



The Influence of Education Level On The Behavior of Voter in Pante Ceureumen District, West Aceh Regency in The 2024 Legislative Elections

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Abstract. This study aims to analyze the effect of education level on voter behavior in Pante Ceureumen District, West Aceh Regency, in the 2024 Legislative Election. Voter behavior is an important factor in determining election results and is influenced by various aspects, one of which is the level of education. The theory in this study is the theory of voter behavior using three approaches, namely the Sociological Approach, Psychological Approach, and rational choice. This research uses a quantitative approach with a survey method, where data is collected through questionnaires distributed to voters in Pante Ceureumen District. The population in the study were people who had the right to vote in the 2024 legislative elections in the pante ceureumen sub-district, which amounted to 8,444 people who were then sampled using the slovin formula with a 5% margin of error, then the results obtained were 382 samples, then the data obtained and analyzed using simple linear regression to determine the effect of education level variables on voter behavior. Based on the Hypothesis Test, the tcount value of the education level is 11.622 with a significance of 0.000. Judging from the tcount value of $11.622 > t \text{ table } 1.960$ and a significance value of $0.000 < 0.05$. So the results showed that there was a significant influence between the level of education and voter behavior in Pante Ceureumen District.

Keywords: 2024 Legislative Elections, Education Level, Voter Behavior.

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country with the 3rd largest democratic system in the world. A democratic system is a type of government in which the people or citizens hold political power and participate in the political decision-making process. General elections are the main way political decisions are made. Voter behavior greatly determines the results of elections in Indonesia, voter behavior is part of political behavior that describes the participation of citizens in elections which is also a series of decision-making activities, namely choosing or not, and if choosing, choosing candidate X or candidate Y? (Surbakti, 1992, p. 185)

In the context of general elections, education is considered an important instrument in creating rational and informed voters, which ultimately contributes to the quality of democracy (Surbakti, 1992, p. 187). According to Chapman & Palda (Syafhendry, 2016) there are several factors that can influence a person's voting behavior, such as economic aspects and a person's level of education can influence a person's voting behavior patterns in determining their voting rights. People with low education generally use their voting rights in an irrational way. According to him, emotional intimacy, character stereotypes, and social issues are factors that support them in making political decisions. Conversely, people with relatively high levels of education tend to have broader insights and are more careful in determining their voting rights.

One example is the acquisition of information, where we tend to dig deeper and analyze the validity of the information obtained based on the source of the information.

Pante Ceureumen District, West Aceh Regency is one of the areas with quite high heterogeneity or diversity of education levels. Most of the population works in the agricultural sector and the informal sector, which are generally associated with lower levels of education compared to urban areas. However, some parts of the community have access to higher education, either through formal or informal educational institutions. Based on data obtained from the Population Development Profile book of West Aceh Regency in 2023 (Statistics, 2023) , the number of voters in Pante Ceureumen District in the 2024 legislative election was 8,444 with an average education level of 1,430 No school, 3,570 Elementary School, 884 Junior High School/Equivalent, 1,986 High School/Equivalent, 212 Diploma (D1, D2, D3, D4), 249 Bachelor's (S1), 13 Postgraduate (S2/S3). Where the level of community education is dominated by elementary school, no school and high school. In addition, the number of community participation in Pante Ceureumen sub-district is relatively high from a total of 8,444 active voters and those who cast their votes in the 2024 election were 7,618 votes or around 90.2%. The high level of community participation in the election shows that the community in Pante Ceureumen sub-district has a relatively good political awareness, although this does not necessarily reflect a deep understanding of the substance of public policy and the role of the legislature as a whole. Often, in Pante Ceureumen sub-district, high participation is triggered by the personal influence of legislative candidates, social ties, or even pragmatic political practices such as money politics. Therefore, a deep understanding of the factors that influence voter behavior, especially education, is very important in analyzing the electability of legislative candidates in Pante Ceureumen sub-district.

In the 2024 Legislative Election, community participation in Pante Ceureumen District is one of the key factors that can determine the electability of legislative candidates, where two of the legislative candidates from Pante Ceureumen District and were elected were among those who received the most votes in the 2024 legislative election in West Aceh Regency. The level of education of voters will play an important role in determining the extent to which voters are able to sort information and make rational decisions. In addition, high participation patterns are expected to encourage the election of legislative candidates who are truly competent and have the capacity to fight for the interests of the community. More educated voters tend to have higher expectations of legislative candidates, both in terms of competence, integrity, and the ability to represent the interests of the community at the local and national levels (Mujani et al., 2012)

However, high political participation in Pante Ceureumen District does not necessarily reflect optimal quality of choice. From the initial analysis, voters may only participate because of obligation or the influence of the social environment, not because of a deep understanding of the role of the legislature and the importance of choosing quality candidates. Based on the presentation of data and previous explanations, in this study the researcher wants to know the correlation between the level of community education and the behavioral patterns of the Pante Ceureumen District community in facing the 2024 legislative elections in West Aceh Regency. So from the description that has been presented, a research title will be formulated, namely: "The Influence of Education Level on Voter Behavior in Pante Ceureumen District, West Aceh Regency in the 2024 Legislative Elections".

2. METHOD

The method used is quantitative research that reveals the truth about the form of relationship between variables or phenomena. The characteristics of quantitative research, especially data analysis techniques, use objective quantitative (statistical) techniques (Creswell, 2009). For the research category using a survey approach, survey research is seen as a way to quantitatively describe certain aspects of a population so that data is collected on a group of people and the results are generalized for a particular population.

The questionnaire was used as a data collection tool in this quantitative research, where primary data can be obtained at a pre-arranged location through organized interviews, sending questionnaires to respondents, and other methods (Sugiyono, 2017). Based on the results of calculating the number of samples using the Slovin formula with a margin of error of 5%, the result was 381.90 which was rounded up to 382 respondents from the total number of active voters in Pante Ceureumen District in the 2024 election of 8,444 voters. Which was then analyzed at 25 research locations. The criteria for the selected sample were people who were not bound by the bureaucracy or were not State Civil Apparatus (ASN) who did not have the right to vote. The researcher used a questionnaire which was then distributed to the targeted respondents to ascertain the opinion of the influence of education level on the behavior of voters in Pante Ceuremen District, West Aceh Regency in the 2024 legislative election. The researcher used SPSS to process the data and to ensure the validity and reliability of each research variable indicator.

In this study, the education factor is positioned as variable X and voting behavior as variable Y. Education can be defined as a person's conscious effort to improve knowledge, skills, and broaden horizons, equalizing educational opportunities is attempted through the

provision of learning facilities and infrastructure, and adding teaching staff from elementary to tertiary education. In the 2022 DKB data, the population of Pante Ceureumen District was 11,524 people, with details of 2,334 people who did not go to school or had not attended school, 1,605 people who had not graduated from elementary school, 3,190 people graduated from elementary school, 1,487 people graduated from junior high school, 2,421 people graduated from high school, 195 people took professional levels D1, D2, D3, D4, 286 people who graduated from S1, and 6 people who graduated from S2 (Statistics, 2023) .

3. RESULTS AND DISSCUSION

This study aims to describe the influence of education level on voter behavior in Pante Ceureumen District, West Aceh Regency in the 2024 legislative election. The description of voter behavior is based on the theory of voter behavior, which is part of political behavior that describes citizen participation in elections which is also a series of decision-making activities, namely to vote or not, and if choosing, whether to vote for candidate X or candidate Y? (Surbakti, 1992, p. 185) . Another opinion states that voter behavior is essentially a form of manifestation and expression of political awareness that individuals want to display through political decision-making. (Mutz et al., 2013) . Based on these definitions, it can be concluded that voter behavior is a person's action to vote in a general election, where the concern is why a voter chooses a particular party or candidate and not another party or other candidate.

Based on the agreement of several experts, voting behavior can be grouped into three models or approaches; namely the sociological approach, the psychological approach, and the rational approach. The sociological approach originated from Western Europe which was developed by political scientists and sociologists from Columbia's University Bureau of Applied Social Science, so it is known as the Columbia School of Electoral Behavior . They view society as something that is hierarchical, especially based on status, because society as a whole is a group of people who have a strong sense of status. Proponents of this school believe that society has been structured in such a way according to its background and social characteristics, so understanding these social characteristics is important in understanding an individual's political behavior. It can be said that the school that uses a sociological approach in analyzing voting behavior states that political preferences including preferences for voting in a person's voting box are a product of the socio-economic characteristics in which he or she is located such as profession, social class, religion and so on. In other words, the background of a person or group of people based on gender, social class, race, ethnicity, religion, occupation, ideology and even region of origin become independent variables in their decision

to vote at the time of the election. However, because basically everyone wants to live a peaceful life without being disturbed by their social environment, this context also controls individual behavior by putting pressure on them to conform (Diederich, 1965). Saiful Mujani, R. William Liddle and Kuskridho Ambardi in their book *Kuasa Rakyat* (2012) also explain that social conditions and religious factors are things that are believed to be very influential in the context of a sociological approach.

The second approach, namely psychological, was pioneered and developed by a number of scientists from the University of Michigan's Survey Research Center, so that in the theory of voter behavior it is known as the Michigan school. This approach emphasizes how psychological factors influence a person's political behavior. This psychological method creates the idea of psychology, especially the idea of attitudes and socialization, which are used to explain individual behavior. This approach also explains that people do not only participate in elections because of their socioeconomic status or social networks, but also because they are interested in politics, have feelings of closeness to a particular party (party identity), have enough information to make decisions, feel their voices matter, and believe that their decisions can improve the situation (Mujani et al., 2012). These psychological factors include emotional ties to political parties (also known as party identity, focus on emerging issues, and focus on candidates).

Dissatisfaction with the sociological and psychological approaches prompted the development of this approach. This innovative thinking uses an economic method known as rationalism. In fact, this rational voting behavior indicates a stable democratic and economic system. In addition, the causal relationship shows that the supply and demand paradigm in economics influences the rationality of voters. Politicians are also responsible for economic policies and their effects. Proponents of this school of thought try to explain that voter behavior towards certain political parties is based on considerations of what voters get when choosing presidential candidates and members of parliament (Duch & Stevenson, 2005). Recent literature studies show that the problem of voting behavior is also part of citizens' assessment of the performance of public officials and the impact of their policies. Therefore, the study of voting behavior is interesting to study further and it is not surprising that discussions about voter behavior culminate in debates about the rationality of voters in elections. (Raymond & Worth, 2017).

Based on the results of the research that has been conducted, it was found that the majority of respondents gave the answer "agree" to each variable X, namely "level of education" in almost all of the questions asked. The same thing also applies to variable Y,

namely "Voter behavior", the majority of respondents gave the answer "agree" to almost all of the questions asked. This shows that most respondents have a positive perception or agree with the statement submitted. The level of education of the community seems to have an influence on the behavior of voters in Pante Ceureumen District, West Aceh Regency in the 2024 legislative election.

The Influence of Education Level on Voter Behavior in Pante Ceureumen District, West Aceh Regency in the 2024 Legislative Election.

From the results of data processing, it shows that the level of education has an influence on voter behavior. This has been validated through data processing conducted by researchers. In the correlation coefficient test, the correlation coefficient value was obtained of 0.517 which is between 0.40-0.599, meaning that the influence of education level on voter behavior in Pante Ceureumen sub-district in the 2024 legislative election is in the category of "Medium/Quite Strong). Furthermore, in the determination coefficient test, the R (Square) value was obtained of 0.267, meaning that the influence of education level on voter behavior was 26.7%. Then, in the T Test, the significance value for the variable is known, namely the t-count value of the Education Level (community) of 11.767 with a significance of 0.000. The t-table value in this study was calculated with $df = nk (382-2 = 380)$ which is 1.960 and a significance value of 0.05. Judging from the t-count value of $11.767 > t\text{-table } 1.960$ and a significance value of $0.000 < 0.05$. Then the decision is accepted, so it can be concluded that the Education Level variable education has a positive and significant influence on Voter Behavior. This means that it can be concluded that there is The Influence of Education Level on Voter Behavior in Pante Ceureumen District, West Aceh Regency in the 2024 Legislative Election is 26.7%, and the influence is positive and significant. Therefore, Hypothesis H1 is accepted and H2 is rejected.

Forms of Voter Behavior in Pante Ceureumen District, West Aceh Regency in the 2024 Legislative Election

From the results of the analysis that has been carried out, it can be seen that the behavior of voters in Pante Ceureumen District in the 2024 legislative election is quite diverse. This is also influenced by the level of community education. In this analysis, researchers divide the level of community education into 2 levels to make it easier for researchers to determine and explain what voter behavior is in Pante Ceureumen District in the 2024 legislative election, namely: people with Low/Medium education (No School, Elementary School/equivalent, Junior High School/equivalent, High School/equivalent) and Higher education level (Diploma D1, D2, D3, D4, Bachelor's degree S1, Postgraduate S2, S3). With a ratio of 50:50.

In the study of voter behavior, education level is often considered as one of the important factors that influence how a person makes political decisions, including when voting in elections. Different levels of education can give rise to various forms of voter behavior. The following is an explanation of voter behavior based on education level, which includes Sociological, psychological, and rational choice behavior.

- Voter behavior with low/medium education level (No school, elementary school/equivalent, middle school/equivalent, high school/equivalent)

Voters with low levels of education tend to have limited access to in-depth political information, as well as fewer analytical skills to assess policies or programs offered by candidates. This can affect their type of behavior in elections. From the data obtained, people with low/moderate education tend to be sociological voter behavior. They tend to vote based on emotional or social ties, such as similarity of residence, social background and others. Factors such as religious background, ethnicity, and geographical proximity also play an important role. This can be seen from the number of answers agreeing and strongly agreeing regarding statements related to sociological factors, namely statements number Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 and Y10. Where people with low/moderate education get higher answers of "Agree" and "Strongly Agree" compared to people with higher education, except for statements Y5 and Y10. For statement Y10, this is due to the factor of the Pante Ceureumen District community which is 99.9% Muslim. Therefore, the level of education does not affect the statement that they choose legislative candidates who have the same religious beliefs as them.

- Voter behavior with Higher Education Level (Diploma D1, D2, D3, D4, Bachelor's Degree S1, Postgraduate S2, S3).

Voters with higher education levels usually have better access to political information and public policy. They tend to have better analytical skills to understand the complexities of politics and the programs offered by candidates.

From the results of the questionnaire answers, people in Pante Ceureumen District with a high level of education tend to behave rationally, this can be seen from the statements regarding rational choices, people with higher education who choose the scale "Agree" and "Strongly Agree" are higher than people with low / moderate education. It can be concluded that people with higher education tend to behave rationally in the 2024 legislative elections in Pante Ceureumen District, West Aceh Regency. Then for Psychological voter behavior, it seems that people with a high level of education also tend to behave psychologically, where in the

statement items related to psychological behavior, people with higher education have a higher percentage of "agree" and "strongly agree" than people with low levels of education. However, it is possible that people with low levels of education also have psychological voter behavior.

According to the results of this study, there is an influence between the level of education and voter behavior in Pante Ceureumen District, West Aceh Regency in the 2024 legislative election. Of the three forms of voter behavior (sociological, psychological, and rational behavior), sociological behavior is mostly found in voters with low/moderate levels of education, then in people with high levels of education, they tend to be more rational in Pante Ceureumen District, West Aceh Regency in the 2024 legislative election.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of statistical tests in the study entitled "The influence of education level on voter behavior in Pante Ceureumen sub-district, West Aceh district in the 2024 legislative elections," the following conclusions were drawn: First, from the results of the calculated t-value, the decision to accept H1 indicates that the Education Level variable has a positive and significant effect on Voter Behavior, with an influence percentage of 26.7%. Second, individuals with low levels of education (no education, elementary school, middle school, and high school) tend to exhibit sociological voting behavior. Third, individuals with higher levels of education (Diploma, Bachelor's, and Postgraduate) are more likely to display Rational and Psychological voter behavior. In summary, education level significantly influences voter behavior in elections, with voters possessing higher education generally exhibiting more rational (critical) and psychological behavior, while those with lower education are more influenced by social and emotional factors, resulting in a tendency toward sociological voting behavior.

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