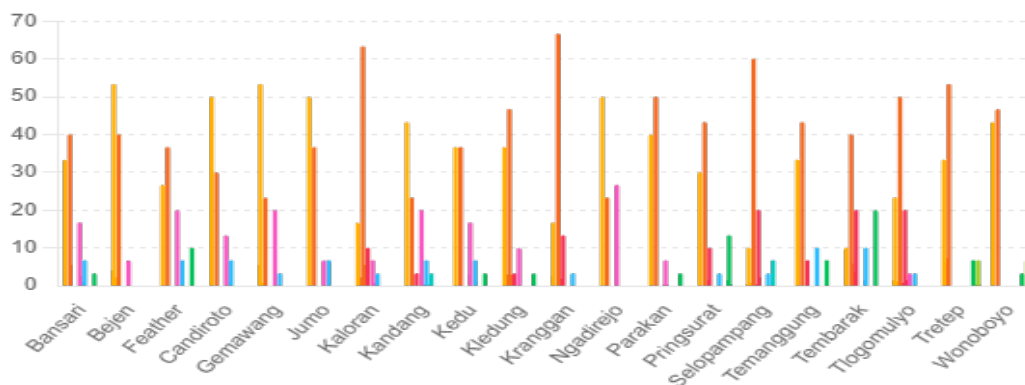
Respondents with elementary/equivalent and junior high school/equivalent education levels cited poverty as the main problem, 47.4% and 51.9%, respectively. On the other hand, those with a university education are more likely to identify unemployment as a major problem, with a percentage of 57.1%. This shows that the level of education affects the perception of economic problems faced by society. These differences in perception can significantly influence electoral dynamics, requiring

candidates and political parties to tailor their platforms to the economic priorities of various educational groups. Voters with lower levels of education may respond more positively to poverty alleviation initiatives, while those with higher education tend to prioritize policies aimed at reducing unemployment. By recognizing these distinctions, political campaigns can craft more targeted and effective messaging that resonates with the specific concerns of different voter segments.

The Influence of Employment and Economic Sectors

The type of work and the sector of the economy also affect political participation. Temanggung Regency is known for its dominant agricultural sector, where most of the population works as farmers. This pattern of work has implications for how people are involved in politics, as the agricultural sector often faces challenges such as fluctuations in commodity prices and agricultural policies that are not in favour of farmers. Research by Christiaensen et al. (Christiaensen et al., 2011) highlights the role of the agricultural sector in poverty alleviation and policy changes in favour of agriculture as a political response to social tensions associated with the gap between rural and urban areas. In addition, the youth's perception of the agricultural sector can also affect their involvement in agripreneurship, as shown by Magagula and Tsvakirai (Magagula & Tsvakirai, 2020).

Figure 2. Respondent District: The Most Important Economic Problem Faced by the People of Temanggung Regency Ahead of the Election



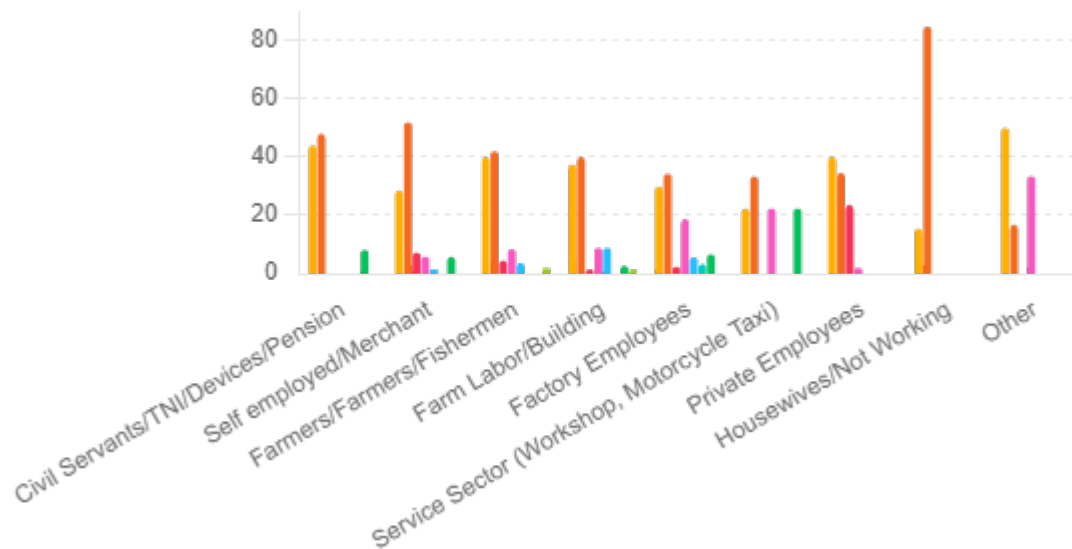
Source: (Temanggung, 2024)

The figure above is a chart illustrating the most important economic problems faced by the people of Temanggung Regency ahead of the 2024 election. Different colours represent each district's data to show the percentage of respondents identifying specific issues such as poverty, unemployment, health, infrastructure, security, law enforcement, education, and others. The following is an analysis of tables that examine the socio-economic influence in determining political choices in the elections in Temanggung Regency. From **Figure 2**, it can be seen that the economic problems that are most often mentioned by respondents from various sub-districts in Temanggung Regency are poverty and unemployment. Bejen and Gemawang sub-districts showed the highest percentage related to poverty with 53.3% each. Meanwhile, Kranggan District has the highest number of respondents who mentioned unemployment as the main problem, with a percentage of 66.7%. Health and law enforcement issues received less attention in most sub-districts, with some exceptions, such as Kaloran (10% for health) and Selopampang (6.7% for law enforcement).

These economic issues significantly influence people's political choices in the elections of Temanggung Regency. Poverty and unemployment, which dominate public perceptions, tend to be decisive factors in selecting candidates or political parties that they believe can offer effective solutions to these problems. Voters in sub-districts with high poverty levels, such as Bejen and Gemawang, are likely to support candidates with clear and concrete poverty alleviation programs. Similarly, voters in Kranggan District, concerned about the high unemployment rate, are likely to favour candidates focused on job creation and local economic development.

Therefore, political candidates in Temanggung Regency must consider these pressing economic issues in their campaigns, ensuring that their programs and promises align with the needs and expectations of the local community to secure strong support in the elections.

Figure 3. Types of Jobs, the Most Important Economic Problems Faced by the People of Temanggung Regency Ahead of the Election



Source: (Temanggung, 2024)

Figure 3 shows that unemployment is the main concern for homemakers/unemployed with a very high percentage, namely 84.6%. Civil servants/TNI/Devices/Pensions also showed great concern for unemployment (48.0%). On the other hand, the problem of poverty was mentioned more by respondents from the categories of self-employed/traders and farmers/farmers/fishermen, with a percentage of 28.4% and 40.0%, respectively.

These issues have direct implications for the implementation of elections in Temanggung Regency. Voters tend to choose candidates or political parties that offer concrete solutions to the problems they face daily. Unemployment, a major concern for housewives, the unemployed, civil servants, and members of the military, indicates that campaigns focused on job creation and economic stability are likely to attract the attention of this voter group. Meanwhile, campaign strategies that highlight poverty alleviation will be more relevant and appealing to voters who are self-employed, traders, farmers, or fishermen. By understanding the key economic issues faced by

different groups, political candidates can formulate more targeted programs and increase their chances of gaining support in elections.

Income level is a significant factor influencing political participation. Research by (Cicatiello et al., 2015) demonstrates that income is a crucial individual-level determinant of political engagement. The resource theory posits that political activities necessitate investments of resources such as time, money, and skills, making wealthier individuals more inclined to participate in politics. Additionally, (Theodossiou and Zangelidis, 2020) highlight that higher income inequality can deter individuals from engaging in politics, resulting in decreased political participation. This suggests that income disparities can create a self-reinforcing cycle, with individuals of higher income levels being more actively involved in political processes compared to those with lower incomes.

These problems have direct implications for the conduct of elections in Temanggung Regency. Voters tend to select candidates or political parties that provide concrete solutions to the issues they encounter daily. Unemployment, which is a major concern for homemakers, the unemployed, civil servants, TNI personnel, and retirees, indicates that campaigns focusing on job creation and economic stability are likely to capture the interest of this voter group. Meanwhile, campaign strategies that prioritise poverty alleviation will be more relevant and appealing to voters among the self-employed, traders, and agricultural or fishing communities.

By understanding the key economic issues faced by different groups of society, political candidates can formulate more targeted programs and increase their chances of gaining support in elections. Income level is a significant factor that affects political participation. Research by Cicatiello et al. (Cicatiello et al., 2015) shows that income is a crucial determinant of individuals in political engagement. Resource theory states that political activities require an investment of resources such as time, money, and skills, making wealthier individuals more likely to be involved in politics. In addition,

Theodossiou and Zangelidis (Theodossiou & Zangelidis, 2020) highlight that higher income inequality can discourage individuals from engaging in politics, resulting in decreased political participation. This suggests that income disparities can create self-reinforcing cycles, with individuals from higher income levels more actively involved in the political process compared to those with lower incomes.

Political Participation in Temanggung Regency

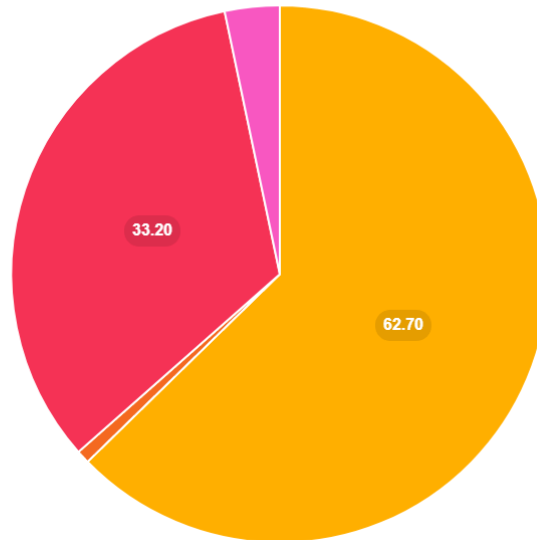
Political participation in Temanggung Regency has been a notable phenomenon, with consistently high voter turnout rates exceeding 80% since the 1999 elections, surpassing averages seen in other regions of Central Java. Arniti (Arniti, 2020) emphasizes the significance of political participation in legislative elections as a reflection of people's fundamental sovereignty rights, underscoring the importance of citizens' engagement in the democratic process. This high level of political involvement in Temanggung Regency aligns with the findings of Verba et al. (Verba et al., 1993) and Leighley and Nagler, which suggest that income level plays a crucial role in determining political participation, with individuals of higher income brackets typically exhibiting greater activity in political affairs compared to those with lower incomes.

Moreover, Haeril (Haeril Haeril, 2023) illuminates the challenges posed by inadequate infrastructure and limited accessibility, which can hinder a region's economic development. This underscores the interconnectedness between socio-economic factors and political engagement, indicating that addressing infrastructural deficiencies could potentially enhance both economic progress and political participation in Temanggung Regency.

In conclusion, the high political participation rates in Temanggung Regency reflect a deeply rooted civic engagement among its residents, with income levels and infrastructural considerations playing pivotal roles in shaping the region's political landscape.

Figure 4. Answer to the Question: To use the right to vote

Will You Use The Right To Vote? (Temanggung, 2024)
For Yes, Not, Don't Know Yet, and No Answer



Source: (Temanggung, 2024)

Figure 4 shows respondents' intentions to exercise their voting rights in the election. Of the 600 respondents surveyed, the majority (376 individuals or 62.7%) indicated that they would exercise their voting rights, demonstrating a fairly high level of voter participation. However, 199 respondents (33.2%) were uncertain about whether they would vote, revealing considerable doubt among voters.

In addition, 20 respondents (3.3%) chose not to answer this question, and only five respondents (0.8%) stated that they would not exercise their voting rights. This data illustrates that despite the high participation rate, uncertainties remain that candidates and political parties must address to ensure a higher level of participation on election day. Raising awareness and providing clear information about the importance of exercising the right to vote can help reduce the number of voters who have not yet decided on their stance or are indecisive.

Overall, this analysis shows that people's perceptions of economic problems in Temanggung Regency are significantly influenced by socio-economic factors such as the sub-district in which they live, their level of

education, and the type of work they do. Poverty and unemployment are the most frequently cited issues, highlighting the region's urgent economic conditions. This information is vital to consider in political and policy decision-making during the Temanggung Regency elections, as it underscores the main issues that impact people's political choices.

The data above shows that socio-economic and demographic factors, such as education level, type of employment, and income, significantly influence political participation in Temanggung Regency. Higher education, specific types of jobs, and higher incomes tend to increase political participation. Public confidence in the importance of elections is also high, reflecting an awareness of the value of participation in the democratic process. To further enhance political participation, efforts are needed to improve access to education, promote economic empowerment, and implement inclusive policies that support all segments of society.

Factors Hindering Political Participation

Although the level of political participation in Temanggung Regency is high, there are still factors that can hinder political participation. One of them is the lack of accessibility and adequate infrastructure, which can limit people's ability to engage in the political process. Research by Haeril (Haeril Haeril, 2023) shows that poor infrastructure can hinder political participation, especially in hard-to-reach areas. In addition, non-inclusive policies and lack of support for socioeconomically vulnerable groups can also be significant obstacles to increasing political participation.

Political participation in Temanggung Regency is reported to be high; however, various factors can impede this engagement. One significant hindrance is the lack of accessibility and adequate infrastructure, particularly affecting remote areas (Soetjipto, 2023). Haeril's research underscores how poor infrastructure can limit political participation, especially in hard-to-reach regions. Moreover, non-inclusive policies and insufficient support for

socioeconomically vulnerable groups pose substantial obstacles to enhancing political engagement (Soetjipto, 2023).

In addition to infrastructure challenges, patriarchal culture stands out as a major barrier to women's political participation, as evidenced in studies focusing on Balinese and Somali women (Wayan & Nyoman, 2020); Abdullahi, 2023). These cultural norms often lead to a lack of trust in women's ability to represent their communities politically, further marginalizing them from the political sphere (Abdullahi et al., 2024).

Furthermore, the study highlights obstacles hindering Indonesian women's political participation, shedding light on the systemic issues that limit women's involvement in politics (Parapat et al., 2023). This aligns with the broader context of gender inequality and the challenges faced by women in accessing and participating in political processes (Parapat et al., 2023).

To address these hindrances, it is essential to consider the impact of political emancipation on participatory theory (Wojciechowska, 2022). By incorporating political emancipation into the discourse, participatory theory can bridge the gap between theory and practice, offering insights into establishing more inclusive political structures (Wojciechowska, 2022). Additionally, understanding the impact of hybrid political regimes on gender politics is crucial, especially in regions where such regimes persist (Ehrhart, 2023). While political participation in Temanggung Regency is high, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, patriarchal norms, and systemic barriers for women persist. Addressing these obstacles requires a multifaceted approach that includes improving infrastructure, challenging patriarchal structures, and promoting gender-inclusive political environments.

Socioeconomic Influence on Political Perception

People's political perceptions are significantly influenced by their socio-economic conditions. Research shows that individuals with higher socioeconomic status tend to have more positive political perceptions and greater trust in the existing political system. Conversely, individuals with

lower socioeconomic status may hold a more negative perception of the political system, which can diminish their participation in the political process. Factors such as income, employment, and education play a crucial role in shaping people's political perceptions.

Socioeconomic status plays a significant role in shaping political perceptions and behaviors during elections. Research has shown that socioeconomic factors interact with political, psychological, and economic elements to influence perceptions in complex ways (Dosman et al., 2001). Studies have indicated that income and socioeconomic status positively impact perceptions of electoral fairness, trust in political institutions, political support, and political participation (Flesken & Hartl, 2020). Additionally, dissatisfaction with income disparity and educational inequality, as well as redistributive preferences, can lead to increased political engagement, such as participation in protests (Jo, 2016).

Moreover, the closeness of elections, perception of political issues at stake, campaign expenditures, political fragmentation, and individual factors like age, education, political interest, and civic duty all influence political participation during elections (Umar & Akbal, 2019). Furthermore, socioeconomic aspirations have been found to dominate political yearnings in certain contexts, indicating the strong influence of socioeconomic factors on political preferences (Huang, 2017).

Socioeconomic status significantly influences political perceptions and behaviours during elections. Individual income levels, educational backgrounds, and perceptions of inequality play crucial roles in shaping political engagement, trust in institutions, and voting behaviors. Understanding the impact of socioeconomic factors is essential for a comprehensive analysis of political dynamics and outcomes during elections.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that political participation in Temanggung Regency is shaped by a constellation of socio-economic factors, including education level, income, employment type, and regional disparities. While higher education and income levels are associated with greater civic engagement, as suggested by the Civic Voluntarism Model (Verba, Scholzman & Brady), the influence of these variables is mediated by structural barriers such as poor infrastructure, patriarchal norms, and policy inaccessibility. This underscores that individual resources alone do not determine participation; opportunities and constraints embedded in political and institutional environments also play a decisive role.

Rather than merely highlighting high participation rates, this study reveals that segments of the population, particularly those with low income, rural residency, or gender-based marginalization, remain politically disadvantaged in substantive terms. These conditions reflect broader patterns of structural inequality and deficits in institutional trust. Therefore, political parties and electoral institutions must surpass symbolic inclusion, actively targeting disenfranchised groups through mechanisms such as participatory budgeting, gender quotas, and mobile voter outreach in remote areas.

Future policy interventions should be multilevel and integrative: national governments must provide the legal and financial frameworks, while local administrations and civil society actors implement community-based solutions. Programs that enhance political literacy, stabilize agricultural livelihoods, and ensure inclusive representation can collectively strengthen both democratic participation and socio-economic justice in Temanggung. In this way, political engagement will be more than just procedural; it will be transformative.

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