

Perceptions and Political Participation of Ethnic Chinese Voters at Methodist-2 Medan Private High School in the 2024 Presidential Election

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ABSTRACT

In this study, researchers raised the perception of ethnic Chinese novice voters who participated in the 2024 presidential election. This study is devoted to beginner voters of Chinese Ethnicity at Methodist-2 Medan High School. The research method used is the quantitative research method. Quantitative research is conducted using data collection through questionnaires. Therefore, quantitative research is research in which data is collected using numbers and analyzed using statistical techniques. The purpose of quantitative research is to obtain an object of research problems. Quantitative writing contains data collected from questionnaires that will be distributed to Methodist-2 Medan high school students. Based on the study's results, ethnic Chinese novice voters at Methodist-2 Medan already understand politics and directly participate in the 2024 presidential election. Based on the research, novice voters of ethnic Chinese of SMA Methodist 2 Medan already have democratic awareness. It can be seen from the results of the calculation that the perception of ethnic Chinese novice voters at Methodist-2 Medan Private High School is 69.37% and then 83.05% of political participation, so it can be concluded that perception affects political participation, especially among ethnic Chinese novice voters at Methodist-2 Medan Private High School.

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INTRODUCTION

General elections are one of the ways a country realizes the sovereignty of the people in the context of organizing a democratic country. That means all Indonesian citizens can choose candidates for good and right government representatives. Starting in 1955, Indonesia held its first election since it had been declared independent for ten years. In 1955, it was categorized as a democratic general election because the 1955 general election was carried out by many political parties, which indicated freedom in politics, and the people used their voting rights to participate in the general election (Fatiha & Santosa, 2022). Then, during the New Order period, the general elections were held six times, namely the 1971, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, and 1997 elections. The success of the elections during the new order period was due to the use of the Election Law and its use, arranged to control people's political matters. In 1999, the reformation of the political concept was much different from the new order because the reformation emphasized a democratic life by giving freedom to the community (Farisa, 2022).

The general election during the reform era was a more democratic election when compared to the implementation of previous elections. The comparison can be seen when using the function of the General Election Commission (KPU), which has a neutral nature. Different in 2004 added to the development of politics in Indonesia. In 2004, for the first time, the Indonesian people could directly elect the president and vice president (Farisa, 2022).

Guided by Law No.23 of 2003 concerning the General Election of the President and Vice President, the General Election Commission (KPU) successfully organized a direct presidential election in mid-2004. The 2004 presidential election was held in two rounds. The 2004 elections were held using a different system from previous elections, namely an open proportional electoral system for the first time. The 2009 general election was the third general election during the reform era held simultaneously throughout Indonesia. The election was held on April 9, 2009, to elect the DPR, DPD, and city DPRD or Provincial DPRD, while the election of the president and vice president was held on July 8, 2009, with one round. The 2014 elections were held twice as well as the previous elections, namely to elect legislative candidates and presidential and vice presidential candidates. Then, the general election 2019 was held simultaneously with the presidential election on April 17. Fourteen national and four local political parties participated in this election in Aceh. Of these parties, nine parties won seats in Senayan, namely PDI-P, Gerindra, Golkar, PKB, NasDem, PKS, Democrat, PAN, and PPP. Meanwhile, seven other parties won votes below the parliamentary threshold: Perindo,

Berkarya, PSI, Hanura, PBB, PKPI, and Garuda. Joko Widodo and Ma'ruf Amin won the 2019 election result as President and Vice President for 2019-2024.

When discussing the level of participation in elections, it must be about quantity or number. Political participation is a person or several people's active participation in political participation. Medan City voters in Medan City have directly participated in political participation actively and safely by choosing leaders in the election process. For Medan City, the attendance rate of voters at polling stations was 74.20% in the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections. The voter turnout rate in each legislative and presidential election was relatively high. In 2004, the voter turnout rate in the Legislative Election was quite high, namely 78.21%, while in 2019, the high voter turnout rate was seen in the Presidential Election, which reached 74.20%. This means that over the last 15 years, from 2004 to 2019, a pattern illustrates the trend of voter turnout or voter attendance at polling stations in each election in Medan City.

All Indonesian citizens are eligible to vote in the presidential election activities. This election is a means for citizens to be actively involved in politics. It is important to provide an understanding of correct politics, especially for the younger generation. The younger generation is a voter who also plays an active role in politics, and when they have reached the limit in voting, they get their voting rights during elections and elections. Based on Law number 10 of 2008 in Chapter IV, article 19 concerning novice voters, Indonesian citizens who, on the day of election or voting, are Indonesian citizens who have reached the age of 17 years or more or have/have been married and have the right to vote. (Aminulloh, 2020).

This means that every Indonesian citizen who is 17 years old or who has/has been married has the right to vote and can be categorized as a beginner voter. When viewed from 17 years, the age still runs education in SMA (Senior High School). Providing political understanding to novice voters is very important, as it introduces them to politics, political awareness, and political orientation so they can participate in correct politics. Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2021, the number of Generation Z is 68.66 million in Indonesia (Bps.go.id, 2021). This young generation has various characteristics, but from these characteristics, the younger generation is quite concerned and aware of their political rights as a society.

One aspect focused on in elections is ethnicity, with a particular emphasis on the Chinese ethnic community. One of the ethnicities that has received the most attention is Ethnic Chinese. Ethnic Chinese have been in Indonesia for a long time, but over the decades, they have experienced administrative problems and political rights. During the New Order era, ethnic Chinese were not given the freedom to channel their aspirations through political parties because they felt that ethnic Chinese were not Indonesian citizens. After the reformation, ethnic Chinese were recognized for their

citizenship status and political rights. This was illustrated in 1999 when ethnic Chinese established political parties called the Indonesian Chinese Party (PTI), the Indonesian Chinese Reform Party, the Indonesian Renewal Party, and the Bhineka Tunggal Ika Party. Only the Unity in Diversity Party passed the law and human rights department. Then, the Unity in Diversity Party also placed its representative in the DPR, L. Sutanto from West Kalimantan. It was not until 1999 that the political role of ethnic Chinese continued to climb, even to become regional heads. There were also members of the DPR, such as Rudianto Tjen, who came from the PDIP faction. Not only the DPR but also a chairman of the Singkawang City DPRD in West Kalimantan named Tjai Thui Mie. Then Basuki Tjahaja Purnama of, ten called Ahok bec, a Governor of DKI Jakarta. Even the chairman of the Medan City DPRD, Hasyim, SE, and even 15 people from 560 members of the DPR RI for the 2009-2014 period who are descendants of ethnic Chinese (Kompas.com, 2011).

The characteristics of ethnic Chinese must be seen comprehensively because they are rooted in their culture and social norms, which have changed from generation to generation and reflect behaviour and mindset. Ethnic Chinese are a pluralistic society with its norms and culture, so among groups of Chinese people, there is a diversity of behaviour that stems from the plurality of cultures, customs and beliefs adopted. According to P. Hariyono, the stereotype of Chinese people is reflected in the "introverted attitude", bakelite, egoistic, and materialistic. However, in other situations, the characteristics are friendly, generous, diligent, and tenacious. For example, one of the residents interviewed by the researcher with Chinese ethnicity said that ethnic Chinese have a closed attitude, especially toward politics in Indonesia, because they lack interest and do not have power in the political world, so they rarely suggest politics be passed on to their descendants.

In this study, researchers will raise the perception of ethnic Chinese novice voters. They will participate in the 2024 presidential election, whose data distribution is taken from 17-year-olds in the high school environment (SMA). The researcher raises this title to determine the perceptions and political participation of ethnic Chinese novice voters and what factors will affect ethnic Chinese novice voters at Methodist-2 Medan High School.

THEORETICAL OVERVIEW

A Perception

Etymologically, perception in English, "perception" comes from the Latin of perception, namely "percipere", which means to receive or take. According to Miriam Budiardjo, politics is a variety of activities in a political system (or state) that involve determining and implementing the system's goals (Budiardjo, 2008). Thus, attitude is one of the determining factors of one's behaviour because attitude is related to one's perception and personality. Attitude is also a mental preparedness

that a person will learn through experience. It influences how he responds to other people and situations that relate to him. Several social, cultural, and environmental factors largely shape it. This set of variables will determine the similarities or differences in the behaviour of these individuals. The voters' attitudes in determining their choice of presidential and vice presidential candidates will be further explained as the determination of these attitudes is very influential on a person's perception, personality, and motivation. Differences in each background, ranging from understanding, psychological conditions, influence from environmental groups, and so on, will help distinguish certain views in determining one's attitude, behaviour, and actions. A person's different perception of an object from another is made possible by cognitive differences that are more subjective.

In connection with the previous thoughts that Almond and Powell put forward, differences in perception will be influenced by cognitive orientation, affective orientation, and evaluative orientation. In this study, cognitive orientation is aimed at understanding a person in terms of politics. It relates to the level of political knowledge and political perceptions of ethnic Chinese novice voters. In contrast to this, affective orientation is about how to behave politically. Analysis of respondents' political attitudes towards participation in general elections and influences social and cultural values in shaping political activities. Another thing with this evaluative orientation is the way a person acts. Respondents' tendency to act towards elections, including the intention to vote, the level of involvement during the campaign, and the tendency to seek information about politics. What is meant by this is the experience gained from previous knowledge as a way of thinking and a way of acting (Regif et al., 2024).

Meanwhile, personality is a set of relative characteristics. Motivation is one of the components of attitude formation, as well as aspects of perception and personality. Referring to some of the opinions that have been expressed, it can be said that changes can influence perception, personality, and motivation in voter attitudes and behaviour, but this depends on the extent to which the intensity of these three factors can affect changes in a person's attitude.

B Political Participation

Political participation is a concept that is already popular in politics. According to Miriam Budiardjo, political participation is an activity or group of people participating actively in political life, namely by choosing state leaders directly or indirectly influencing government policy (Budiardjo, 2008). Based on the definition of political participation, it focuses more on the political activities of the people personally in the political process, and it will influence political policy-making by the government in the context of participating in government administration. The phenomenon of increasing public political participation, as well as several psychiatric cases due to the impact of failure

to occupy political positions, raises fundamental questions of individual motivation to engage in political activity.

The actor's potential is one factor that supports the actor's rational choice, while the resources outside the potential are external supporting factors in determining the actor's political choice. Political goals cannot be separated from political modalities as external resources that individuals must own. From the political process and the political system surrounding the current political reality, individuals are given the relief (political motivation) to be creative in achieving power according to the meaning labelled power. Individual involvement in political activities is no longer only in contact with the fulfilment of individual rights as part of the actors of the Development process. However, it leads to the achievement of symbols accompanied by the satisfaction of pleasure, in contrast, who stated that people prefer certainty over uncertainty. The absence of a theory of preference formation has implications for individual and group behaviour and social outcomes. Certainly, social outcomes depend on an underlying set of preferences. Only when significant progress is made in understanding preferences is the scope or power of rational choice analysis limited. Because preferences are given rather than explained in rational choice analysis, this analysis is better suited to social phenomena that result from strong (relative to competition), stable, and cross-actor individual preferences.

METHODOLOGY

The research methodology used in this study is a quantitative approach. Quantitative research involves collecting data through questionnaires, collecting numerical data, and subsequent analysis using statistical methods. The population in this study is Methodist-2 Medan High School students from grade 12 who are 17 years old and above and have Chinese ethnicity, totalling 353 out of 536 students.

In this study, researchers will take the sample method because this study was taken from a portion of the total number. In writing a quantitative research report contains data collected from questionnaires that will be distributed to Methodist-2 Medan High School students. This is very good with the research I will do, discuss the Political Perceptions of Ethnic Chinese Beginner Voters, especially at Methodist-2 Medan High School. In this study, researchers will only determine one variable: Perceptions and Political Involvement of Ethnic Chinese New Voters at Methodist-2 Medan Private High School in the 2024 Presidential Election.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Interpretation of Political Perception Analysis

New voters, as identified by Laluraga et al. (2023), are a significant demographic group that has a major influence on the development of democratic societies. In addition to their growing population, the potential influence of new voters can also shape electoral outcomes. The following are some points to note:

a. Cognitive Interpretation

Cognitive Orientation is a basic concept that has thoughts and develops the knowledge possessed by the SMA Swasta Methodist-2 Medan students towards politics. For example, I learned about politics, the political system, the role of political institutions, and the process during the 2024 presidential general election. New voters are Indonesian citizens who have been officially registered by the election organizer in the voter list and are participating in the election for the first time. They are registered as voters between 17 and 21. First-time voters in the political realm are politically fluid and prone to changing their stance based on prevailing circumstances and influential variables.

Nonetheless, the presence of new voters in every election is very encouraging, as it helps candidates secure the strategic positions they want to achieve. Typically, first-time voters need more political knowledge and tend to follow popular opinion in their local communities (Al Hamid, & Hamim, 2023). The new voter demographic generally consists of students, college students and young professionals. Over the years, new voters in elections have been the focus of political efforts, those who need guidance and support to fully realize their potential and capabilities, thus enabling them to participate in politics actively.

The upcoming election in February 2024 will be a general election for president, vice president, and legislative candidates in Indonesia. Democratic parties in the country are actively engaged in strategies to secure votes from their supporters. Despite this, the KPU must implement socialization efforts targeting new voters, particularly high school students. A large number of students continue to study independently. Teenagers who are new voters should start by learning about politics within their families. In the family environment, individuals acquire democratic participation skills, including the ability to voice their thoughts, engage in constructive criticism of others' viewpoints, and gracefully accept the results of family decisions. Based on the majority of respondents' responses above, they agree that values and socio-culture influence political attitudes.

b. Affective Interpretation

Affective orientation involves social attitudes and values. In this affective orientation, such as being favoured and cared for, Emotions such as justice, well-being, preferences, and dislikes usually

have a greater impact on decision-making than knowledge and rational thinking. The family greatly influences a child's perspective, especially regarding the intricacies of life, including children's early exposure to political education within the confines of the family space (Maulina & Budiyo, 2021). The family has the power to influence emotionally so that parental factors can shape a person's decision-making behaviour. This is by the majority of respondents who agree that socio-cultural values influence political choices.

The wide availability of social media platforms facilitates access to various information, including the ongoing and often contentious political sphere. Therefore, implementing a process of filtering and critically assessing viral information will effectively reduce the prevalence of corrupt political practices that often occur in Indonesia. It is challenging for new voters to use their ability to make informed choices and gather important information to guide them. The younger generation gradually develops a sense of apathy towards social activities and issues. Polling is common on social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram, where users express and exchange their ideas. The younger generation increasingly realises the importance of engaging in political activities.

c. Evaluative interpretation

This evaluative orientation is due to cognitive orientation, affective orientation, which is a mixture of an action or reaction. Evaluative indicators include the tendency or predisposition to take action or respond to an object, namely towards elections, including the intention to vote, the level of involvement in the campaign, and the tendency to seek political information. Respondents in this study are in an environment that is very open to the use of social media, in line with the surrounding conditions that can facilitate them to obtain various political information; even so, students cannot ensure the validity and test the validity of the political data presented on social media.

The second thing to consider is the influence of the school environment, namely peers or peer groups. Friends can shape political knowledge and education, which are important external factors. Rohom and Wardana argue that trustworthy peers can shape positive ions, perceptions, and behaviours. This behaviour is in line with Rohim and Wardana's research, where most respondents stated that they appreciate and respect the opinions of their peers regarding political attitudes (Rohim & Wardana, 2019). The tendency of their political behaviour is potentially homogeneous with the political behaviour of their peers. Based on this, social factors have more potential to shape students' political attitudes than the influence of teachers who provide less insight and direction for new voters who utilize their voting rights.

Social media is a complementary tool to traditional media in facilitating the operations of various organizations, engaging and inspiring proactive individuals, and facilitating internal political

communication (Pasaribu & Adhani, 2024). Digital media, particularly social media, can positively impact political culture, an important component of the political system. As defined by Almond and Verba, political culture encompasses a comprehensive political perspective, including norms, patterns of political orientation, and general outlook on life. This poses a challenge for any student to obtain accurate information about politics. However, the researcher observed that the respondents were fully aware of the importance of their electoral rights. Most of them already understood the vision and mission of the presidential and vice presidential candidates. This is also evident from the respondents' responses, who agreed that first-time voters should always seek information about the 2024 presidential and vice presidential candidates.

Generation Z, including young individuals and first-time voters, is an interesting demographic to explore, especially high school students who have yet to form their mindset and emotional maturity; this psychological factor can affect sociologically. No text was provided. While social media is the primary source, parents, friends, and schools also exert substantial influence. This phenomenon is called political socialization, specifically to early life events that shape and influence future political behaviour. Psychocultural explanations of early childhood socialization, rooted in parental choice, show how interactions with peers at school and other reference groups reinforce socialization. Alfaruqy suggests that engaging in political activities, such as voting or running for office, is influenced by early socialization patterns and offers opportunities to acquire knowledge in different societies.

Therefore, many studies state that it is crucial to introduce socialization through social media to first-time voters, namely high school students from Generation Z, as it has the potential to influence and change their decision-making. However, this statement is only partially accurate as members of Generation Z are exposed to extensive socialization through social media, especially from their family and peers, before forming their perceptions. Gen Z's political preferences are shaped by the socialization they experience during their formative years as the generation grows and develops with their surroundings. In the online world, social media serves as a validation or affirmation of the evolution of habits carried out continuously by humans. Regarding the post-truth concept, gen-z will only use social media platforms for information retrieval and access. When news contradicts or does not align with one's beliefs or opinions, it often leads to disputes. These interactions occur online and in real life, particularly among high school children and their peers.

Students, especially those of Chinese descent in grade XII at SMA Swasta Methodist-2 Medan, generally have political perceptions because they are socialized by family dynamics in high school. This is normal because children in this stage of development are still strongly influenced by parental involvement regarding political choices that are currently trending. Peer influence mostly serves to

confirm and develop existing beliefs, but social media, although dominant as a source of information, has less impact on individual perspectives. Social media is divided into groups with contrasting viewpoints, resulting in polarization, where people tend to follow the accounts of political figures or followers who openly express their beliefs. In education, teachers play an additional role in the learning process. They maintain a neutral stance towards students' political preferences, as schools prioritize unbiased teaching or teachers do not play a significant role in determining a student's political perceptions or choices.

Interpretation of *Political Participation*

Community political engagement is one way to realize a democratic society where people actively participate in elections (Hemafitria et al., 2021). In this scenario, citizens play an important role in electing state officials who will oversee the government's running and implement policies that will encourage the nation's and state's progress by its goals and objectives. Political participation refers to the tendency of individuals to be actively involved in political affairs by participating in administrative processes, exercising their voting rights, joining various organizations, engaging in discussions on political issues with other parties, taking part in actions and movements, affiliating with independent political parties or organizations, participating in awareness campaigns, and contributing their skills to environmental initiatives.

Meanwhile, the presidential election is recognized globally as an event to elect the country's leader in the next five years as a form of a democratic country through periodic changes in government (Zaman & Misnan, 2021). The main purpose of presidential elections is for the public to participate in making choices for all people in Indonesia. Direct presidential elections are seen as a reflection of the people's sovereign rights given by giving full authority to choose and determine leaders in order to realize Indonesian democracy.

The Chinese community in Indonesia generally resides in cohesive groups in certain areas that align with their preferred way of life, which is generally in an urban environment, although it does not rule out the possibility that some live in the regions but in very small numbers. This argument is based on the lifestyle of the Chinese Community in general, which is dynamic and relies on the economic sector as their professional background. Where trade is a legacy of Chinese ancestors, when Please continue to enter Indonesia. Apart from economic factors, cities' practicality and efficiency are a very strong motivation for individuals to live in metropolitan areas (Karmela & Pamungkas, 2017).

Participation is taking part in an activity (Kusmanto, 2014). *Participation* can be defined as the active involvement of an individual or collective in a larger endeavour. Participation only has meaning if it is accompanied by a sense of responsibility from the party participating in the activity. Chinese

people mostly acquire political knowledge through school activities, starting with Citizenship lessons and involvement in the Intra-School Student Organization (OSIS). Political education can be obtained through involvement in cultural and religious activities, such as attending monasteries, where they often receive guidance from the sub-district government.

Furthermore, the city government conducts seminars in schools. The Chinese community attending SMA Methodist 2 Medan has actively participated in the 2024 Presidential Election by voting directly at the polling stations with a satisfactory participation rate. In addition, the Chinese community showed active involvement because they sympathized with certain presidential and vice presidential candidates whom they believe can lead.

The political participation of the Chinese community contributed to the democratization of Indonesian society in the political field. The concept of *lumber*, which includes aspects of direct, general, free, secret, and democratic, has been embraced by Chinese voters who have just obtained the right to vote in the context of the presidential election as a manifestation of democratic values in politics who attend Methodist-2 Medan Private High School in organizing the 2024 elections. The research results showed that students of Chinese descent at Methodist 2 Medan Private High School actively participated in the 2024 Presidential Election by giving their voting rights directly at the Polling Station (TPS). In addition, the Chinese community also showed an active attitude because of their affection for one of the candidate pairs involved in the election; most respondents also watched the presidential and vice presidential debates on TV channels. However, only a few of them agreed that they chose to become the organizing committee for the 2024 presidential and vice presidential elections. Most respondents also agreed they participated in the 2024 presidential election because they wanted a better chance for Indonesia in the next five years. This research is in line with the findings of Nasution et al., (2020), which show that the involvement of ethnic Chinese individuals in electoral contests is due to their perception of voting rights as a fundamental aspect of their basic rights, which include the right *to* choose and the right to be elected (*the right to choice*) Access to education is a basic right of every individual or citizen that the state must guarantee.

Democracy further stipulates that the 2024 elections allow opposition parties and the public to implement a system of party checks and balances against the incumbent party. While some may view Indonesian democracy as a minimalist democracy, the exercise of minimalist democracy has established the framework for electing and appointing public officials in all democracies. Therefore, the 2024 General Election has been formalized and established as a widespread procedure within the political systems of democracies. About the 2024 General Elections, electoral processes are considered democratic if they meet certain criteria, including adherence to the principles of fairness, peaceful transfer of power, transparent electoral processes, and accountability.

According to this perspective, it is increasingly clear that democracy requires a broad scope of engagement. It has shaped our democratic system into a direct democracy, where individuals directly participate in political decision-making without being represented. Based on the responses of the majority of respondents who agreed that information about politics is very important information for determining political choices. This makes it easier for students to consider the best choice according to their concerns or expectations. The role of social media is very important for beginner voters because, based on the responses of most respondents, they stated that they did not agree that their voting rights were determined by figures or orders from certain individuals in their respective regions. Most respondents also believe that the development and advancement of information technology will affect a more open and democratic presidential election based on the increasingly open flow of information on candidate pairs' vision, mission, and background.

Based on the study results, the respondents of Chinese students at Methodist-2 Medan Private High School participating in the 2024 General Election showed a high spirit of political participation. Their participation is high due to the factor of technological advances and the development of social media, where they can easily access information related to the vision and mission of presidential and vice-presidential candidates and their *track records*; they also watched fragments of the 2024 presidential and vice-presidential debates through their social media. The majority of respondents also agreed that the presidential and vice presidential debates serve as one of their criteria in choosing presidential and vice presidential candidates. Students of Chinese descent, especially those who attend SMA Swasta Methodist-2 Medan, have realized the importance of contributing in the form of voting rights to determine the presidential and vice presidential candidates who will lead Indonesia; they have realized that applying democratic values by using voting rights has participated in politics.

However, based on the respondents' responses, most want to refrain from actively participating, such as being part of the success team; this is quite reasonable because of their student status. However, by voting, the respondents agreed to invite family and friends to participate in the 2024 presidential and vice presidential elections. Thus, it can be concluded that the involvement of students in the politics of Chinese descendants of Methodist-2 Medan Private High School is quite active but also needs to be improved to build their awareness that novice voters have a considerable influence on the implementation of elections and democratic values in the scope of good and correct political participation.

CONCLUSIONS

Most XII-grade SMA Swasta Methodist-2 Medan students already understand Perception and Political Participation. Based on the data obtained, students of Chinese ethnicity in grade XII of SMA

Swasta Methodist-2 Medan understand how to do politics correctly to participate in the 2024 presidential general election.

Understanding politics, students of grade XII of SMA Swasta Methodist -2 Medan are already in the high category, reaching 69.37%. In this case, from the analysis of perception indicators that fall into the high to very high category. In the aspect of cognitive elements, namely having an understanding or knowledge of the meaning of politics and knowing how the process during the 2024 presidential general election, the element of cognitive orientation has a value, namely understanding politics, the role of political institutions, and knowing the process of the presidential general election and affective elements, namely how to take a political attitude by daring to give opinions consistently without being influenced by the surrounding environment. Although there are still those who state that novice voters do not have to be active or do not have to play a role in politics in Indonesia, according to researchers, novice voters who state this will not be separated from the incompatibility of the original conditions in the field with their political understanding.

Political participation refers to a person's personality, especially in class XII ethnic Chinese students at SMA Methodist-2 Medan. Political participation indicators are very high when conducting the 2024 presidential general election. It is proven that XII-grade Chinese students at Methodist-2 High School voted using their voting rights during the 2024 presidential general election, reaching 83.05%. Although they are participating in the presidential general election for the first time this year, they are not influenced by their parents or issues from social media or political figures who come to their area. Thus, it can be concluded that ethnic Chinese XII-grade students at SMA Swasta Methodist-2 Medan exercise their voting rights with their awareness as Indonesian citizens.

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