What Drives Political Engagement of the Young Generation? A Political Psychology Study

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ABSTRACT

Political engagement of the young generation is needed for a democratic country, including Indonesia. However, political engagement has psychological challenges for the younger generation. This study aimed to determine the political engagement level of the young generation and some factors that influence it. The research was designed with mixed methods. The political engagement scale (16 items; α =0.862) was administered with an open-ended questionnaire to 600 students. Interviews to deepen the answers to the questionnaire were conducted with 6 participants (3 male, and 3 female). The results indicate that the political engagement of the young generation, especially college students, is in the high category. Factors that influence political engagement include personal factors (motivation to contribute and personal interest), national condition factors (perception of the nation's condition and perceived influence), information access factors, and social-environmental factors. This finding complements previous research, that personal factors are the most powerful in influencing student political involvement. The research has implications for government institutions, education, political parties, and families in influencing the political engagement of the younger generation with effective strategies.

Keywords: *Young Generation; Political Engagement; Political Psychology*

1. Introduction

Society's political engagement is an activity needed for democratic countries (Pande, 2020). Then society's political engagement, especially the young generation, has received the attention of many scientists from various disciplines. Political engagement does not only involve concrete actions that are directly related to politics such as general elections but also involve processes of cognition and affection without any directly related behavior (Pontes et al., 2018). The younger generation is considered to be less involved than the older one (Carpini, 2017; McDonald, 2021) and tends to be apathetic (Binder, Heiss, Matthes, & Sander, 2021). This prompted a study that explored the factors that influence the political engagement of the young generation.

The young generation in the first quarter of the 21st century refers to Generation Z. Francis & Hoefel (2018) state that Generation Z was born in 1995-2010. This means that the current generation Z is between the ages of 12-27 years. Santrock (2018) states that the range

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is from adolescence to early adulthood, a period of youth exploration in various ways including political identity. In Indonesia, individuals who already have an Identity Card (Kartu Tanda Penduduk; KTP) have the right to take part in elections. A democratic state system allows all citizens of various generations to be involved in politics, including generation Z (Alexander, 2022).

Political engagement is often juxtaposed with political participation, but has something in common. Political participation is limited to electoral participation only. While political engagement involves a wider scope, not only electoral participation, but also includes discussions, expression of opinions, and demonstrations. Political participation refers to voluntary activities carried out in general elections to influence public policy, either directly or by influencing the policymakers themselves (Uhlaner, 2015). Meanwhile, political engagement can be understood as a cognitive process related to political issues that create certain attitudes in individuals (Afromeeva, Liefbroer, & Lilleker, 2022). Pontes et al. (2018) stated that political engagement does not only involve concrete actions that are directly related to politics but can also involve processes of cognition and affection without any explicit behavior. Engagement can also take the form of interest, efficacy, political information, individual attachment, and specific issues. So, political engagement has a broader scope than political participation.

Examples of political participation include choosing the president/vice president or legislators and conducting campaigns during elections. Meanwhile, political engagement also involves voting behavior, discussing public policies and laws, writing opinions, holding demonstrations, and signing petitions. The form of political engagement of the young generation is transforming from traditional offline (outside the network) to online (in the network) by utilizing social media (Pennington et al., 2015; Pontes et al., 2018). An example of political engagement's transformation is that discussions among youth about public policy are no longer carried out in certain places, but are also carried out boldly through online discussion forums.

Age affects political engagement (McDonald, 2021). The older a person is, the more they are politically involved. The closer the youth are to be able to have voting rights in elections, the more political engagement they will have (Levy & Akiva, 2019). Besides age, education also affects political engagement. People with tertiary education have higher political participation than people with only a high school education or below (McDonald, 2021). Eckstein et al. (2012) in his research stated that individuals who have political engagement in their early teens tend to be unstable and less visible, especially junior high school teenagers. Whereas early adolescents are more easily influenced by certain political orientations. This is due to the different understanding of political engagement in certain age ranges.

Henn and Foard (2014) state that historical education and social class are two important factors in developing political engagement in individuals. Kahne et al. (2013) further explained that education with an open discussion method on political issues can encourage individuals to get involved with political issues and elections, while education with service-learning increases community-based individual action and expression. Furthermore, Levy and Akiva (2019) stated that political interest and political efficacy that comes from within can encourage individuals to get involved in politics. Alelaimat (2019) states that the factors which influence individuals to get involved in politics, especially participating in elections are gender, age, family income, and regional affiliation.

Political engagement in adolescents can also be related to well-being. In a study by Ballard et al. (2020), it was stated that involving adolescents in political life is a complex matter for the well-being of adolescents themselves and raises many questions about politics itself so it becomes a challenge for adolescent well-being. In addition, this study has stated that the well-being of adolescents who are involved in the form of "traditional" political engagement is higher than "non-traditional". Traditional involvement (eg elections) involves brief engagement, lighter than non-traditional involvement (eg demonstrations). This is related to short-term commitments, so they are more psychologically prosperous. Moreover, students have their concentration of interests and talents. This condition sometimes causes apathy.

Based on the description above, political engagement has psychological challenges for the younger generation. To increase youth engagement and avoid apathy, it is necessary to identify factors that influence political involvement. The main research question is what drives the political engagement of the younger generation? Then there are two specific questions, What is the level of political engagement of the young generation? What are the factors that influence the political engagement of the young generation? This study aimed to determine the

level of political engagement of the young generation and explore the factors that influence it. The research is useful for the theoretical development of political engagement. This is also practical for public policy intervention by optimizing the factors that influence political engagement.

2. Theoretical Review

Political engagement as a multidisciplinary study has existed since the 1970s when the participation of the younger generation showed a decline. Political engagement can be simply defined as individual involvement in political institutions, processes, and decision-making (Barrett & Pachi, 2019). Some scientist bordered their political engagement on the cognitive and affective domains. While others are also involved in the realm of behavior. For example, Carreras (2016) stated that political engagement is divided into two, namely cognitive (psychological attachment to the political system) and active (most likely to interact with politicians). Meanwhile, Barrett and Pachi (2019) do not only see political involvement in the cognitive and affective domains but also in the behavioral domain.

Alfaruqy et al. (2022) identified five forms of youth political involvement among university students. First, understanding the political universe, including reading political news and following political developments at the local and national levels. Second, analyzing politics refers to analyzing political conditions collectively with other people and individually. Third, voting, namely using the right to vote in various general election events. Fourth, expressing opinions, including voicing aspirations and criticism of the government, writing comments on social media, and participating in demonstrations. Fifth, habituating in daily life, including implementing democratic values, discipline, and honesty in daily life, joining youth organizations, and educating the community.

Political involvement in college students can be seen from the perspective of rational choice. Rational Choice Theory developed by Coleman (in Scholtz, 2015), states that individuals (actors) do everything in life because they have an interest. Individuals as actors will mobilize all the resources to achieve these interests. If a society or even a country consists of many individuals, that's how many need to be achieved. This theory believes that personal needs can be aggregated into common needs. Macro-conditions influence micro-conditions. While the micro-outcome affects the macro-outcome. Thus, what students do as a rational choice also contributes to the influence of the political system.

Political involvement in students can also be seen in the framework of collective activity. In sociology, it is known as the phenomenon of social movements. According to Sidney Tarrow (2022), in the book Power of Movement, social movements are collective actions based on common goals and a sense of solidarity regarding public issues. Collective action is marked by the ongoing interaction of groups of individuals with political elites and ruling authorities. Social movements increase when conditions open up opportunities for people to influence and change policies. Social movements can range from small movements involving simple things in everyday life to large movements involving public policy.

Peoples (2018) explains that there are two approaches to understanding social movements, namely the classical approach and the contemporary approach. The classical approach sees social movements as occurring because of socio-psychological discomfort. The social movement is an attempt to fight against the status quo as explained by the theory of Marxism. The contemporary approach sees social movements occurring as a result of the interaction of society with political authorities and structures. The existence of relative deprivation, resource mobilization, political opportunities, and collective identity explain the occurrence of a social movement.

Barrett and Pachi (2019), in the last decade, succeeded in identifying factors that influence youth political engagement. These factors can be categorized into four, namely psychological, social, demographic, and macro factors. Psychological factors include political knowledge, political attentiveness, political interest, political efficacy, perceived affective, social identities, trust, values, and emotions. Social factors include family, peer group, neighborhood, school and education, community and organizations, political parties, mass media, and music. Demographic factors include socioeconomic status, gender, and ethnicity. Macro factors include a country's democratic climate; a country's level of the economy, health, and education; the quality of protection of a country's human rights; policies on youth political engagement; policies regarding the age of participation of first-time voters; and the availability of information technology in a country. Attempts to identify factors by Barrett and Pachi (2019), mostly originate from major democratic countries, especially the United States. What

are the factors that influence student political involvement, especially in Indonesia, need to be further investigated.

3. Method

The research was designed using a mixed research method between descriptive quantitative and explorative qualitative. The descriptive quantitative method aims to determine the value of the independent variable (Sugiyono, 2014). In this research, descriptive quantitative was used to determine the level of political engagement. The exploratory qualitative method aims to construct data from problems that have never been studied before. In this research, exploratory qualitative is used to explore the factors that influence political engagement.

Expected research participants from this study are a) the young generation aged 17-22 years; b) active as undergraduate students at Diponegoro University; and c) willing to be involved as a participant. Based on these inclusion criteria, 600 students (300 male and 300 female) were involved. The participant collection technique is by proportional random sampling. This research pays attention to the faculty population groups. There are 11 faculties, namely the Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Economics and Business, Faculty of Science and Mathematics, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Animal Husbandry and Agriculture, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Public Health, and Faculty of Psychology. The Faculty of Engineering, with the largest population (21.74%), involved 130 students. The Faculty of Psychology, with the smallest population (3.44%), involved 21 students. All participants were asked to fill out informed consent before providing data.

Data collection went through two stages. The first stage is collecting data using a political engagement scale and a questionnaire with open-ended questions to 600 students. The

political engagement scale (16 items; α =0.862) is based on the aspects developed by Owen and Soule (2015), which are digital engagement, community involvement, campaign involvement, contacting, voting, and activism. Each item consists of four options, namely very suitable, suitable, not suitable, and very inappropriate. So, the lowest score is 16 and the highest score is 64. This open-ended questionnaire consists of two questions, they are a) What drives Indonesia's political engagement? b) Describe your answer in as much detail as possible! The first phase of data collection was carried out in August 2022. The second phase is data collection using interviews to deepen participants' answers to 3 male and 3 female participants. The second stage of data collection is carried out in October 2022.

Political engagement scale data analysis used descriptive analysis of SPSS version 24. Data analysis of questionnaires and interviews used grounded theory data analysis techniques developed by Strauss and Corbin (in Bryant & Charmaz, 2019). There are three coding steps. The first is open coding, the process of identifying and categorizing data based on the similarity of keywords. The second is axial coding, the process of categorizing the findings of open coding based on the similarity of meaning. And the third is selective coding, the process of finding the relationship between the results of axial coding.

Figure 1. Qualitative data analysis flowchart
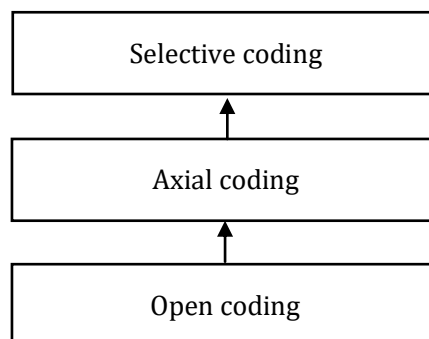
4. Results
4.1. The Level of Political Engagement

This research uses a political engagement scale where the lowest score is 16 and the highest score is 64. The results showed that the mean political engagement of men was 44.86. The majority of male participants (65.00%) are in the high political engagement category (see Table

1). The mean political engagement of women is 44.85. The majority of female participants (71.00%) are in the high political engagement category (see Table 2). Research shows that the political engagement of the young generation is high (65.00-71.00%). The findings answer the thesis that the younger generation is considered to have low engagement. It is undeniable that there are young people whose political engagement is in the low category (19.00-23.33%).

Table 1. Male Political engagement Categorization

Gender	Very low $16 \leq x \leq 28$	Low $28 < x \leq 40$	High $40 < x \leq 52$	Very high $52 < x \leq 64$
Male	N = 0 0,00%	N = 70 23,33%	N = 195 65,00%	N = 35 11,67%
Female	N = 0 0,00%	N = 57 19,00%	N = 213 71,00%	N = 30 10,00%

Source: Field Research (2022)

These results answer that the level of political involvement of the younger generation tends to be on the right continuum, which is high and very high. This shows that the younger generation put involved in digital, community, campaign, contacting, voting, and activism.

4.2. Factors Influencing Political Engagement

The subject was divided into two groups based on gender. This division is to show the pattern of factors that can be optimized to encourage political involvement of men and women respectively. Six major themes are factors influencing political engagement (see Table 3). For men, factors that influence political engagement are an encouragement to contribute (25.91%), personal interest (18.11%), state conditions (25.91%), the influence of political conditions (11.14%), access to information (8.64%), and social environment (6.41%). For women, factors that influence political engagement are an encouragement to contribute (23.93%), personal interest (22.42%), state conditions (21.66%), influence on political conditions (11.08%), access to information (10.33%), and social environment (9.32%).

Although there is no difference in the level of political engagement between men and women (see 4.1. The Level of Political Engagement). However, there are some notes related to influencing factors. Political interest in women is more driven by the extent of their interest in politics and the social environment. Meanwhile, men are more encouraged to understand the conditions of the country and are encouraged to contribute compared to women. Between men and women, there is an additional theme for women, namely gender equality

Table 3. Factors Influencing *Political Engagement*

No	Category	Male		Female		Mean ($\bar{x}$)
		Sub-Category	Total	Sub-Category	Total	Male and Female
	Personal Factor					
1	Encouragement to contribute					
	a. Advancing Indonesia	13,65%	25,91%	10,58%	23,93%	24,92%
	b. Contribution to the nation	12,26%		13,35%		
2	Personal Interest					
	a. Internal drive	16,16%	18,11%	22,42%	22,42%	20,27%
	b. External drive	1,95%		0,00%		
	State Condition Perception Factor					
3	State Condition					
	a. Politic	20,34%	25,91%	15,62%	21,66%	23,79%
	b. Law	2,79%		5,04%		
	c. Economy	2,79%		0,76%		
	d. Gender Equality	0,00%		0,25%		
4	Influence of State Condition	11,14%	11,14%	11,08%	11,08%	11,11%
	Informational Access Factor					
5	Information access					
	a. Education	5,29%	8,64%	5,04%	10,33%	9,49%
	b. Accessibility	3,34%		5,29%		
	Social Environment Factor					
6	Social Environment	6.41%	6,41%	9,32%	9,32%	7,87%
	Others	3.90%	3,90%	1,26%	1,26%	2,58%
	Total		**100%**		**100%**	**100%**

Source: Field Research (2022)

4.3. Encouragement to Contribute

The urge to contribute consists of two goals, namely advancing the Indonesian nation and becoming a contributor to Indonesian politics. As stated by participant number 128 (P128), political engagement is driven by the desire to choose quality leaders who can bring Indonesia to better development. Other participants are also encouraged to contribute to politics so that the elected leaders can prosper the people and create peace. Seeing Indonesia as an affluent, prosperous, peaceful and developed country is a motivation for the participants.

> *"So that I can understand the current political situation and conditions that can be used to determine the actions and choices of my future leaders so that I can develop Indonesia to be better than before, and not repeat the same mistakes." (P128, male, Faculty of Economics and Business)*

Apart from choosing leaders, several ways for participants to contribute include conducting audiences with political parties, participating in elections, carrying out their obligations and rights as citizens, holding demonstrations, criticizing public policies, and becoming political party cadres. From the responses, it was seen that the participants did not only want to see a developing Indonesia but also wanted to contribute to the progress.

4.3.1. Personal Interest

The next factor that influences the political engagement of the young generation is the emergence of personal interest. This personal interest is caused by two things, namely internal and external drives. Internal drive refers to the feelings and emotions within the individual that arise when involving himself in matters related to politics. As stated by participant P069, he has an interest in politics because of his sense of responsibility as an Indonesian citizen and his self-awareness to care for the nation and state. This arose because of the many political conflicts on behalf of the people that aroused the interest and curiosity of the younger generation toward the political conditions in Indonesia

> *"This sense of concern arises because of curiosity. I am often worried about the political conditions in our country which are still said to have many loopholes for fraud, persons who act on behalf of the people as a priority but are used as a foundation based on concern. Therefore, I am trying to find out more about the political mechanism in Indonesia, as well as the laws that accompany it." (P069, male, Faculty of Law).*

External drive refers to the demands and perceptions of society towards individual behavior. It is related to the public's perception of the participants themselves. As college students, participants do not want to appear apathetic in society, want to comply with applicable regulations, and are anxious about political conditions.

4.3.2. *State* Condition

The next factor that influences political engagement is the perception of the Indonesian state condition. The conditions in question include Indonesia's political conditions which tend to be negative, conditions of legal injustice, economic conditions, and gender equality. First, participants' perceptions of the politics taking place in Indonesia tend to be negative. The emergence of political news and discussions on the internet and various social media platforms can shape perception. Political conditions that are perceived negatively by individuals will have an impact on the individual's trust in political institutions in a country. For example, is corruption expressed by participant 290.

> *"Politics in Indonesia still has many practices of corruption, collusion, and nepotism which to eradicate requires active and effective public participation, both by acting as government officials and by acting outside the government such as increasing the socialization of the importance to eradicate them" (S290, female, Faculty of Medicine)*

Legal injustice also plays a role in influencing political engagement. Several participants stated that the legal conditions in Indonesia are still unfair. This is indicated by the existence of an unbalanced legal decision. There is a tendency of "sharp up, blunt down", meaning that in identical legal cases, it can produce different legal decisions depending on the position, economic status, and certain interests. Some participants also stated other problems related to the economy such as inflation, poverty, social inequality, and inadequate infrastructure, as well as gender inequality. In this pandemic, two things pose a threat to individuals, namely health and economic threats.

4.3.3. Influence of State Condition

The next factor that affects political engagement is the perception of the influence of state conditions. Participants believe that politics has a major influence on the survival of individuals and society. Power holders have a role in making policies, which in turn can affect the lives of individuals and society. A good policy will certainly have a positive effect, and vice versa. Things like this caused participants, such as participant P386, to feel the impact of the country's less democratic conditions and choose to be involved in activities related to politics.

> *"What is encouraging is the concern for political conditions that affect social life in the surrounding environment, mainly related to the condition of conveying aspirations that have not yet been released following existing democratic principles" (P386, male, Faculty of Public Health)*

4.3.4. Informational Access

Access to information is one of the factors that influence political engagement. Access to information includes education and accessibility of information, especially from the internet. Education is very important for the lives of the young generation. The presence of the internet supports the young generation to obtain information from mass media and social media. News that used to be published in print, in the 21st century has begun to switch to social media such as Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook which are more accessible. As revealed by participant P235, she also received news about justice from social media. Not only that, the presence of mass media and social media also makes it easier for the entire community, including youth, to voice their opinions.

> *"Social media updates regarding political news in Indonesia. For example, when I know news about injustice in politics, then a storyline/incident appears that makes me interested in knowing the details of the problem" (P235, female, Faculty of Psychology)*

4.3.5. Social Environment

The last factor that influences political engagement is the social environment. In this case, the social environment in question is family, friendship, and society. The family has an important role in developing political understanding in children. Family is the first environment a child knows, as well as the closest environment. As revealed by participant P048, family and friends encourage them to care about Indonesia's political conditions. The reason is that any political decision by the leader will affect him, his family, and his friends. Thus, it is important to have political engagement.

> *"Family, friends, and I are the closest things that encourage me to care about the political condition of Indonesia. Why? because all political decisions taken especially by the government will affect our condition in all aspects." (P048, female, Faculty of Social and Political Science)*

5. Discussion

Research shows that the political engagement of the young generation is high. The findings answer the thesis that the younger generation is considered to have low engagement. It is undeniable that there are young people whose political engagement is in the low category. We analyzed that high political engagement cannot be separated from the status of participants who are college students (well-educated persons). Previous studies state that campuses play an important role in shaping the attitudes and desires of individuals to participate in politics (Eckstein et al., 2012; Levy & Akiva, 2019). Research also shows that there are no significant differences in terms of the average level of political engagement or categorization between men and women. However, there are some notes related to influencing factors.

Research shows that six factors influence political engagement. The first is an encouragement to contribute. The urge to contribute consists of two goals, namely advancing the Indonesian nation and becoming a contributor to Indonesian politics. Individual encouragement to contribute is closely related to nationalism. Nationalism can be interpreted as a feeling of belonging to a country, where individuals have an emotional attachment to that identity, and is followed by attention to political conditions that are favorable to the country and citizenry (Richards, 2019). Nationalism involves compatibility between thoughts (cognition), feelings (affection), and behavior (behavior) (Alfaruqy, 2022a). Nationalism can be taught in educational institutions, organizations, and the social environment (Alfaruqy & Masykur, 2014). The feeling of identity towards a group has an important role in contributing to the country's politics. A study conducted by Besco et al. (2022) found that individuals who

have a strong identity with a group can increase their engagement in politics, especially in choosing political candidates.

The second is personal interest. This personal interest is caused by two things, namely internal and external drives. Internal drive refers to the feelings and emotions within the individual that arise when involving himself in matters related to politics. *Rational Choice Theory* states that individuals (actors) do everything in life because they have an interest (Coleman, in Scholtz, 2015). Individuals as actors will mobilize all the resources to achieve these interests. Carlisle and Patton (2013) state that individuals who have an interest in politics tend to be involved and active in political activities. In addition, a study conducted by Levy and Akiva (2019) also states that interest in politics is also related to internal political efficacy, which means that the more interested individuals are to engage with politics and have self-efficacy regarding politics, the greater the level of a tendency to engage in political activities. Internal political efficacy in individuals can also be influenced by media literacy which also has the potential to increase political engagement in individuals (Ashley et al., 2017).

External drive refers to the demands and perceptions of society towards individual behavior. Political engagement in students can also be seen in their social movements. *Social movements* are collective actions based on common goals and a sense of solidarity regarding public issues. Collective action is marked by the ongoing interaction of groups of individuals with political elites and ruling authorities (Tarrow, 2022). Social movements can range from small movements involving simple things in everyday life to large movements involving public policy. In psychology, external drives are termed locus of control. There are two types of locus of control, namely internal and external locus of control (Branscombe & Baron, 2017). External locus of control involves the presence of other people, making it more prone to inconsistent behavior.

The third is state condition. The next factor that influences political engagement is the perception of the Indonesian state condition. The conditions in question include Indonesia's political conditions which tend to be negative, conditions of legal injustice, economic conditions, and gender equality. Information exposure affects social perception, namely the individual's knowledge and understanding of his social environment (Branscombe & Baron, 2017). Mass media and social media as agents of disseminating information contribute to constructing perceptions about politics (Kleinnijenhuis, Van Hoof, & Van Atteveldt, 2019). Information related to corruption can reduce individual trust in a political institution (Beesley & Hawkins, 2022). The study also found that petty corruption has a significant impact on reducing individuals' trust in political institutions, compared to large-scale corruption.

Legal injustice also plays a role in influencing political engagement. Research conducted by Halmburger et al. (2019) shows that the behavior of a politician who violates the law or is contrary to the law can also reduce trust in individuals toward politicians in general or the political system in general. On the other hand, people's perceptions of politicians, in general, do not affect their perceptions of a specific politician. Corruption and legal injustice will certainly harm the sustainability of a country and public trust. Research shows that in this pandemic, two things pose a threat to individuals, namely health and economic threats. Both are equally important for individuals to pay attention to, but research conducted by Borbáth et al. (2021) stated that individuals still think that threats related to the economy are more important than health threats. Therefore, the economy is an important matter related to politics, where the economic conditions of a country can predict the country's politics. The poor conditions of a country as described above can affect political engagement (Beesley & Hawkins, 2022). This influence can increase political engagement on the one hand but can reduce political engagement on the other. It is up to how the individual will interpret it.

A political moment becomes one of the triggers for individuals to participate in politics. Political moment factors such as elections can trigger individuals to be involved in politics (Syibulhuda et al., 2019). Previous research states that the closer an individual is to being able to choose a political candidate in an election, the greater the individual's engagement in politics (Levy & Akiva, 2019). Big moments like elections will also bring up other political activities such as campaigns carried out by political parties. Campaigns have evolved, and social media has become a campaign tool for some political parties in the modern era. In a study conducted on the social media platform Facebook, it was stated that election moments can trigger individuals to get involved in politics by providing various kinds of posts campaigning for prospective politicians, such as conducting political discussions, updating statuses about politics, informing and campaigning for the choices of prospective politicians,

and support political candidates (Carlisle & Patton, 2013). Social media can also be a place for individuals and aspiring politicians to interact with one another, thereby increasing individual political engagement (Opeibi, 2015).

The fourth is the influence of state conditions. The next factor that affects political engagement is the perception of the influence of state conditions. Participants believe that politics has a major influence on the survival of individuals and society. Power holders have a role in making policies, which in turn can affect the lives of individuals and society. A good policy will certainly have a positive effect, and vice versa. Someone tends to have a firm attitude when something has a direct impact (Branscombe & Baron, 2017). Likewise, one's political engagement. Someone will have high engagement if the effect in politics is perceived to have a direct impact on himself.

The fifth is informational access. Access to information is one of the factors that influence political engagement. Access to information includes education and accessibility of information, especially from the internet. Education is very important for the lives of the young generation. Certain study programs at universities can provide conditioning for the young generation to understand and be involved in politics. In addition, the provision of facilities in the form of student organizations on campus can also support understanding of politics so that there are opportunities for students to be involved in political activities. The urgency of education is in line with previous research which states that schools play an important role in shaping individual attitudes and intentions to participate in politics (Eckstein et al., 2012; Levy & Akiva, 2019).

The presence of the internet supports the young generation to obtain information from mass media and social media. Increasing social media users makes exposure to political news easier, thus increasing users' knowledge about politics (Bode, 2016). This is also related to previous meta-analytic research where political engagement facilitated by social media has a strong relationship with offline political activities (Boulianne & Theocharis, 2018; Bode, 2017). Political engagement through social media has consequences in offline or face-to-face political engagement. Even so, the use of social media does not always increase political engagement in individuals. Research conducted by Matthes (2022) states that social media is an entertainment-based platform so entertainment content keeps information related to politics closed or does not appear on the surface. The research also states that social media does not close the voter turnover gap between the younger and older generations. The use of social media to engage in politics does not have a significant difference between men and women, but the difference can be seen in the use of social media in politics.

Bode (2017) stated that the behavior of men on social media in politics tends to be more visible and assertive than women, whereas political behavior on social media for women tends to be more subtle. Social media has a huge role in youth getting involved in politics. Xenos et al. (2014) stated that there is a positive relationship between the use of social media and political engagement in the younger generation. This is because social media provides a new platform for youth to engage in politics (Keating & Melis, 2017).

The sixth is a social environment. The family has an important role in developing political understanding in children. Interest and political engagement in parents affect children's political engagement, especially when children are in their middle to late teens (Janmaat & Hoskins, 2022; Neundrof et al., 2013). Political discussion, particularly on the topic of general elections, between parents and children, increases transmission through social learning mechanisms (Alfaruqy, 2022; Jennings et al., 2009). Transmission in adolescence creates relatively stable political preferences in adulthood. This can be strengthened if parents provide a piece of basic and easy-to-understand information for early adolescent children, a period when children are easier to absorb knowledge (Eckstein et al., 2012). In addition to family influence, previous research has also stated that individual interactions with the immediate environment with individuals (e.g. school and friends) are consistent agents of political socialization to form political engagement (Allen & Bang, 2015). Support social determinations for the young generation (Mumtaza et al., 2020).

6. Conclusions

Political engagement of the young generation from Generation Z is needed for a democratic country including Indonesia. This study shows that the political engagement of the young generation, especially college students, is at a high level. The findings of this study answer the thesis that assesses if the younger generation is considered to have low engagement. We analyze that the level of political engagement cannot be separated from the participants'

status who are college students (well-educated persons). The high political engagement of generation Z needs to be compared with other generations, such as generation Y, generation X, and the baby boomer generation.

Many things affect the political engagement of the young generation. This study categorizes into four factors. First, personal factors include the urge to contribute to the country and personal interest in politics. Second, state condition factors include perceptions of state conditions and perceptions of the influence of state conditions. Third, information access factors include education and information accessibility. Fourth, social environmental factors such as family and peers.

This study has theoretical implications for increasing knowledge in the field of political psychology regarding the main factors that influence the political engagement of the young generation, especially Generation Z. Practically, these study findings are useful for government, mass media, political parties, schools, and families to develop approaches to increase political engagement based on the influencing factors above.

7. Acknowledgment

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9. Conflicts of Interest

There is no conflict of interest in this research.

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