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Research Article

### Facing the Dilemmas on Voting Behavior Amongst Youth in Malaysia Election

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#### ABSTRACT

Youth involvement is the main key to support the needs of human resources in the development of the national economy. Youth generations also have a high potential to contribute positively to themselves, their families and the community. Furthermore, youth involvement is not only important in generating economic growth alone, but their services also are needed in an increasingly complex political field. Through participation in the political arena, the youth will be exposed to management and leadership skills. Moreover, the involvement of youth in politics is a major issue in Malaysia as a developed country because of the issue of youth participation in the political arena is also getting special attention and debated in advanced countries. It was caused by youths aged between 15 and 24 years less clear about their interests and participation in the political system. In brief, such a scenario would have a significant impact on political developments if youth is not involved in the political party and elections. Thus, this study attempts to identify the extent to which the youth voting behavior in Malaysia election.

*Keywords:* Malaysian Election, Voting Behavior, Youth

#### INTRODUCTION

Throughout the history of Malaysia, young people have played a significant role in the political arena. According Franklin D Roosevelt, in one of his speech, once said, "We need not be able to build a future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." Defining the next generation of youth is the future and the country's political system. Therefore, it is their responsibility to engage in politics for the continuation of the country's transformation agenda towards the realization of 2020 vision, in order to ensure a peaceful, stable and progressive. PRU-13 proved to be an important starting point in the history of Malaysian politics. So

many youth who vote to settle the rights of democracy respectively? A total of 44% of the total electorate is under the age of 40 that youth. While 37% of the total voters are first-time voters, comprising the youth mostly. In addition, the youth has a critical role in shaping the national-political aspects, for many more years to come. Interesting transformation trend can see into the minds of the youth where more youth involvement in politics to contribute their views and opinions for the Betterment of their country. Organizations like Barisan National Youth Volunteer (BNYV), for example, enables youths engage and provide space for them to channel the opinions and ideas

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(Malaysian Youth Development Research Institute, 2013)

Through the development of Malaysian politics that is becoming increasingly widespread, it has opened the eyes of political parties closer to the side with young people. Young people are the main pillars to the continuation of a political party. The relationship of authority, especially in creating harmony between the public and the Government as well as among the party members will lead to success in something the Administration,. According to Datuk Fuad Hassan, Director General of the Department of Special Affairs (JASA), youth is the most important assets of the Government and the opposition, particularly in the General election, winning the 13th because this group accounted for 77.9 percent of registered voters. Therefore, parties compete to be working hard to ensure that this group provides support to their party.

#### *Problem Statements:*

Youth is an important group in the country, and they are vital to the future of society and state. The importance of youth is not only the people they are many and as primary energy in the process of development and construction of a united Malaysia, but also very dependent on the youth active, disciplined and progressive.

Commitment of youth in the work may be influenced by factors in turn will influence the youth organization they will work as a member of either the youth or youth organization under the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Many scholars and researchers agree that the commitment of organizational is closely related to the needs of youth. The question arises why many of them are not satisfied with the government and the communities around them. Youth and adults are a problem often does things that are out of bounds, acting wild and violate laws and regulations. Youths are mostly seen not join any organization that can guide them toward goodness as youth organizations, associations, clubs participated or youth organization working under the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and so is a very important element is formed and maintained to ensure their full commitment in providing the best in performance of their duties. Voter participation in elections is necessary because the voters are decisive to win an election. General Election 13 (GE-13), which took place on May 5, 2013, has seen a greater awareness among the public to exercise their responsibility to vote. People have now realized and wanted a change in the state government based on the rule of a fair and transparent manner. This awareness is not only happening to voters, but also for voters outside of local children studying or working in the main cities such as in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Johor Bharu, and others. The return of the local kids to go back to vote is one of the contributing factors of victory in some areas. Rural voters are mostly young people, students

and middle class who have their ideological opposition. This group is exposed to a source of political information through the wider use of new media or the internet.

Youth is the backbone of an organization and a catalyst for development of the country that plays a role as a connector for legacy the next generation is seen coming deviate from the right path. Some of them have been doing activities in the wild; the question is why these things are becoming a craze among the youth of Malaysia. Good management and a good commitment to safety, economy and politics should be played by all levels of the organization, department or ministry that is truly superior and strong. To provide a skilled youth, it takes time and great expense. Lately seen the youth skilled and semi-skilled workers engaged in negative symptoms, discontinuation of service trained, uniformed bodies, the technical unit of the organization and so on. Loss of youth directly can cause less effective organization either in the form of lack of productivity and also in the form of an increase in direct costs of the organization of human resource investment, employment, training, selection and preparation of employees (Recruitment) [7]. Tendency to stop due to disciplinary actions and attitudes of youth if not analyzed, evaluated and retained should lead the government and private organizations are always on the loss of skilled labor but the main focus is the preparation of assignment more jobs in various fields. Therefore, this study was to identify the extent of youth voting behavior in Election involves parliamentary constituency in Kedah.

#### *Research Objectives:*

Based on the above problems and issues, arises the question of the basis of the objectives of this study are as follows:

To determine the differences in the voting behavior in the election among the youth by age, gender and education level.

- a. To determine the relationship between the security of the voting behavior in the election among the youth
- b. To determine the relationship between economic factors in the voting behavior in the election among the youth.
- c. To determine the relationship between the leadership in the voting behavior in the election among the youth.
- d. To determine the relationship between communication with voting behavior in the election among the youth.
- e. To identify the influence of a factor of safety, economy, leadership and communication within the voting behavior in the election among the youth.

*Literature Review:**Voting Behaviour:*

Studies on voting behavior and perceptions of party leadership such as this, though considerably important, are rarely prioritized when scrutinizing voting patterns and campaign outcomes. For example, research on this particular cohort that this article revolves around have yet to take popularity. Means [20] in his study of the General Elections in 1969, 1974, 1978 and in 1982 deduced an absolute correlation between the ethnicity factor and the strength of its influence on voters. He also discussed the General Elections in 1969 were open displays of racial and ethnic prejudice by the political parties had provoked strong racial sentiment and emotion among the general public, leading to the worst racial riots in the history of Malaysian Independence on the 13th of May 1969.

In a similar case study, the 'Young Voter Support Trends' project Shamsul Amri found the younger voters to be more flexible and less interested in political happenings, rendering them more sensitive toward the issue of leadership. The younger voters were more inclined to root for Datuk Seri Mohd. Najib Tun Abd. Razak (Prime Minister and BN Chairman) than Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim (Opposition Leader and De Facto leader of People Justice Party). The transformation program undertaken at the time by the BN administration did seem to the voters as more meaningful than the regime change constantly promised by Anwar. Even so, a large number of voters were undecided at the time as most of them were non-Malays and lived in the cities. Thus, the urban constituencies depended much on these fence-sitters.

Behavioral studies among the younger voters, such as the ones mentioned above, had gained popularity among the Western scholars as well. Maggini [19] had scrutinized voting patterns among the young voters in Italy. This study disproved the reliability and relevance of the Sociological Model in understanding such voting trends, as the results were more oriented toward factors such as individual choice, attitudes, values, interests and levels of participation in politics. Maggini [19] had also discovered that the definitions of right and left wing politics had changed. The youngest cohort, especially the women voters, rarely attended church, whether they were young working adult women or students. These younger voters who were active in demonstrations, had a profound interest in politics, held post-materialist values and were neutral about issues such as homosexuality, had a strong tendency to vote for left-wing parties as compared to the more conservative right wing political factions. Therefore, right wing and left wing politics were no longer focused on economic matters as they were before.

The young voters who placed their support on left wing parties were at the time, in need of a more inclusive and universal worldwide as compared to

the limited, constrained and anti-universal right wing parties. Wiese on a similar note had researched the voting behavior of the university students in South Africa. His study had sought to illustrate the validity of the Western behavioral models in dissecting voting patterns among the students at South African universities. He had found the Sociological Model and the Michigan Model most feasible and relevant in such a setting. Being so, the Media Dominance Model had also illuminated its applicability as the students were seen to be alert and sensitive toward media reports. In sincere reciprocation, the media accepted their opinions and criticism of the government as well.

In Canada, studies on voter turnout have been based on a number of survey and administrative data sources. Examples include the Equality, Security and Community Survey, last conducted in 2002/2003 and the Canadian Election Study, conducted after most elections since 1965. Elections Canada has also provided estimates of voting patterns by age group and province based on the official ballot count for every election since 2004 [10].

According to Ghazali there are several approaches to discussing behavior voters during elections. Named first sociological approach which emphasizes the status, socioeconomic (education, income, and class), religion, ethnicity, and place. The second approach called party identification refers to the bond and loyalty to a party and on this basis that a party was then elected in the elections. Loyalty is also formed through the process political socialization, processes that lowers and instill the values and norms of a generation to generation. Therefore, according to Campbell, Converse, Miller and Stokes the longer a person has been identified with a party, his loyalty to the party also getting stronger while the third approach is the rational choice approach popularized by Downs. Therefore, according to Campbell, Converse, Miller and Stokes the longer a person has been identified with a party, his loyalty to the party also getting stronger while the third approach is the rational choice approach popularized by Downs. This approach assumes voters act rationally when making the decision to get out and vote when making a choice when voting. If voters feel they do not get any benefit by choosing any contesting candidates or parties, then voters would not turn out to vote. Because it is based on economic considerations, cost, and out Voting excess of returns or benefits to be obtained.

It took a sociological approach to discussing issues and voter behavior. It is because this approach emphasizes some of the main problems that affect the status mainly ethnic Malays socioeconomic issues such as cost of living, poverty, education, and, etc. According to Ghazali (2006), there are three aspects that influence the choice in Malaysia, namely the issue of a trusted and impact, encouraging change and economic leadership.

According to Junaidi and Mohd Fuad, in a study on the needs of youth and political opinion in Constituency Muar, Johor finds that from the economic aspect, the youth in the area wants a job that suits their qualifications as well as the level of wages / salaries in accordance with the current economic situation. For the social aspect, they claim to be broadband /internet expanded in addition to issuing appropriate activities with the soul of youth, such as sports and leisure. Aspect of education should be increased skills center as well as scholarships to deserving students and require further, for they hoped that the political aspect of having leaders who are honest, clean, trustworthy and conscious citizens / voters next should be given more room to play politics. The next voice their opinions about the current political. From the standpoint of environmental, they advised the authorities to move the cooperative activities among local communities in addition to beautifying the landscape to be more fresh and cheerful. The study also found that youths in the area tend to Parliament Muar support BN, 66.8 percent in the state and 67.6 percent of Parliament.

Mohd Fuad *et al.* [5] in a study of political development in elective DUN Batang AI, Sarawak found that 88.6 percent of respondent's youth / young state BN will win the election against PKR 3.6 per cent. Once the election is held, BN won with a majority of its revenue increased more than doubled, from 806 votes to 1,854 votes and political development is proving sentiment remained in the area because development can only be carried out by choosing the party to rule a country.

Reviews Elsie *et al.* also found that respondents from youth to choose candidates spirited and friendly people, followed by leadership personality is good, honest and trustworthy and not corrupt practices. For political parties, they will choose the party that fought transparency, justice, human rights and anti-corruption as well as the ability to lead the development and eradicate poverty. Elsie *et al.* in a study in the constituency of Muar and Batu Pahat, Johor found that internet use among youth is quite encouraging, with 54.0 percent (Kluang) and 33.7 per cent (Muar). The internet is used to obtain political information.

However, the search for political information varies by educational background, age, ethnicity, gender, income, occupation and location in urban areas. Effects of internet also affect the results and support as well as a significant impact on the 2008 general election, particularly among young voters in urban areas and this will influence the voting pattern in the forthcoming general election.

Studies of public opinion are a popular study for analyzing perceptions youth. Grenfell is one of the researchers who has conducted a poll in Malaysia in 1959 on the use of media early mass. He finds that public opinion polls developed with the

establishment of the index media in 1967. His studies can prove that the mass media have a profound influence on voters, especially which do not have a good level of education, for party support campaigning through the mass media. Gomez attributed the BN victory in the 1995 election with four main factors, namely 4M (Media, Money, Machinery & Mahathir). All of these factors favor owned by BN. This gives the advantage to the BN with experience ruled Malaysia since independence until now and can evaluate the actual direction of political Malaysian voters in each election more to bribe development alone. Faridah states military faction views the positive to agenda and political development of the country. Factor socioeconomic and environmental impact of political participation member military. Meanwhile, Norlaila who studied the perceptions and political participation among teachers in Sik, Kedah found that teachers have the perception of politics and have positive on high political participation. Malay political participation of teachers in the area Port Dickson also affects the pattern of high and local politics.

According to Ghazali, there are several approaches to discussing the behavior of voters during elections. Named first sociological approach that emphasizes socioeconomic status (education, income, and class), religion, ethnicity, and place. The second approach called party identification refers to the bond and loyalty to a party and on this basis that a party was then elected in the elections. Loyalty is also formed through the process political socialization, a process that lowers and instill values and norms from one generation to another. Therefore, according to Campbell, Converse, Miller and Stokes longer a person has been identified with a party, his loyalty to the party is growing while the third approach is the rational choice approach popularized by Downs. This approach assumes voters act rationally when making the decision to get out and vote when making a choice when voting. If voters feel they do not get any benefit by selecting any candidate or party contesting, then voters would not turn out to vote. This is because based on economic considerations, cost, and out to vote excess of returns or benefits to be obtained. It took a sociological approach to discussing issues and voter behavior. This is because this approach emphasizes several key questions that affect the socioeconomic status of the people, especially the Malays as the issue of the cost of living, poverty, education, and so on. According to Ghazali, M (2006), there are three aspects that affect elections in Malaysia, namely the issue of the reliability and impact, encouraging change and economic leadership.

#### *Leadership:*

Studies on voting behavior and perceptions of party leadership such as this, though considerably important, are rarely prioritized when scrutinizing

voting patterns and campaign outcomes. For example, research on this particular cohort that this article revolves around have yet to take popularity. Means [20] in his study on the General Elections in 1969, 1974, 1978 and in 1982 deduced a certain correlation between the ethnicity factor and the strength of its influence on voters. He also discussed the General Elections in 1969 were open displays of racial and ethnic prejudice by the political parties had provoked strong racial sentiment and emotion among the general public, leading to the worst racial riots in the history of Malaysian Independence on the 13th of May 1969.

Mazni in Kamsiah through his study of 207 respondents from five electronic manufacturing organization in Kedah find a significant relationship between extrinsic rewards (partnerships, unions, association's supervisory leadership pay, promotion, working environment and management) with commitment to the organization. Mazni found significant differences in commitment by personal characteristics such as age, length of service and position, unless gender. Employee benefits showed a significant effect on organizational commitment.

#### *Safety:*

A study conducted by Ahmad Jama 'Amin (2000), which reviewed the stage political awareness and perception among trainee teachers at the Teachers College Female Malay, Melaka (MPPM) found that perceptions of teacher trainees MPPM assume full political world play and hoaxes. This is because they can be politically manipulated described and used by a handful of political activists for their personal interests. Therefore, he found that many environmental influences are shaping the behavior patterns of trainee teachers in determining their attitude towards politics. Meanwhile, Norlaila who studied the perceptions and political participation among teachers in Sik, Kedah, found that teachers have a positive perception of politics and have a high political participation.

#### *Economic:*

According Junaidi and Mohd Fuad [4], in a study on the needs of youth and political opinion in Parliament Muar, Johor, found that aspects of economic, youths in the area wanted jobs appropriate to their qualifications as well as the level of wages / salary in accordance with the conditions the current economy. According to Amira Subtle also asserts "government allocation is too small compared with the number of local youth. Although many other government agencies to provide assistance to youth, but strict conditions imposed for each loan / aid and should be reviewed. Therefore, the concept of people first must align with youth to ensure their support for the government has not changed.

#### *Communication:*

According Adam and Ferber reviewed the list of call votes of the members of the Board of Elections Texas and find a balanced view of the vote in the area. His study of voting patterns in an area closely associated with the delivery of new or explanation of issues with political parties contesting for the issue mainly local issues, more profound impact on voters to choose which party is relevant to an issue. That is why, communication is an important variable that can influence voting behavior especially among the youth. Grenfell is one of the researchers who conducted a poll in Malaysia in early 1959 on the use of mass media. He found that public opinion polls developed by the establishment media index in 1967. His research also proves that mass media can have a profound influence on voters, especially those that do not have the right level of education, to support a party that campaigned through the mass media. Huntington explained that the civil-military relations in the United States does not exist from the clauses of the constitution provided. The separation of the executive and legislative powers is two public bodies which have the ultimate authority over military institutions.

#### *Methodology:*

This study is a descriptive research, comparison, correlation and influence as a study to examine the relationship between one variable with another variable. Quantitative survey shaped the study design. This study used a questionnaire and a questionnaire was used to obtain the required data. In addition, the analysis used in this research is the survey (survey) because this method is one of non-experimental research methods are most popular, which is used in various fields, especially in the social sciences.

#### *6. Conclusion:*

Political developments in Malaysia are growing has opened the eyes of political parties for party closer to young people. Young people are the voice of the continuity of a political party. Relationship of authority, especially in creating a harmonious atmosphere between the people and the government and between the members of the party who will lead to success in any administration. Youth is the backbone of an organization and a catalyst for development of the country that plays a role as a connector for legacy the next generation is seen coming deviate from the right path. Some of them have been doing activities in the wild; the question is why these things are becoming a craze among the youth of Malaysia. Good management and a good commitment to safety, economy and politics should be played by all levels of the organization, department or ministry that is truly superior and reliable. To provide a skilled youth, it takes time and considerable expense.

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**Authors' Contribution:**

Mohd Hafiz Bin Mansor developed the idea and had an important role in the result and material section. Dr. Abd Rahim and Siti Nur Illani performed the discussion and the arrangement of section.

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