



## Knowledge and Participation of Students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah Teacher Training, North Sumatra State Islamic University in the 2024 Election in Indonesia

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**ABSTRACT:** This research aims to determine the knowledge and participation of students at the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training towards the elections in Indonesia in 2024. The research method used is a qualitative technique with a phenomenological approach, which includes interviews, observation and documentation. The results of the research show that the majority of Faculty of Tarbiyah Teacher Training, State Islamic University of North Sumatra students knowledge level shows that they have sufficient knowledge about the 2024 elections, as well as the majority of students who have sufficient knowledge about the 2024 elections and show active participation. This active participation is influenced by political education and campaigns on campus, although there are groups of students who are easily influenced by the lure of material.

**Keywords:** Elections, Knowledge, Participants, Student



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## INTRODUCTION

Human life and communication are increasingly interconnected in this dynamic era. Since the development of the internet, communication technology has been able to access and search for information more efficiently and adaptably, so that it can meet human needs in the process. The new environment led to the development of humans into homo notitia conquistors, often known as "information-seeking humans". The diversity of information is increasing both in terms of content and related relationships ([Harangus et al., 2021](#); [Luna et al., 2022](#); [Molina-Torres, 2022](#); [Yusrin & Salpina, 2023, p. 9648](#)).

Students with different social roles can participate in socio-political activities. Increasing political awareness through civic education requires student participation. Education is a very urgent thing today, because the current political branding tends to be bad. Continuous political education is needed to return politics to its original goal, which is to serve the public interest. Political education should not be limited to theoretical discussions on elite campuses, but should be based on everyday life. In the midst of all that, news about a number of Indonesia's presidential candidates in the 2024 election is also widely reported by the media. The increasing number announcing their

candidacy for president in 2024 has made matters worse. Many news programs debate conflicting political opinion surveys and draw conclusions about the potential winners of the 2024 elections. Social media is a forum for sharing information that can be used by the public to assess the legitimacy of the 2024 presidential candidate. Social media is recognized as a valuable and influential source of information, particularly in shaping public perception and influencing government priorities ([Chibnall et al., 2009](#); [Fatimah, 2017](#); [Martínez-Hernández & Yubero, 2020](#); [Pérez-Rodríguez et al., 2022](#); [Telaumbanua et al., 2022a, p. 3](#)).

As a physical manifestation of the democratic system, elections are the perfect tool for a smooth and orderly process of handing over power ([Jarrett et al., 2020](#); [Kubanza & Simatele, 2018](#); [Stolka et al., 2018](#)). With the holding of elections, the transition of power of a country is believed to run smoothly. The direct election model has been proven to provide several benefits over the contemporary electoral system implemented in Indonesia. National leaders, such as the president and other regional leaders, are elected by the majority of Indonesia's citizens. The current political climate has a significant impact on voter engagement behavior.

Young voters, often referred to as millennial voters, are individuals between the ages of 17 and 37. The number of young voters is expected to increase in the 2024 simultaneous elections. In the 2019 Simultaneous Regional Elections, statistics from the general election commission showed that 70-80 million young voters out of a total of 193 million voters participated. Young voters have a significant influence on the election results, so that they have an impact on nation building. To obtain a high number of votes, innovative ways or significant advances are needed to increase voter engagement. Communities, including young voters, have the right to participate in elections. Voters in Indonesia must be at least 17 years old, married, or previously married. The voters include first-time voters, young voters, female voters, voters with disabilities, marginalized groups, communities, religious groups, and internet citizens ([John & Blume, 2017](#); [Telaumbanua et al., 2022b](#)).

The data predicts that the population in 2024 will experience an increase in the working-age demographic, with the presence of a significant young voter expected to have an impact on the 2024 election, particularly related to the prospects for the Democratic Party in that year. The current presidential election atmosphere is very tense, with many announcements from local communities likely to compete as presidential candidates in 2024. The involvement of the younger generation, especially students, is crucial in this phenomenon and is often a focal point. At present, the public figures mentioned are mostly young authorities, and the opinions of young individuals will be greatly appreciated ([Oktavia et al., 2023, p. 138](#)).

Students, as young intellectuals in society, benefit from public facilities provided by the government funded by social funds, which are basically public funds, so they have a moral obligation to society. Students are required to exert their maximum efforts during their study time to improve society. One of the activities includes cooperation between the Surabaya City Government and universities in providing social welfare services ([Cao et al., 2019a, 2019b](#); [Eick & Larsen, 2022](#); [Meagher & Szebehely, 2019](#)). Student participation highlights their important role as a catalyst for change in helping society, especially children who face social problems such as street children, school dropouts, victims of free sex, and drug abuse.

The election of the president and vice president is one of the components of the leadership recruitment process at the national level. Debates, conversations, and campaigns are common in both the physical and online worlds. Political parties are discussing the coalition process. Coalitions in underdeveloped countries with weak democratic systems usually indicate a lack of consistency of political parties ([Ollila, 2013](#); [Rahmat & Marut, 2023, p. 391](#); [Reece et al., 2022](#); [Rexha & Havolli, 2023](#)).

Identity politics has an influence in determining political dynamics in various countries along with socio-economic changes. Conflicts often arise from differences in group identities and histories with conflicting interests. The differences between each group ultimately compete with each other for power and influence public policy. In Indonesia, Islamic identity politics is viewed negatively because it involves the inclusion or exclusion of individuals or social groups depending on their identity. This foundation is based on relevant social realities, such as the election of leaders from the same identity group or socio-political conflicts ([Sihombing, 2023, p. 229](#)).

The Qur'an contains a verse in Surah Ali 'Imran [3]: verse 28 which discusses the characteristics of a good leader.

لَا يَتَّخِذِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الْكَافِرِينَ أَوْلِيَاءَ مِنْ دُونِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ فَلَيْسَ مِنَ اللَّهِ فِي شَيْءٍ إِلَّا أَنْ تَتَّقُوا مِنْهُمْ تُقْبَةً  
وَيُحَذِّرُكُمُ اللَّهُ نَفْسَهُ ۗ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ الْمَصِيرُ

It means: "Do not make the disbelievers the leaders, but the believers. Whoever does this, he will surely gain nothing from Allah, except because he is guarding himself from something that you fear from them. And Allah warns you of His self, and only to Allah the place of return."

The purpose of creating a leader is to obey and admire him. They emerge as leaders in their communities because of their lack of trust, and if we appoint them as leaders, we become part of their faction. Based on this, it can be concluded that students have an important role in the struggle for Indonesia's independence, as a reinforcement of the basic principles of the Indonesia state. The success of a nation depends on the contribution of the younger generation, because historical events are often influenced by the presence of the younger generation. The millennial generation is considered to be an information-literate generation and good at absorbing information. The flow of information consumed by the millennial generation makes this generation critical, but many are also indifferent to political issues. Now the Millennial generation is in the weak category (less interested in discussing politics). Even today, most of the young generation or the millennial generation is involved in the process of political participation.

Based on the results of Pre-Field observations conducted by researchers from November 25, 2023 to January 21, 2024, the State Islamic University of North Sumatra is an Islamic state campus based on the Qur'an and Hadith. The campus of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra has students of various ethnicities, be it Javanese, Padang, Batak and many more. Based on data that has been obtained, researchers at the State Islamic University of North Sumatra have 10996 students and 463 lecturers.

The State Islamic University of North Sumatra also has eight faculties consisting of the faculty of tarbiyah and teacher training, the faculty of da'wah and communication, the faculty of ushuluddin

and Islamic studies, the faculty of public health sciences, the faculty of sharia and law, the faculty of social sciences, the faculty of Islamic economics and business, and the faculty of science and technology. The number of students of the tarbiyah faculty is 1950 and 37 educators while the rest are students from other faculties.

As students, we have a role as a driver of change, as well as the successor of the nation, from the results that researchers can field students of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra, the faculty of tarbiyah and teacher training will gain a lot of knowledge from the 2024 election. Likewise, many other students have gained knowledge about the 2024 election. Some students have gained knowledge from social media, for example from TikTok, but some students have been deceived or themed hoax or invalid news.

With the circulation of hoax news on social media. There are some students who are really participating in the 2024 election, they have different arguments or different choices with their friends, so that debates occur, and most of the students who break their friendship environment because of different choices. Students who are still beginners do not really care, even some of them are discouraged because of the zone or distance, some of them participate by spreading news that they think is true. Students becoming members of the voting organizing group also include their participation in the 2024 election.

Based on the description above, Indonesia's youth are very influential for the country, including students. Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting research on "Knowledge and student participation in the 2024 elections" because the researcher will study not only theoretically, but according to the facts of political dynamics in the current student body, especially the State Islamic University of North Sumatra. The purpose of this study is to measure the level of knowledge and student participation, as well as the significance of the results of this research in increasing political understanding and awareness among students.

## **METHOD**

The author states that this study is a qualitative research with a phenomenological approach. However, the explanation of what phenomenology is and why this approach is suitable for this study is still lacking. The author needs to explain more about the purpose of the phenomenological approach, which is to understand the meaning of individual experiences of a phenomenon, in this case the 2024 Election ([Sugiyono, 2021, p. 106](#)).

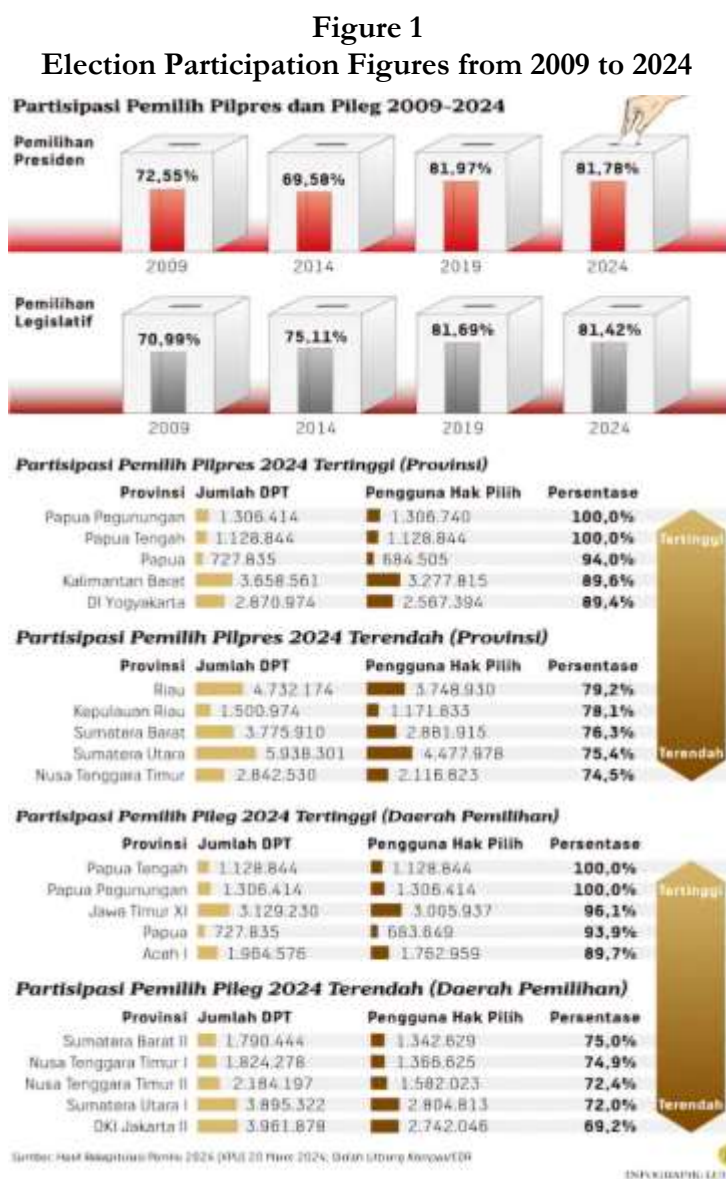
The participants in this study are students majoring in Islamic Education Management, Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, State Islamic University of North Sumatra, in the 2020 academic year. The data sources used by the researcher are Primary and Secondary and collected through observation, interviews and documentation, will help readers to understand the data collection process in a direct way regarding the situation regarding the knowledge and participation of students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training towards the 2024 election at the State Islamic University of North Sumatra ([Yudin et al., 2020, p. 113](#)). The data analysis used in this study starts from data collection, then the researcher classifies which ones can be used in this study. After obtaining the need for data from the literature and then processing it into data needs that

are appropriate for research (Sugiyono, 2019). The limitation of the researcher in this study is the number of participants is quite wide, so the researcher limited the participants to only students of the class of 2020 of the faculty of tarbiyah and teacher training at the State Islamic University of North Sumatra.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Knowledge of Students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training in Succeeding in the 2024 Election

Students, after all, are a special social group in the midst of Indonesia. They are considered to have a significant historical role in the history of this nation, especially as a connector of the people's tongue who is believed to be still so honest, idealistic, and clean from the interests of the group rather than the elite politicians who have lied to the public too often. However, it turns out that in the midst of this group of intellectuals, the discourse of apathy towards political processes such as general elections that leads to the choice of becoming a white group is quite high.





From the figure, it can be seen that community participants from year to year experience fluctuations in presidential election data. When viewed from the legislative election, the number of community participants continues to increase every period. There are many sacred creeds that are so inherent as an identity as well as a responsibility for Indonesia students. In terms of agent of change, agent of social control, and iron stock, it clearly shows the historical duty of students as agents representing the community to control and supervise various government policies, pioneers of the realization of better social change, and as candidates for the next generation of the nation's leadership in the future. In addition, the late Soe Hok Gie, a figure of the class of 1966, once emphasized the concept of moral force as a limitation of struggle that must be firmly held and vigilant so as not to be trapped in political force. This means that the role of students as a connector of the people's tongue must be a moral movement that rises in the presence of the momentum of injustice and arbitrariness of the rulers, after the change is achieved, students must return to campus and not become a political movement that directly takes part in power, because the student movement must be pure and neutral to political interests so that the sharpness of their critical reasoning is maintained.

Not only in Indonesia, the global democracy stage is also playing its role again. Elections, not only as a national event, are now a grand stage that invigorates tensions and diplomatic strategies among countries around the world. With every ballot paper dropped, international relations became a lively dance stage, showing the latest diplomatic moves. Various disputes and differences of opinion between countries began to emerge, highlighting the struggle of diplomacy on the world stage. Support for certain candidates creates disagreement among the opposing parties, showing how every vote has consequences that go beyond mere change at the national level. Strategic positions and global interests have become the subject of fierce debate, creating tensions that heat up diplomatic relations between countries with unexpected intensity.

Considering the status of students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra is only temporary. However, students must be smart to understand it in the context of current reality, such as in facing the momentum of the election. Critical reason and neutrality certainly do not mean that it is absolutely understood that the students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra are indifferent to all political processes, let alone too pessimistic and a priori towards the power system. As a catalyst of the people's expectations, students must understand it optimistically, rationally, and responsibly for whatever attitude they choose. This is according to what the 2020 Indonesian Language Education student irfan said:

"We as students have a role to play in making the election a success, this is because students are the enforcers of democracy who are also part of the voters and have high intellectual reason"

The same thing was also conveyed by Andi as a Law student of the class of 2022:

"Politics is devotion, sacrifice and willingness to do the best for the common good, that's why we as students participate starting from the supervisory board in the election as well. We want the election to be clean and healthy"

We cannot deny that currently the idealism of a student of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra is being tested. In the 2024 General Election (Election), it seems to be a time of political interest for the rulers and students to become a lucrative vote barn for every future legislative candidate who will advance for the 2024 legislative candidate. Students as one of the "pillars" of democracy enforcers who are also part of the voters and have high intellectual reason, are very easy to influence the community. Students should be able to provide an understanding of democracy to the community through a process called elections. This is done to increase voter participation and the quality of voters themselves when making their choices. Because if we look at the data of the General Election Commission, the level of voter participation has been decreasing since the start of the post-reform general election and it is predicted that public participation in the 2024 election will be very low, but unfortunately the process of providing an understanding of democracy is abused by students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra

Students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra can be said to understand the responsibilities and roles of students in elections, especially in 2024. This is because in college students are required to be agents of control really have to maintain their idealism as students. Controlling an elite policy and criticizing government policies that are not pro-people.

### **Student Participation of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training in the 2024 Election**

One of the real and promising efforts to boost the level of people's participation in the election is to strengthen student empowerment. Of course, not in terms of the involvement of students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training towards the 2024 Election in conducting elections in the voting booth because the number of students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training is not too significant when compared to the number of voters. However, what is important about the empowerment of students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training towards the 2024 Election is to optimize the quality of their academic intelligence by participating in various political literacy efforts for the community. Students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training must be involved in various activities, both carried out by the Government and/or the organizers of the 2024 Election which aim to improve cognition, affection, and political condition, especially related to the organization. This is in line with what the informant of Arif, a 2023 Arabic Language Education student, said:

"The role of students is not only that we are students, but we also work on the importance of this general election for the community. Because the choice of the people will determine the sustainability of the country for the next 5 years"

Likewise, what Andi said as a Lecturer of Islamic Education Counseling Guidance class of 2022:

"We as the young generation play an important role in changing the people's perspective on politics for the better, as for the way through education on social media, of course"

From interviews with students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, it can be seen that students must be involved in encouraging political awareness through political education. In this era, education is very urgent because contemporary political branding from the perspective of the people tends to be bad. This is not only because of the pragmatic experience faced by the people in the implementation of practical politics, said Tjetje H. Padmadinata ([Citizen Political Education Review, 2016](#)), because there is also no emergence of contemporary national leaders who can be used as good examples. Indonesia is experiencing a crisis of statesmen who tend to interpret politics as a struggle for power, prioritizing group interests, rather than the interests and common good. Power has always been a victory group, sharing power among coalitions or cronies of political winners. That is the political message that has been received by the people, so it is natural that political branding in the eyes of the people is bad.

In fact, according to ([Dirhamzah, 2019](#)), Politics is devotion, sacrifice and willingness to do the best for the common good. Politics is the art of interacting, communicating, activating, and organizing both at the micro and macro levels in the life of society, nation, and state. In the context of statehood ([Parwatingsih, 2015](#)). He has five views on the meaning of politics, one of which is everything related to the administration of the state and government.

That is one of the things that requires political education to continue to be carried out to return politics to its original purpose as a way of life for the common good. The teaching of political education cannot be seen as a formality that only enters the realm of political idealism or political theory on campuses that tend to "skyrocket", but must be "grounded" in daily life, so that the media of political teaching must be able to embrace all segments of society in adaptive packaging, both in form and content.

However, providing political education to the people is not as easy as turning the "palm of the hand", especially for some people, politics is an ideology; politics is belief; Politics is a life choice, so it is very difficult to melt them back into the "right path". Even so, hopes are still open, there are also some people who are included in the category of novice voters.

They are potential voters, both in terms of quality and quantity. Qualitatively, they have high enthusiasm because they are the first to choose what is very possible, driven by high curiosity and desire to participate, and also have more energy to participate. They are also assumed to be still "clean" of "bad" political views. Quantitatively, their number is also quite large, an average of 30 percent of the total number of voters; in the 2004 elections amounted to around 29 million, in the 2009 elections around 36 million, in the 2014 and 2019 elections around 40 million.

Therefore, students have several other alternatives to succeed in the election, including what Irfan said from the 2020 class of United Kingdom Language Education students as follows:

"Many factors can affect the choice of novice voters, including the political affiliation of parents, figure figures and political identification in the surrounding environment. However, in today's era of high information technology, the media they use can certainly affect them, especially social media which is a trend and lifestyle for youth and adolescents, so we educate through social media is more important".



Therefore, the key opinion leader who is more appropriate to become an icon for novice voters is students. The right key opinion leader requirements to build a brand are individuals whose ideas, speeches and content are believed by novice voters so that they can become good influencers. He must recognize the environment, even get along in the environment, in addition to understanding the content. Students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra are part of the youth, part of the generation that will know better the right approach to convince those around them about the importance of the election.

With the strategy of involving students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra as key opinion leaders, it is hoped that novice voters will have adequate cognition about politics, including the importance of participation in elections, so that they are motivated to participate at least to vote in choosing the leader of this nation. Because the election of leaders directly departs from an ideal foundation of thinking, which is to produce quality leaders, be able to manage the government more effectively, efficiently, and productively and care about the fate of the people.

The active participation of students with ideal and critical academic characteristics is in line with the profile of election supervision tasks: energetic, intelligent, meticulous, critical, analytical, honest, and fair are the skills needed in election supervision. All of that is available to students. Moreover, based on the records of the 2019 Election, the implementation of the 2019 Election still leaves the problem of violations, even though the Court is still in trouble. The constitution "considers it safe". Therefore, one of the strategic community groups that Bawaslu must embrace in participatory supervision is students.

Students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra can be played at various levels, especially at the spearhead level at the polling station level to be part of the savior of the 2024 elections. The peak moments of betting on the fate of the Indonesia people in the next five years are precisely at the polling stations. The voting period is the peak of proving fair play for all stakeholders in the implementation of the elections, both for the general election commission, Bawaslu, the Government, political parties, legislative candidates and their campaign teams, even for all Indonesia people.

The peak of the test of people's participation, sympathizer support, winning team strategy, and honesty of the organizers occurred in the seconds and moments of voting in the voting booth, the vote counting process, and vote recapitulation. Therefore, it is at this final stage that the Constitutional Court has access to decide disputes over election results as mandated by Article 24C of the 1945 Constitution.

### **The Role of Students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training in the 2024 Election**

Part of the students themselves feel sad to see the phenomenon that has occurred so far, many of the students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra easily want to be part of the success of the candidate's campaign.

This is according to what Arif said, a student of Islamic Education Management class of 2022:

"We know the purpose and function of students in elections, but some of us still receive offers to appoint one of the parties for personal interests"

The same thing was also said by the 2021 Social Sciences students:

"Yes, there are students who know that they are only used as political tools because those who are running for office are their seniors, that's why they are very enthusiastic about voicing the election for the sake of unilateral interests which basically they will also benefit from"

However, this is different from what the 2023 Islamic Religious Education student Miftah said:

"If I arrive at the election invitation, I will just follow my parents' choice, I don't follow it either."

Indeed, the choice to be involved in a party or become a partisan movement of a party is the prerogative of everyone, including students. However, there will be a lot of debate when we assess this, whether it is natural as a person for intellectuals to prostitute their intellectual reasoning under the hypocrisy of the candidate.

Seeing that there are three types of student groups of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra that we can classify when we are close to the 2024 election, including:

1. There is a group of students who know that they are being used as a tool of the candidate, meaning that this type of student actually knows that the candidates want to influence students to be able to vote for them and they take this opportunity by expecting material or later the prestige of students will appear in front of the candidate.
2. There is a group of students who do not know that their interests as students are being ridden, this group usually exists in new students, a mindset that does not really understand the interests of the ruler is considered a natural and trivial thing even though indirectly they have been led to believe this.
3. A group of students who knew but pretended not to know that they were being ridden. This type of student is a student who does not have the power to reveal the lies behind all the behavior of the candidate, they do not dare to reveal the truth, this is based on the weak influence of the student or even a sense of reluctance because the candidate is also from the student's own family.

In this case, he participated in a public discussion conducted by several groups of students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra who invited politicians, under the pretext of opening a space for public dialogue between students and legislators. Opening a public dialogue, the legislators who are also candidates to advance back to the election this time can freely campaign in front of students and even worse, the candidate's car wrapped in the face of the candidate and his party can also enter the campus area even though this is very contrary to the provisions of Law No. 8 of 2012 concerning the General Election of Members of the House of Representatives, Regional Representative Council, and Regional People's Representative Council, and General Election Commission

Regulation No.15 of 2013 concerning Amendments to General Election Commission Regulation No.01 of 2013 concerning Guidelines for the Implementation of General Election Campaigns for Members of the House of Representatives, Regional Representative Councils, and Regional Representative Councils. From this case, the students in the first group actually knew that there would be a covert campaign in this dialogue, but he still gave the opportunity to see if these students would get a reward from the candidate. Only that group can answer it. What is clear is that we can say that this kind of action is lying to his idealism for the sake of material. The second group can only listen that this is fine, after all, what is discussed about the region and the integrity of the candidate, the others are not expressed to the public. While the third group only listens to the candidate's advice without criticizing, we should as students take a stance on this phenomenon and position ourselves as agents and social agents not to be easily tempted by meter offers, especially holding covert campaigns and engaging in practical politics on campus.

Students who are actually agents of control really have to maintain their idealism as students. Controlling an elite policy and criticizing government policies that are not pro-people. The democracy party that has been held in Indonesia has attracted a lot of students' attention as a golden opportunity to approach the candidates, who are participating in the 2024 election. Student idealism is at stake by including himself as a successful team and a team of volunteer candidates. This is a very embarrassing thing because students as a layer of society should be neutral and must place themselves outside the system.

As students, we should be able to position ourselves in facing situations like this democratically and giving the best for society. A critical mindset with a good paradigm must be put forward so as not to lead to pragmatic, as a bastion of democracy we must be able to be neutral at this time and not lean towards parties or candidates who approach us. It is a pity that we want to prostitute idealism only by expecting a tempting materialism. This is a very immoral fraud for student identity and even worse if many student leaders are willing to pawn their organizations to deceive other students who do not know for the sake of material interests alone. The moral burden as a student must be shouldered with a sense of pure idealism whose goal is to fight for the prosperity of this people. The act of entering the world of practical politics does not need to be done at this time, because if it is done now, it will give rise to disappointment from the expectations of the people as a generation that always defends the interests of the people. It is unfortunate if students enter unethical groups, seeing that practical political problems have entered the campus. How dilapidated our country would be if intellectual groups such as students were easily tempted and shaken by their idealism with the lure of money.

Globally, various countries are involved in a series of careful diplomacy strategies to influence the results of elections at the national level, including (Setiawan & Djafar, 2023):

#### Diplomatic Lobby

Some countries engage in intense diplomatic lobbying, both openly and behind the scenes. Diplomats work hard to build a positive perception of the candidates they support, engage with advocacy groups and approach opinion leaders.

### Closed Diplomatic Meetings

Closed diplomatic meetings become a secret arena where countries seek to build alliances or reach agreements that can support their interests at the global level. Leading diplomats can exchange views or even plan joint strategies to maximize the impact of the election results on international relations.

### Media Influence

Certain countries may use mass media to influence global perceptions of elections. Whether through propaganda, black campaigns, or positive imagery, these efforts are designed to manipulate international public opinion with respect to the electoral process.

### Foreign Assistance and Investment

Some countries may use foreign aid or investment pledges as a tool of diplomacy to gain support from countries of strategic interest. This could include pledges to provide economic aid or direct investment in exchange for political support.

### Financial Support

Certain countries or groups may provide financial support to certain candidates or political parties that are in line with their interests. This can affect the campaign and the candidate's image in the eyes of voters, while also creating a dependency that can be exploited in the future.

### A Series of Diplomatic Meetings and Negotiations

During the election process, a series of diplomatic meetings and negotiations took place behind the scenes. Diplomats seek to build dialogue and understanding with political leaders and government officials in relevant countries to achieve their strategic goals.

### Diplomatic Tensions

Diplomatic tensions could arise if countries have opposing views on the election. Sharp differences of opinion can create a situation of tension, and countries may take crackdown or engage in challenging rhetoric.

Through these various strategies, elections in one country can trigger a domino effect involving other countries, creating complicated dynamics of international relations and enlivening the stage of democracy at the global level.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of the research on the knowledge and participation of students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra towards the 2024 Election, it can be concluded that several things can be concluded as follows: The level of knowledge of the majority of students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra has sufficient knowledge about the 2024 Election, this is because students are required to be agents of control who really have to maintain idealism as a

student. Controlling an elite policy and criticizing government policies that are not pro-people. Active participation Most students show interest and active participation in the 2024 Election process, both as voters and in activities that support election awareness in the campus environment. The motivation factor to participate is driven by awareness of the importance of students' roles in democracy, as well as an understanding of the impact of political decisions on the future of the nation. However, there are several challenges faced, such as the lack of adequate information about the electoral process, as well as the lack of trust in the integrity of the electoral process itself. The role of political education and counseling campaigns on campus plays an important role in increasing student understanding and participation in the 2024 elections, but there are still intellectual groups such as students, easily tempted and shaken by their idealism with the lure of money.

The conclusion shows that while students of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra North Sumatra have a strong knowledge base about the 2024 elections and show a good level of participation, further efforts are still needed to overcome the challenges and increase their participation to the maximum in the democratic process in Indonesia. The researcher's recommendations that can be used in overcoming challenges and increasing student participation to the maximum in the democratic process in Indonesia are by continuing to be active as agents of control, really must maintain their idealism as students. The researcher also hopes that this study can be a reference and reference for further research.

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