

THE INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL EDUCATION ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AWARENESS AMONG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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Abstract

This study examines the influence of political education on political participation awareness among people with disabilities in Indonesia. Inclusive political education is believed to be able to improve the understanding of people with disabilities regarding their political rights, the electoral process, and the importance of active involvement in democratic life. Through a descriptive qualitative approach and literature review, this study found that political education delivered through various methods, such as socialisation, lectures, and accessible materials, can increase knowledge, self-confidence, and motivation among people with disabilities to participate in elections and other political activities. However, there are still challenges in the form of limited facilities, materials that are not fully accessible, and social and psychological barriers. Therefore, an integrated strategy involving the government, election organisers, disability organisations, and the wider community is needed to ensure that political education is accessible in a fair and sustainable manner, so that the political participation of persons with disabilities can increase in both quantity and quality.

Keywords: Political Education, Political Participation Awareness, Disability.

Introduction

Political participation is one of the main pillars of a democratic system that guarantees the involvement of all citizens, without exception, in the public decision-making process. In this context, political participation is not limited to voting in elections, but also includes involvement in various other political activities, such as becoming a legislative candidate, election observer, and involvement in civil society organisations (Nugroho, 2024). However, in reality, not all groups in society have the same opportunities and access to actively participate in political life, including people with disabilities.

Persons with disabilities are individuals who experience long-term physical, intellectual, mental, and/or sensory limitations that, in their interactions with the environment, may encounter barriers and difficulties in participating fully and effectively alongside other citizens based on equal rights. Persons with disabilities often face