

ABSTRACT

Public participation in elections plays a crucial role in shaping the future of a country's democracy. Higher education levels are often associated with better political participation, including selecting the best candidates. While previous studies have identified the relationship between education and political participation, most have focused on specific aspects, such as religious considerations or vote-buying, which were analyzed separately. This study aims to evaluate the relationship between education and voting participation as well as five voting behavior factors: program quality, political affiliation similarity, religious similarity, candidate experience, and vote-buying. The data used is from the fifth wave of the Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS) in 2014/2015. Using a Probit model, the results reveal a significant relationship between education levels and both participation and reasons for choosing specific candidates. Further analysis with the Multivariate Probit model confirms that voters consider these factors simultaneously when selecting candidates. These findings imply that better-educated voters in Indonesia tend to be more rational in selecting candidates based on programs and governance performance. However, these results only indicate correlation and cannot be interpreted as causal relationships, necessitating further research to examine causal effects.

Keywords: *Education, Participation in Regional Election, Voting Reasons, Voting Behavior, Probit Model*

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