

Utilizing Digital Literacy in Anticipating the Political Education Gap for Women

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ABSTRACT

The ability to use digital technology as a problem solver and think critically are essential skills in various fields. In addition, digital literacy is used to obtain information about rights and obligations as citizens. In the era of computational propaganda and hate politics, digital literacy is becoming increasingly important in the political sphere. Various issues are developing, such as the issue of gender equality, which continues to be a significant problem for the participation rate of female politicians. This research aims to see how digital literacy anticipates the gap in obtaining political education for women. This research uses descriptive qualitative research methods. In addition, this research also uses a literature review approach through journals, online media, and books in data collection techniques. This research uses secondary data sources, and the data analysis approach includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion formulation. The result of the research is that it is important to utilize digital literacy to provide political education to make women aware of their rights and obligations in the state. Through digital literacy, political education can be delivered to the entire community, emphasizing how to increase the participation of women politicians and change people's perceptions of gender equality.



INTRODUCTION

Digital literacy is critical today, where technology is widespread and proliferating. Digital literacy is critical in today's development because technology is increasingly advanced and rapid, so all human life requires digital-based technology (Musa, 2022). In addition, digital literacy is necessary for success in education, work, and daily life (Njenga, 2018). Digital literacy is using digital technology effectively and efficiently to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information (Osterman, 2013). One of the benefits of digital literacy is that it helps obtain information. In the digital era, information can be accessed easily through the internet. To obtain accurate and credible information, good digital literacy skills are needed (Saraswati et al., 2022). Digital literacy can also be used to solve problems in the current era. Digital literacy skills enable individuals to think critically and solve problems using digital technology, which is essential in many fields (Vice, 2023).

The benefits of digital literacy are specific to the political field. Digital literacy is becoming increasingly important in politics, especially in the era of computational propaganda and hate politics (Salma, 2019). Improving digital literacy can help individuals recognize and counter all forms of hate speech and disinformation that sway opinions (Salma, 2019). Digital literacy can also increase participatory politics, especially among young people, by using opportunities for digital-based efforts to share political perspectives (Kahne & Bowyer, 2019). After adapting to digital literacy, it is hoped that everyone can think critically when responding to something that is developing, especially in the political field.

However, until now, the issue that remains a problem for the public is gender equality for all humans. Gender equality is a condition in which men and women have equal rights in all aspects of life, including education, work, and social life (Sulistyowati, 2022). Gender equality aims to eliminate gender discrimination and ensure that men and women have equal opportunities to develop and participate in social, economic, and political life (Chotim, 2020). However, what happens in Indonesia today is that gender equality has not been achieved, especially in terms of women's participation in politics and public positions (Bangun, 2021). Meanwhile, policies already provide opportunities for women to participate in government politics. Despite progress in policy, women's political role and participation in politics in Indonesia still need to improve, and the status of women in politics still needs to improve (Ummaya et al., 2022). Women politicians still face challenges, such as patriarchal culture, low education, financial constraints, and traditional views that place women in an inappropriate position to be rivals (Saputra et al., 2020).

The problem in Indonesia is that people still need to learn about digital literacy. This can affect internet literacy and women's political participation, especially in digitally disparate areas (Dendi,

2014). Meanwhile, digital literacy considerably influences political literacy, especially the millennial generation (Ani et al., 2022). Previous studies explain that digital literacy can significantly impact women's political participation, allowing them to access and use digital technology for social, political, and economic participation (Thompson & Paul, 2016). Digital media and engagement can enable women to express themselves creatively, challenge gender ideals, and coordinate political and social activism (Winarmita et al., 2022). Providing political education through digital literacy can increase women's political discussion and participation (Mukarom, 2022). Efforts to conduct political communication to encourage gender sensitivity through digital literacy (Wajcman et al., 2020).

Through this paper, we want to explore the extent to which digital literacy is applied in Indonesia and become a solution to the challenges of women politicians in Indonesia. The participation rate of female politicians must continue to increase by providing understanding for all people in Indonesia. Gender equality is an essential component that must be instilled in society to create fair politics. Providing understanding needs to be done through digital literacy. Digital literacy is a common place for all politicians and the public to get information and have open discussions.

METHOD

This research was written using descriptive qualitative methods. According to Creswell (2010), qualitative research is a study of social and human problems in which the researcher will provide a detailed explanation of the research findings in the research report based on the data display report and analysis of the data collected. Descriptive research is an approach that explores circumstances, conditions, or other things that have been indicated, and the findings are then given in the form of a research report (Arikunto, 2013). In addition, this research also uses a literature review approach to support the research. Descriptive qualitative research methods with a literature review approach are used to answer the problem of women politicians' participation and utilization of digital literacy in politics. This research obtains data from online media, journal papers, and literature reviews. The data sources used in this research are secondary data sources. The author used a qualitative data analysis approach, including data reduction, presentation, and conclusion formulation (Ridder, 2014).

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Digital technology literacy can help close the political gender gap for women. Digital literacy is an effort to increase women's awareness of digital technology, but women still experience a digital access gap. By offering digital literacy training and programs, empowering women in technology, closing the gender gap in technology, and expanding women's access to technology, digital literacy plays a vital role in closing the political gap for women (Anggraini, 2020).

However, until now, the community's real problem is the need for more understanding of digital literacy. The digital divide can impact digital literacy and women's political engagement, especially in areas with limited internet access (Susanti & Putri, 2022). Indonesia has uneven technological development, so differences in understanding of digital literacy vary from region to region. This also causes information to be conveyed to only some regions in Indonesia.

The lack of information obtained by all people in each region impacts women's involvement in politics because the problem of patriarchal culture influences it. Women often need more attention, so they need more confidence to participate or advance in politics (Ramli & Hajar, 2022). The understanding of patriarchy puts women in a position of limited space to move and work in all fields, especially politics. These problems are caused by a need for more understanding of women's politics. This impacts the consumption of hoaxes by the public, which is difficult to counteract, and there is a need for more public awareness to avoid and spread hoaxes (Anggarini, 2019).

In this case, it also requires the role of the government to provide digital-based political education to help people utilize digital literacy (Lubis et al., 2024). One of the efforts to provide political education to the community is for the government to collaborate with the community directly, universities, non-governmental organizations, and community organizations by providing digital literacy training (Supartoyo, 2022). This effort can help educate people about political issues, avoid hoaxes, and access and evaluate political information through digital literacy.

Political education can help people understand their rights and obligations in the political system and improve their ability to participate in the political process (Saryono et al., 2022; Christoper et al., 2024). In Indonesian politics, political education can help people understand the political system and parties and increase their political participation in elections and other political processes (Kharisma, 2015). Presidential Instruction of the Republic of Indonesia No. 12 of 1982 states that political education implies forming a person's personality through political education (Christoper et al., 2024). Soeharto issued this instruction to provide political education to Indonesia's younger generation and foster a sense of nationalism. In addition, this instruction intended to stop the spread of communist ideology among the younger generation and promote Pancasila, the official philosophical basis of the Indonesian state. Political education is a deliberate and systematic effort to shape people to be morally and ethically responsible for realizing political goals (Kartono, 1986). The contribution of the community, especially the younger generation, to the country's politics today greatly influences the shaping of decisions and the country's future (Ginting & Fauzan, 2024).

In addition, the government can also prevent political misinformation in advance. Through the encouragement of media literacy and critical thinking skills, the government can prevent political misinformation and hoaxes by taking the initiative to fact-check political materials and encourage the responsible dissemination of information online (Darajat & Muhtadi, 2020). The efforts made by the government need to be carried out optimally to raise awareness in the community that digital literacy in the political field is critical to support political participation, especially for women.

Efforts made to provide an understanding of digital literacy to support the level of participation of female politicians cannot run well if the community still has understandings that discriminate against women. It can be proven that the data shows that women's participation and representation in politics are minimal, especially in the Legislature; this is due to discrimination (Tridewiyanti, 2012). The government's efforts include the issue of a 30% quota policy for women's involvement in politics and Presidential Instruction No.9 of 2000 concerning gender mainstreaming (PUG). However, this affirmative action and PUG policy has not been achieved (Arjani, 2021). The root of all these problems is a patriarchal culture that inhibits all space for women to move in all fields, including politics (Gusmansyah, 2019).

Gender equality in politics means ensuring women have the same rights as men in accessing, participating in, and making political decisions (Bawa & Sanyare, 2013). However, gender equality in politics in Indonesia is still an unsolved problem (Arjani, 2021). There needs to be an effort to change people's views about the patriarchal culture that limits women from entering politics (Gusmansyah, 2019). In this discussion, we examine how people's views affect women's political participation. In addition, there are no regulations that thoroughly discuss women's political rights, so gender discrimination still occurs.

CONCLUSION

Discrimination against women still occurs in Indonesia which results in many impacts and one of them is the impact of women's participation in politics. The importance of emphasizing gender equality in the current era and needs to be conveyed to all levels of society. All people have the right to get proper political education with the help of several parties, such as the government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the community itself. Political education can be delivered through digital literacy to be more effective and efficient in conveying an understanding of political education. What is delivered can be in the form of socialization about the importance of women participating in politics, shifting people's perceptions of women's involvement, and delivering campaigns on gender equality. With the help of digital literacy, it can increase women's participation

in politics, change people's perceptions of gender equality, and can increase election participation in Indonesia.

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