The Influence of Gender and Education Issues on Youth Political Interest: Evidence from Metro

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Abstrak

In recent decades, the political participation of young people has become a central topic of political discourse due to their role as agents of future social and political change. Political actors employ various strategies to mobilize young voters, highlighting the importance of understanding their political interests. This research aims to explore young people's engagement with political ideas that address future societal needs. A hybrid research method combining quantitative and qualitative approaches was used, including survey data from 130 respondents (determined using the Lemeshow formula) and in-depth interviews with 12 Muslim and 3 non-Muslim participants. The study focuses on the perspectives of vulnerable young students aged 17 to 20 in Metro-Lampung, particularly as first-time voters. The findings reveal that education and gender issues have a stronger and more significant influence on young people's political interest compared to economic issues, which are often emphasized in political campaigns. Qualitative analysis further demonstrates that both Muslim and non-Muslim youths exhibit a preference for political ideas addressing gender equality and educational reforms when making political choices. These results suggest that aligning political agendas with the priorities of young people and addressing emerging societal challenges can effectively enhance youth political engagement and participation.

Keywords: *youth, politics, political interest, Muslim, non-Muslim*

Introduction

As a first-time voters, the young people are frequently perceived as having no political convictions and are thus readily gets caught up in pragmatic conversations about politics. In actuality, though, the young generation is highly perceptive to the political messages that politicians put forth. Young people's political perceptions are built by their own political interests compared to other people's political perceptions (Stattin and Russo 2022). Young people have political sensitivity that stems from their scholastic experiences and battles with societal issues at large. As a result, they are more conscious of practical political discourses that capitalize on their inexperience as voters. This awareness leads to an evaluation of whether political concepts that are campaigned are relevant and meet the demands of young people in terms of increasing capability, competence, and competitiveness.

Youth political engagement has played a strategic role (JIS, Nindastu, and Lubis 2015), which can change political conditions from time to time (Djuyandi and Herdiansah 2018; Saud, Ida, and Mashud 2020). Most young people's involvement in politics is motivated by political interests, which are the primary determinants of youth involvement, participation, and political actors (Andersen et al. 2021). Young people are more concerned with fundamental issues in sustainable development than with matters that are tendentious and directed toward gaining public attention. Political

concepts that are meaningful to young people will have a significant impact on their political choices and participation in politics. Therefore, high political interests and expectations in politics are in line with high levels of youth political participation (Levy and Akiva 2019).

Young people will be particularly interested in debates that are closely related to issues of youth preferences and policy changes based on widespread phenomena (Grasso and Giugni 2022). Compared to the older generation, young people are more often disinterested in conventional politics (Pattie, Seyd, and Whiteley 2003). Alternative political patterns—breaking away from conventional politics and traditional party ways — through unconventional means, using social media, and various forms of innovation and democratic experimentation allow young people to be more involved (Giugni and Grasso 2021). Young people's political claims are calculated differently from those of the older generation, who tend to prioritize local issues and represent much more closely issues of kinship and ethnic identity. Muslim youth, for example, are more oriented toward global issues in a social context, such as racism, Islamophobia, and marginalization (Manning and Akhtar 2021).

Political narratives are inseparable from the context of religion. Islam, in this case, does not limit a person to politics. In conformity with the gender regime, young Muslim women are needed to take part and take on transformative roles (Beta 2019). The involvement of Muslim youth in the political sphere will bring about a new atmosphere where, subjectively, the presence of Muslim youth encourages new political projects that lead to social change. Especially in terms of gender, women's representation will claim an Islamic-gender relationship for progressive feminist agendas (Unal 2022). This kind of youth political interest is motivated by stereotypes about women and the patterns of discrimination they face (Finlay and Hopkins 2019). Meanwhile, in Christian belief, participation in politics is a representation of the power of faith to create change for the better (Sperber, Kaaba, and McClendon 2022).

Studies on the 'linkage' of politics and youth participation that have been carried out so far tend to evaluate: the impact of marital status on young people's political participation (Halimatusa'diyah and Prihatini 2021) and differences in social class affect the level of involvement of young people in politics (Grasso and Giugni 2022). Other studies reveal that the use of symbols in political communication, which influences political involvement and political trust (Susila et al. 2020). On the other hand, discussions with those closest to them, such as parents, friends, and teachers, can impact young people's political beliefs, which decide their involvement in politics (Kahne, Crow, and Lee 2013; Kim and Stattin 2019; Ting and Wan Ahmad 2022).

Several studies underscore the decline in youth political participation (Grasso 2016) and the need for intense political socialization of youth to respond to deficits in youth participation in politics (Earl, Maher, and Elliott 2017). In terms of gender, 75% of young Indonesian voters prefer male candidates to female members of parliament (Prihatini 2018). Although there is a rich literature on youth participation in politics, we have so far lacked data and analysis of more detailed subgroups to discern differences or trends in youth political participation across religions and we know relatively little about what stronger motivations underlie their involvement in politics. Therefore, in this research, we try to analyze what kind of political ideas can accommodate the youth political interests? How do young peoples' political tendencies form? And are the political interest of young Muslim and non-Muslim differents?

By exploring how political concepts influence young people's political interests, this paper tries to "complement the deficiencies" of earlier studies. This inquiry will elicit the political perspectives of young individuals (students) who are first-time voters. The investigation then examines whether non-Muslims have distinct political opinions in order to see if there are disparities. Young people's political opinions are a problem that must be addressed in order to capture their

aspirations and attract their potential voices. Young people's political opinions are becoming more sophisticated year after year; they are no longer indifferent, but they are participating in different ways. They are more discerning in their political choices and navigate a broader spectrum (Manning 2013). Many variables influence young people's political opinions, including religion (Finlay and Hopkins 2019; Unal 2022). Religious standards become a consideration for some youth communities' political perspectives (Eseverri-Mayer and Khir-Allah 2022; Jiang 2022; Liang and Xiao 2022).

This study is based on the notion that young people are more interested in issues that are significant and related to their social difficulties. Issues that are close, interesting, and impactful to young people will have a large influence on their political proclivities (Andersen et al. 2021; Sloam 2016). Several public issues emerge and become political issues throughout Metro City's general election season. This study focuses on three major topics that are important to young people: economic development, specifically the need for job opportunities, equitable economic development, and poverty reduction. Furthermore, excellent education and gender equality are currently being discussed in a variety of settings. Gender equality, a global issue in school, the workplace, religious spaces, socio-cultural organizations, and government, requires significant attention from all sides. Many people believe that politics is a way to solve gender issues. (Finlay and Hopkins 2019). Attention to young people's political interests will be extremely proportional to the proportion of young people who are interested in politics (Russo and Stattin 2017b).

Research Method

This study employs a survey method to assess and gauge young people's interest in politics. This study was conducted on college students from several locations in Metro, Lampung to represent the political perspectives of young people as first-time voters. Beginner voters were chosen at random as things with the ability to affect the political landscape in Metro, Lampung, such as religion, first-time

voters, and education.

In Metro City, there are 23,464 (17-24 year old) young voters scattered across several locations. This study focuses on first-time voters aged 17 to 20 who registered as college students. The sample size in this study is determined using the Lemeshow formula (1997):
$n = \frac{Z^2 \, x \, P \, (1-P)}{d^2} = 96,04 \, (100)$, where n = number of samples, Z = score Z at 95% confidence (1.96), P = maximum estimate 0.5, and d = alpha 10% (0.10). As a result, the minimum sample size for this study is 100 respondents.

A mixed method was utilized in this study to measure the influence of political actors' ideas on young people's political interests. The information was gathered through a questionnaire and managed separately. A stratified random sampling technique was used to choose respondents. The quantitative analysis was carried out using Stata 16.0 software. To test the hypothesis that ideas about gender influence young people's political interests, ordinal logistic regression analysis was used. As a result, this study includes variables that are thought to influence young people's political interests, such as economic growth, educational advancement, and gender equality, as independent variables.

Tabel 1 Variable Description

Variables	Variable Description	Source
Dependent		
Political Interest	Shows some type of attention to political interests (Levy and Akiva 2019), 1 = "very interested", 6 = "not interested".	Survey
Independent		
Education Ideas	Political ideas about education. Respondents who are interested in political ideas related to education. The response to this answer is 1 = "not important", 5 = "very important".	Survey
Gender Ideas	The respondent interests in gender ideas. Responses in the form of 1 = important, 3 = "not very important".	Survey
Economic Ideas	The respondent interests in economic ideas. Responses 1 = "not at all important", 10 = "important"	Survey
Political Discussion	Intensity of political discussion. Responses 1 = "sometimes", 2 = "oftentimes", 3 = "very oftentimes", 4 = "never"	Survey
Personality		
Age	Respondent's age in years	Survey
Gender	Dummy Gender, female = "0" and male "1"	Survey
Social Class	Social class is measured on an ordinal scale, with 1 = upper economic class, 2 = middle economic class, 3 = lower economic class.	Survey
Religion	Respondent's religion, 1 = "Islam", 2 = "Hindu", 3 = "Buddhism", 4 = "Protestant", 5 = "Catholic", 6 = "Others"	Survey

The findings were then investigated further by conducting direct interviews with 12 Muslim and 3 Non-Muslim via WhatsApp. This study employs triangulation to increase the trustworthiness of the data. Triangulation is the technique of studying the same phenomenon utilizing several approaches and data sources (Carter et al. 2014). This research begins with the selection of research tools, such as problem formulation, research question, data collection, processing, and data analysis. The summary statistical test result are presented in Tabel 1 below.

Tabel 1 Dercriptive Statistics Test Results for all Variables

Variables	count	Mean	Sd	min	max
Polin	130	2.623	1.453	1.000	6.000
Edu	130	3.608	1.645	1.000	5.000
Gend	130	1.769	0.475	1.000	3.000
Econ	130	7.046	2.795	1.000	10.000
Poldisc	130	1.485	0.974	1.000	4.000
Age	130	19.123	1.114	17.000	20.000
Male	130	0.162	0.369	0.000	1.000
Soc-class	130	1.823	0.440	1.000	3.000
Rel	130	1.069	0.469	1.000	5.000
N	130				

Results and Discussion
Young People's Engagement in Politics in Lampung

The permanent voter list in Lampung is divided into five age groups and generations. This age group is scattered in various places and has diverse backgrounds in both religion, education, social class, and cultural customs. The young generation under 24 years (Gen Z) in Metro-Lampung Election reaches 23.464. The population in this research is unknown because the research focuses on beginner voters ages 17-20 who are registered as students. The Lemeshow formula is used to chose the sample.

The amount of young people voting in the election is a niche that has the ability to reshape Lampung's political map. To attract first-time voters with limited information, political education is required. The political understandings that are developed will have a significant impact on young people's political participation.

Source: KPU Metro

According to Grasso (2014) young people are a generation that is unlikely to be involved in official or non-formal political objectives. Meanwhile, those involved in politics are not apathetic, frequently engaging in alternative politics such as protesting, demonstrating, signing petitions, becoming volunteers, and engaging in political debates in the digital world (Sloam 2016), such as protesting against new laws that marked the structure of democracy and contribution to politics (Saud and Margono 2021).

There are several stories of young people being uninterested in politics (Amnå and Ekman 2014; Melo and Stockemer 2014). This suggests that many young people prefer not to participate in general elections or political debates that are not in their favor. This propensity is facilitated by circumstances that do not allow them to engage in deeper political conversations due to ideological disagreements (Levinsen and Yndigegn 2015). Their attention to politics is heavily influenced by the environment, through discussions with their parents, friends, and teachers (Ting and Wan Ahmad 2022), and consumption of information about politics through social media (Maamari and Zein 2014; Thorson, Xu, and Edgerly 2018).This situation must undoubtedly be addressed in an effort to promote young people's political engagement, by politicians, academics, the government, and the general election organizing committee.

Youth Politics – in Education, Gender, Economic, and Politics Discussion

In youth discourse, the interests and political thoughts of young people will ultimately determine the political focus of politicians. They often choose not to contest general elections because of political ideals that are irrelevant to the situation of young people. The table below describes the political situation of young people in Lampung, related to three political discourses (education, gender, and economy).

Tabel 2 The influence of political ideas on young people's political interests

Variables	Polin	Polin	Polin	Polin	Polin
Edu	0.201*	0.208*	0.222*	0.254*	0.251*
	(0.120)	(0.120)	(0.124)	(0.133)	(0.134)
Gend	0.852**	0.848**	0.975**	0.971**	0.943*
	(0.418)	(0.421)	(0.466)	(0.488)	(0.492)
Econ	-0.015	-0.010	-0.014	-0.023	-0.022
	(0.065)	(0.066)	(0.066)	(0.068)	(0.068)
Dispol	-0.150	-0.143	-0.175	-0.161	-0.168
	(0.211)	(0.212)	(0.213)	(0.210)	(0.211)
		(0.167)	(0.173)	(0.174)	(0.175)
Male			-0.765	-0.576	-0.588
			(0.508)	(0.547)	(0.547)
soc_class				0.587	0.593
				(0.521)	(0.523)
Rel					0.189
					(0.136)
Observations	130	130	130	130	130
Log pseudolikelihood	-135.1	-134.6	-133.5	-132.7	-132.5
Pseudo R-squared	0.0411	0.0446	0.0526	0.0584	0.0596

Source: 2023 data processing results

Polin = interested in politics
Edu   = political ideas in the field of education
Gend = political ideas in the field of gender
Econ = political ideas in the field of economic development
Poldisc = Discussion Politics

The findings of this regression test assess the impact of political concepts concerning gender, education, and economy on people's interest in political ideas, which leads to their participation in political conversations in their daily activities as citizens. The three issues (education, gender, and economy) yielded inconclusive outcomes. Ideas about economic development in which income equality, job creation, poverty reduction, and welfare increase have a negative effect on young people's interest in politics indicate that young people are not interested in politicians' economic development issues and ideas.

Meanwhile, ideas about equalizing the quality of education, the level of education, and the creation of educational facilities have positive and significant impact on the political interests of young people in the sphere of education. In gender topics, inclusive gender equality ideals have a favorable impact and significant on young people's political interests. Political beliefs about gender are, in certain ways, of concern to young people and are likely to impact their political choices. This demonstrates that young people's focus is beginning to turn toward concerns of gender equality. Politicians that frequently discuss gender issues have a wonderful opportunity to gain the support of young people.

In in-depth interviews, US, AAU, and EA as female students, RK and SS as male students stated that they believed politicians' political ideas were less relevant to the needs of young people. To receive the realization of Indonesia Emas' goals young people require a high level of education and gender equality in many fields and social levels. Compared to economic development, which is almost many politicians discussed, issues of gender equality and education should receive more attention from politicians as response to the needs of young people. This methods are a way to atrracting young people attention to vote in general elections.

Many factors influence an individual's political opinions, including income, occupation, education, gender, religion, ethnicity, and marital status (Stockemer 2017). In digital age, the influence of easily consumable information distributed on social media has a significant impact on political choices (Middaugh, Clark, and Ballard 2017). Political concerns are being constructed interactively with the increased usage of social media, particularly ahead of the general election agenda. The increased political participation of young people in the 2012 Jakarta gubernatorial

election demonstrates the importance of Consumption of knowledge and political interests awakens young people's political opinions. In this situation, political interests are the primary motivator for young people's participation in politics, whether as participants or as political agents (Andersen et al. 2021). Young people are a very crucial component of the political map, and their goals should be heard (Hikmah, Rasyid, and Akhmar 2020).

Many young people's political interests are motivated by social necessities and current events. They have opinions and bases for making decisions that are important to them. Young people want clearer ideas about how to overcome societal challenges (Sloam 2014). This tendency demonstrates that young people have political independence.

Political Interest of Young Muslim

The interest of young people and students in topics raised by politicians encourages them to get more involved in politics. The interest of young Muslims in Metro Lampung, on the other hand, indicates a shift in the issue. They are more interested in topics that debate gender in many ways than in matters of economic development, which have occasionally become the focus of many politicians. As students, young people in Metro Lampung believe that gender issues should be handled extensively in the political arena.

Young people's perspectives on practical politics shift as their knowledge grows. Open access to political knowledge via media channels, as well as their receptivity to future ideas, provide the foundation for young people to recognize basic issues that should be addressed, such as gender. Gender equality is a critical component of achieving social justice and a key topic in sustainable development. In the workplace, there exist rules ensuring gender equality, profesional growth, and equal economic possibilities for men and women, which can have a substantial impact on long-term development (Leal Filho et al. 2022; Pimpa 2019). Meanwhile, the problem of gender inequality in education, although it has become a public concern and has become the basis for making gender equality policies, there are still contradictions that are the basis of policies creating inequality (Mercan Küçükakýn and Engin-Demir 2022). Gender inequality has negative effect on the income statistically, especially in North African and Middle East (Baliamoune-Lutz and McGillivray 2015).

Currently what is needed to solve gender issues is political power that can voice and implement gender-responsive policies. Gender equality in the world of work, household and social environment is an important policy. These policies can be an effort to support women's rights, reduce gender inequality, and create justice for women and men alike" (RN and SA).

The range of inequality issues that have surfaced indicates that this is a major issue that must be discussed. Gender policy must be constructed and implemented in response. DDK, in an in-depth interview, explained that when all parties, regardless of gender, are given equal rights, society can flourish harmoniously and productively. Attention to gender issues will have a significant impact on many elements of life, including economic growth, enhancing the quality of education, and influencing political events.

> "The wide gender gap and the stigmatization of women being tasked with completing household chores and serving their husbands are the fundamental issues that we must address carefully" (F).

Women's existence is socially positioned as a party that is treated differently (Ali et al. 2022). Many parties believe that women have an obligation to fulfill domestic duties in order to assist their husbands and care for their children, regardless of employment or career responsibilities (Reilly 2021). Cultural influences and biased readings of religious scriptures are frequently used to build this social construction (Aziz, Abdullah, and Prasojo 2020; Faizah 2016). This fundamental concept frequently produces inequity against women (Adisa, Abdulraheem, and Isiaka 2019).

Such social phenomena have happened and evolved in numerous places, resulting in extremely complex challenges for women. Gender-friendly policies and particular

attention from numerous parties, including politicians, are required. Gender issues that are not adequately addressed will almost certainly cause problems and serve as the foundation for problems in other professions.

> "Gender issues frequently cause problems in society, both economically and educationally. Gender is frequently employed as a metric for economic activity, such as job openings. This conveys the appearance that gender, rather than competence, determines the task or job" (E).

Women are frequently targets of inequality and discrimination around the world (Fattore et al. 2020; SteelFisher et al. 2019). Women face several options as a result of various forms of discrimination. Women face discrimination in the domestic sphere of the family (Cerrato and Cifre 2018), gender construction in public space (Siddiqi 2021), in education (Assoumou-ella 2019; Cooray and Potrafke 2011; Evans, Akmal, and Jakiela 2021; Klasen 2002), and in the workplace (Bastian, Metcalfe, and Zali 2019; Hardies, Lennox, and Li 2021; Kim et al. 2020; Manzi 2019; Pitot et al. 2022).

Gender issues are frequently the foundation for how other aspects are created. Women's education is one of the gender concerns that the public frequently dismisses. Women do not require a high level of education.

> "I am particularly interested in gender issues that have historically discredited women. One issue that I believe is critical to address is that women do not require higher education, which is still evolving in society" (N).

Many factors contribute to women's inability to obtain an education, including a lack of familial support, social stigma, and religious norms (Barakat 2021; Nugroho, Anzany, and Fajri 2023). Patriarchal culture and paternalism create difficulties for women to obtain educational chances (Omwami 2011). Education is as crucial for women as water is for humans (Burridge, Maree Payne, and Rahmani 2016). Education can extend a woman's perspective, allowing her to empower herself, act, influence others, and achieve goals (Rao and Sweetman 2014). According to Valle (2022) schools or educational institutions have an ethical responsibility to create a culture of gender equality and to become an entity that has a commitment to combat gender violence. As a result, investing in women's education will have a positive impact on economic growth (Hassan and Cooray 2015).

The public and politicians attention has so far been towards economic interests. Even though there are not a few who emphasize gender issues, gender issues are still not finished.

> "A lot of political attention is focused on economic, while politicians rarely pay attention to gender issues. There are numerous gender concerns that require attention and evaluation, but few parties prioritize gender issues" (NCK).

The operation of democratic patterns in open politics will have a significant impact on support for gender equality (Glas et al. 2019). Politics eventually leads to the establishment of an adrocentric state, which results in the formation of supreme authority and hegemony over women (Sapkota and Dahal 2022). A critical response is the gender debate in politics. However, incorporating gender problems into politics is fraught with difficulties. These include area fragmentation, knowledge hierarchies, the marginalization of mainstream feminist and political science analysts, a shifting relationship between academia and society, and growing hostility to gender studies (Ahrens et al. 2021).

Political Interest of Young non-Muslim

Religion, while influencing one's political choices and ideas, does not limit political choices. Political opinions are formed as a result of conversations and judgments of government performance. In the meantime, societal challenges have their own impact. The subject of gender disparity and women's political representation has become a hot topic in the community.

> "I choose a candidate based on their educational background and ability to accommodate the participation of young people, particularly women" (S).

The involvement of young people in gender problems, in turn, provides an opportunity for politicians to run campaigns. Young people are not coerced to vote for future leaders from the same group or with the same ideals, according to Church teachings. Young people are granted the right to vote and to join or become opponents.

> "I chose based on his ideas, including ideas that accommodate gender problems" (EDM).

Young people's political opinions on gender equality reflect their political preferences for candidates and political parties who address gender issues. Some economically left-wing political parties emphasize equality principles (Saha and Weeks 2022), such as supporting minority rights and women's problems including equal pay, and eliminating gender-based violence against women (Bakker et al. 2015).

Religion, in this case, can be a basis for the construction of one's view of gender. In Protestant teachings, religious affiliation has a positive relationship with gender equality (Yeganeh 2021). In a sense, Protestantism encourages the formation of equal relationships between men and women. Religion, in this case Christianity, in Biblical Equality categorizes violence against women as an attitude of deviation from the equality established by God (Whitnah 2022).

> "In terms of gender, we do not regard women as distinct beings. We shall be looking for applicants who are sensitive to the concerns of women" (T).

Political participation, according to Christians, signifies the power of faith, which leads to positive changes (Sperber et al. 2022). Gender issues are political topics that young people frequently address. Gender equality is a key topic that can accommodate the political choices of urban Muslim and non-Muslim youth (Sen 2019). Gender impacts were discovered to influence both girls' and boys' political interests (Shala and Grajcevci 2018). In this situation, voter preferences favor female candidates who are perceived to be capable of addressing equal gender concerns (Wäckerle 2022).

Gender discrimination at work is still prevalent in several occupations. This circumstance necessitates religious intervention in order to control and analyze gender discriminating processes (Mansouri and Perlow 2022). However, it is not uncommon for a religion born of patriarchal social construction to become an impediment to achieving gender equality in politics (Glas et al. 2019). The same thing happens in Islam, where politicians can use gender problems to target their people. The advantage for female politicians running for politics is that they can emphasize gender concerns. They can target women voters and overcome cultural, institutional, and structural barriers by focusing on these concerns (Mahsun, Elizabeth, and Mufrikhah 2021)

This research shows that the political views of young people are not influenced by political ideas related to aspects of economic development. Young people in Metro Lampung, who are, incidentally, students, are more interested in political ideas related to issues of gender equality and education. Women basically have the same status, position, and rights as men, women have the right to get quality education, and they have the same position in the economy, social environment, religion, and culture. Young people, both Muslims and non-Muslims, are more interested in ideas that accommodate issues of gender equality as part of the political discourse of politicians or political parties. This finding emphasizes that young people tend to match the focus of political parties and politicians with their political identity (Kristensen and Solhaug 2017). This view provides evidence that is different from the tendency of young Indonesian voters, who are based on aspects of religion, ethnicity, and gender (preferring men over women) (Parinduri 2019; Prihatini 2018). These results also show that youth voters' preferences do not focus on academic degrees or candidate appearances (Sirait, Afrimadona, and Eriyanto 2022).

The findings of this study show that today's young, both Muslim and non-Muslim, are

interested in gender issues and equality in education. As a result of politicians' focus on gender and education issues, the political landscape will become more dynamic, and young people will be more likely to engage and vote. These two issues are consistent with almost all countries' concerns about improving education (Álvarez-Otero and de Lázaro y Torres 2018; Burridge et al. 2016; Kopnina 2020) and promoting gender equality (Leal Filho et al. 2022; Sen 2019; Thapa Karki and Xheneti 2018), as conceptualized in sustainable development. Young people's interest in these two issues indicates that their attention, in line with the knowledge and insight they have developed, is focused on a more competitive future and resolving critical problems such as gender inequality (both in the world of work and in the social construction of society, in religious contexts, and others) and the unequal quality of education received by children, which greatly influences the development of knowledge and skills.

Young people in this scenario are politically interested in political topics and occurrences (Levy and Akiva 2019). As a result of satisfying young people's desires, politicians can turn them into political agents with the ability to influence those around them. Young people can become political agents who interact with influential people in their communities (Stattin and Russo 2022). Interactions and dialogues with others around them, particularly parents, teachers, and friends, shape young people's political beliefs (Barrett and Brunton-Smith 2014). Young people's political interests occasionally determine the outcome of political debates (Kim and Stattin 2019; Russo and Stattin 2017a). The bulk of young people, who are students, tend to compute political opinions based on their knowledge and logic. Membership in gender-related dialogues, intake of material from social media, and membership in communities that prioritize gender discourse will all have a significant impact on their political judgments. Priority on this topic reflects a political characteristic that demonstrates the candidate's competence. This is crucial for influencing students' political ideas and choices (Coffé and von Schoultz 2021).

This interest stems from the difficulties that surround them, which heighten young people's awareness of gender equality. This point of view also becomes the political identity of young people, influencing their political choices. The findings of this study provide preliminary evidence that gender issues have been and continue to be discussed among young people. Gender discrimination in the workplace, patriarchal gender stereotypes, gender-biased readings of religious scriptures, violence against women, discrimination in educational institutions, and other concerns necessitate policies that address women's difficulties.

Conclusion

It turns out that young students' interest in politics is not limited to economics. Students are more interested in gender and education issues in politics because they need an emphasis on economic development policies such as expanding employment possibilities, fostering equitable development, and promoting excellent economic welfare. This curiosity is sparked by confrontations with social reality, which reveals that there is still a significant gender disparity between men and women. The existing gender imbalance is at the basis of other issues, such as those in the business and education. Gender issues in politics are being explored not only by young Muslim, but also by Non-Muslim. These two religious groups share the belief that gender concerns in politics must be addressed. This tendency highlights that, in addition to serving as the foundation for young people's political beliefs, it also allows young people to get more involved in politics.

The confrontation between gender issues in social reality and gender issues in academia causes young people to acquire a gender-responsive mentality. Politics is inextricably linked to gender issues, and it must respond to them in order to gain the voices of young people. As first-time voters, this choice is a wonderful place to start because their sensitivity to current events awakens their interest in politics. Academic studies and community dialogues help them build a critical analysis of evolving

gender issues.

This survey is restricted to those aged 17 to 20 and contains a small sample size of respondents from a city, including Muslims and Non-Muslims. This survey did not take into account the perspectives of many people, particularly young non-students and young entrepreneurs. This allows for further research to be conducted by looking at various views of young people in order to see the political tendencies of young people on a broader scale and from a different perspective.

Acknowledgement

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