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The Influence of social media and Public Policy on Public Political Participation in Handling COVID-19 Pandemic: A Study from Indonesian Domestic and Overseas Youngsters' Perspective

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Abstract

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The social media usage was increased during the COVID-19 pandemic because most of population was isolated and were working from their homes. Consequently, the social media usage was increased to get information around the globe. Hence, social media might be a potential solution for problems of political participation. However, if the youngsters are not actively involved on social media, then they could not get update about the political activities that could reduce the public participation in political activities. Similarly, not proper addressing the public policies could also reduce the participations of public in political activities. Therefore, the study objective remained to study the effect of social media, public policy on public political participation in handling covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia. For this objective, the data was collected from 600 domestic and overseas youngsters of Indonesia by using a convenient sampling technique which shows 60 percent response rate. Using cross sectional research design and quantitative research approach. The Partial Least Square (PLS)-Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) results had shown that social media was positively and significantly effect to public political participation while public policy was not positively influence to public political participation. Such discoveries can contribute a body of literature that could help to the researcher to conduct research in future. The research can also help to the politicians to be aware of the significance of social media to increase the participation in public political activities. The research limitations as well as future directions were also discussed at the study end.

Introduction

Public political participation is a main characteristic that distinguishes democracy from other systems. The public can exercise this freedom through take part in the political procedure. Public political participation is an extensive subject in the democratic system, which has contributed as a prepared terrestrial from democracy's inception (Brett et al., 2017). It has an important level of range that could enhance from various indicators Brady et al. (1995). Among of those, the social media and the policies which are developed by government for the public are one of the best ways to increase the public participations (Alford et al., 1975; Hyun et al., 2015; Tang et al., 2013). Therefore, these indicators are considered to be important indicators for increasing public participation.

Keeping in view the significance social media which transformed the globe profoundly over a decade ago. Social media have altered human connection with politicians by seeking their social debates and communication patterns. The social media is performing an important part to informing the people about political developments, entertaining their operators, particularly motivating users towards participate in practical political activities (Erlina et al., 2017). Nowadays, the social media is

becoming increasingly important for political discourse and participation. At the start, politicians utilized the social media in place of one-way communication channel to make people aware by their websites. Furthermore, social media also have changed the two-means of communication mediums (Emruli et al., 2011).

Moreover, youngsters remain very dynamic operators of social media as well as internet. Politics related internet accomplishments remain good to teenagers and encourage them to engage in democratic activities (Quintelier et al., 2008). Therefore, social media provided information of politics as well as their involvement in politics all remain associated. These tendencies are impacting election outcomes, especially in developing countries like Bangladesh, Indonesia, and India. For the purpose of transmission news and opinions social media has become more crucial (McAllister, 2015). Nevertheless, it poses a risk towards democracy, as evidenced by the “2016 US presidential election and other European nations. Youngsters not just in developed nations but also in developing countries widely used social media. In the same vein, in developing countries like Indonesia, Political groups and elected candidates utilize social media extensively to convey information to voters and consumers (Michaelsen, 2011) but their provided information is actively attract to public in participating political activities (Erlina et al., 2017). This argument is further supported by latest study, social media have an important and essential political effect (Karamat et al., 2020). at et al., 202 Besides the importance of social media, public policy is an institutionalized proposal to solve relevant and real world problems, guided by a conception and implemented by programs as a course of action created and enacted, typically by a government, in response to social issues (Peters et al., 2006). Beyond this broad definition, public policy has been conceptualized in a variety of ways. A popular way of understanding and engaging in public policy is through a series of stages known as "the policy cycle (Hough, 1976). The characterization of particular stages can vary, but a basic sequence is: agenda setting formulation legitimation implementation evaluation (McCluskey et al., 2004). Officials considered as policymakers bear responsibility to reflect the interests of a host of different stakeholders. Policy design entails conscious and deliberate effort to define policy aims and map them instrumentally. This is reason, when the public policy is properly about the public then the involvement of the people in the political activities is also increased (Alford et al., 1975). This shows that public policy is very important to increase the public participation.

Moreover, on the theoretical grounds, social media and public policy could not be ignored, it is necessary to aggressively engage the people in political participation. Empirically, there are various studies had been conducted on the association of social media, public policy with political participation but still had inconsistent findings (Alford et al., 1975; Arshad et al., 2020; Erlina

et al., 2017; Lee et al., 2020; Ning, 2018; Wei et al., 2017; Zhu et al., 2019). Studies mentioned above had mostly individual influence of SM and public policy on public political participation but this study had a contribution of combined outcome of social media and public policy on public political participation. Furthermore, past research concentrated mostly on established economies, with just a smattering of attention paid to developing countries (Mustapha et al., 2020) especially on the Indonesia which also a developing nation which had 65 million people which are young and have the proper knowledge of social media and public which significantly effect to the political participation of the youngsters.

Keeping in view the significance of social media, and public policy the resent study contends that in comparison to other Asian nations, Indonesia has a fairly low internet penetration rate, yet the number of users is growing all the time. The 19% of Indonesians have access to the Internet; nevertheless, widespread the using social media in many areas, containing as wellbeing, politics, and education, is driving scholars to investigate the use of social media and innovative technology (Anggraheni et al., 2021). It gives people a chance to talk about the many issues that affect Indonesian society, and then it motivates them to vote in national elections, resulting in higher voter participation (Yandri, 2017). University students' political activity on Facebook inspired their offline involvement and is connected with how much hours they spending as well as take part in politics available on the internet. On the other hand, the most of the users are using the social media, but the youngsters are not properly using the social media effectively that could increase the involvement of youngsters in participating various political activities. Because, social media is trendy, inexpensive, and simple to use (Gounas, 2020), particularly among young people, who account for half of the 13.3 million voters. As a result, social media became conduits for political participation in Indonesia (Salman et al., 2015).

This is due to the fact that they promote the democratization of knowledge and information (Sani et al., 2014b) and are among the most popular social media platforms in the country (Abdul Hamid et al., 2015). Thus, Kasmani et al. (2014) stated that social media is to blame for the growth in political activity among Indonesia youngsters. Today, social media promoting public political participation (Sani et al., 2014a). Despite these positive reviews on Indonesia use of social media for political participation, (Salman et al., 2015) argue that, unlike youths in other third-world countries, Indonesia youth do not actively use social media for political participation, as a study of aged 18 to 25 found that Indonesia youths use new media more for entertainment and social networking. Similarly, according to Hefler et al. (2013), Indonesia teenagers prefer to utilise social media for recreational purposes. This argument is further supported by (Madhav et al., 2018; Mas' udi et al., 2020) that at the time of COVID-19 which was big threat for whole world the Indonesia social media users were not properly involve in the positive activities that was could increase

the public political participation. Some of the politicians were actively involved through social media but users were not effectively involve ([van Barneveld et al., 2020](#)). The Government of Indonesia was made planning for the survival of individuals both the domestics and overseas by providing a COVID medications centres and they were also advertising through social media but was not effective ([Hall et al., 2020](#); [Ida et al., 2020](#); [Moon, 2020](#)).

On the other hand, to handle COVID-19 there were public facilitations policies were also developed to handle this issue but still the youngsters especially overseas were not happy because they were stuck in foreign countries and were not able to come in their hometown ([Roziqin et al., 2021](#)). Even to boost economic growth, the Indonesian government established proper vaccination clinics in Indonesia for both nationals and visitors from other countries ([Roziqin et al., 2021](#)). This policy for the public was considered to big action to promote the individual contribution in the household needs but still was not effective because the politicians and other major parties were not effectively active on social media for condolence of effected families. As per the latest report which is published by the election commission of Indonesia mentioned that a huge number of youngsters in Indonesia do actively participate in the political activities. The core reasons for this high involvement was that policies for the public ([Jandevi, 2019](#)) which could increase the motivation level of the people. However, public policy had also a core reason in accelerating the participation in the political activities. This argument was further supported by various studies who mentioned that causes of youngsters in decreasing the political participation is social media and public policy ([Drakulich et al., 2017](#); [Gherghina et al., 2017](#); [Hoffman et al., 2014](#); [Suri et al., 2016](#)). Moreover, [Razali et al. \(2013\)](#) had been argued that the citizens are not properly trusting on the policies which are prepared by government that is negatively effecting to the public political participation ([Purnama et al., 2020](#)).

These policies and misuse of social media was become the major reason for declining the public political participation of both youngsters' domestics and overseas. This miscommunication and misleading policies are creating the problems of international relations of politicians along with their young bloods. Therefore, it could be said at the time of COVID-19 the political public policies and social media participations were not effective which minimize the youngster's participations in political activities. To sum up, this research attempted to bridge the above-mentioned gaps by examining the influence of public policy and social media on the public political participation during the Covid-19. This study fills a vacuum in the literature, focusing on the belongings of social media and public policy with public political participation. Therefore, the study objective remained to study the effect of social media, public policy on public political participation in handling covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia.

The study was divided into five sections, introduction, literature review, research methodology, data analysis, discussion and implications.

Literature Review

Public Political Participation

The concept of "participation" will be interpreted broadly enough here to cover political speech as well as internet transmission of political knowledge. It is absolutely essential for utilizing a concept of participation which goes beyond simply referring towards direct voter behavior in terms of participation which takes place over SM. Whenever discussing in which way SM will factor into the conversation about participation, it's critical that the term "participation" be defined broadly enough to use the political speech as well as sharing of the political knowledge. In most cases, a review of the available literature regarding participation reveals that this may be characterized rather widely. Even though the most restrictive definition is used, participation is limited to activities that have a direct effect on the political system. As a result, according to the definition, whether or not individuals live inside a democracy being primarily determined by their capability towards vote in fair elections.

To put it another way, democratic participation remains restricted to it as well as equated by electoral participation. This definition would be seen too limited by several political scientists which are research democracy as well as participation. (Dahl, 1998; Dahl et al., 1999; Norris et al., 1998); Sarman (2019) and (O'Sullivan et al., 2002). Other types of democratic participation are left out by this concept. Peterson (1992) emphasizes that political participation, basically democratic participation; remain approximately an "attempt to influence the authoritative allocation of values for a society" (2) and "emphasizes flow of influence upwards from the masses" (3). "One such concept of political participation includes "attempts to influence the voting behavior of others, being active in organizations involving community problems, working with others to try and solve community problems, forming a group or organization to solve community problems, and being a member of a political organization" in addition to electoral participation" (Rhoads, 2012).

Wiborg et al. (1996) pay more attention on electoral influence, he may improve on Leighley (1996) through increasing the scope of needed participation to include equitable opportunities for actual engagement as well as occupied inclusion for entirely firms. The United Kingdom, for the most part, is already working toward this goal. They make available universal suffrage, inspire free expression, tolerate peaceful protests, as well as allow minorities to run for office (O'Sullivan et al., 2002). However, like all other modern Western democracies, the UK's politics are susceptible to commercial and hegemonic prejudice (Papacharissi, 2010). This signifies both hegemonic political as well as commercial interests

define a relatively narrow agenda that dominates political debate and leaves little room for opposing viewpoints as well as ideas. Minority organizations, for example the Muslim Council of Britain, are put in jeopardy as a result of this. For the reason that the United Kingdom's population remains so homogeneous as well as cultural distinctions are so minor.

Social Media, Public policy and Public Political Participation

The social media deliver a platform enabling younger generations to debate politics through a variety of online groups, sites, and accounts. The relevance of modern media in providing a platform to political participation and adjusting their political efficacy (PE) was emphasized as [Bimber et al. \(2011\)](#). As said in the [Schulz \(2005\)](#) research, new media (NM) consumers remain involved in government as well as political dialogue. Consumer involvement in politics is increased, as has their PE resulting in both online and off - line activity. [Jiang \(2016\)](#) examined in which way the Internet influences either online as well as offline political involvement. On the other hand, He likewise investigated at how the Internet influences people's political opinions. This substantial association improves Internet users' political efficacy and their political activity, along with their election interest ([Jiang, 2016](#)). The Internet has overtaken television in place of as a dominant means of PE and participation, increasing voter as well as campaigner knowledge. Furthermore, adoption of NM also raises voting turnout percentage among users. It creates a strategy for voting and giving to political campaigns ([Larson, 2004](#)).

The effectiveness of users helps them get a clearer understanding about political issues by acquiring political information from new media. As said in the study of [Kahne et al. \(2014\)](#) observed the development of participative politics, NM, and youngsters, and came to the conclusion that NM has provided people through a platform for information as well as communication with huge audiences, although a way to take part in political activities. The investigations listed above remained undertaken in industrialized nations and came up with comparable results. Youth from underprivileged and rural communities, on the other hand, have been left out of the study process. Our research focuses on the performance of SM in engaging rural adolescents in the political procedure.

It is fair to say that SM has drawbacks as well. Such as [Calder \(2013\)](#), claimed that "it is vital to understand the downsides of new media for political communication, and we must preserve political involvement from this position rather than accept it" in his research (p. 66). [Zinchenko et al. \(2017\)](#) pay more attention at the university students' which are use NM for political undertakings. The conclusion of this study indicates an association among online and off - line activity; nonetheless, email performs a minor role in political discussion at that time when matched to Facebook. Likewise, [Schmiemann \(2015\)](#) looked at SM and political engagement and

found that Facebook material encourages people to participate in politics. [Gibson et al. \(2013\)](#) investigated how online platforms improve political contact by evaluating online social links and political participation. Furthermore, online involvement strengthens links across unconnected bridge systems; they discovered that social interaction on the internet boosts offline engagement.

[Papagiannidis et al. \(2016\)](#) Using a variety of online as well as offline platforms, researchers discovered that NM and other internet media let political participants towards become more take a part in politics and openly voice their thoughts. An individual opinion, as well as in which way they use SM and engage in actual political activism, varies. Use of Internet and numerous other e-activities boosts internet users' political awareness and motivates them to get more involved in politics. [Cantijoch](#) and his coworkers investigated the effect of e-political campaigning, e-information, e-discussion on Internet usage, political involvement, as well as the effect of internet usage for “e-political campaigning, e-discussion, e-information, involvement, and the effect of e-discussion, e-information, and e-political campaigning”. According to their discoveries, e-campaigning basically relates and associates Internet users including during elections ([Cantijoch et al., 2013](#)). Similar political feelings and activity were discovered with in case of persons utilizing internet platforms in Spain.

The findings show that there is a considerable difference between the cognitive and motivational attitude toward the behaviour. [Rainie et al. \(2012\)](#) investigated the relationship between SM and PE and finding that 39% of people in the United States used it, including single out of each eight people utilizing it for political and social purposes. New kinds of political activity have emerged as a result of SM, as have new forms of political statement. [Siluveru \(2015\)](#) aimed to understand more regarding the function of digital as well as SM in election campaigns, and came to the conclusion that SM is being used to create social interactions and keeps people up to date with current events. On the other hand, utilization of SM for political participation remained examined through [the Stieglitz et al. \(2012\)](#), They observed that politicians as well as SM users had a strong link. Moreover, SM has considerably improved voter-politician interaction. [Biswas et al. \(2014\)](#) the impact of SM on political participation in India was researched, and the findings show that SM draws people together within political groups. Activists used SM to organize themselves, according to the report ([Storck, 2011](#)).

[Hellweg \(2011\)](#) looked at how politicians used social media to affect constituent opinions and People reacted more positively to personal information after that towards professional information, according to research. Similarly, [Kalsnes \(2016\)](#) identified Facebook as a powerful platform enabling political groups as well as voters for communicate; the research outlines effective practices for engaging people in politics. [Raof et al. \(2013\)](#) the use of SM network systems as a political tool was

examined. Furthermore, their discoveries revealed that SM remained widely used through people and voters in place of a communication network. By providing information about politics, SM stimulates involvement and mobilization, so it perform a key part in the political education as well as popular mobilization (Doris, 2014). Indonesia has 44.61 million Internet users, according to the most recent figures. There are 37 million active SM users among these Internet users. Facebook is used 36 million times, Instagram is used 6.30 million times, Twitter is used 1.26 million times, Snapchat is used 2.15 million times, and LinkedIn is used 5.10 million times. In fact, 41% of users are between the ages of 18 and 24, as well as 36% were between ages of 25 to 34. According to these figures, young people in Indonesia are the majority of SM and Internet users (Social, 2018). Another digital marketing firm recently released a study titled According to the 2018 Digital Statistical Indicators, 44.6 million individuals out of 198.9 million were using the Internet, representing up 22% of the total population. Approximately 35 million of people, around 18% of the total population, utilize SM. Out of the total population; there are 109.5 million mobile users, with 32 million active Internet and SM users utilizing their mobile devices, accounting for only 16.5% of the total population. The majority of SM users are young individuals in both rural and urban areas.

Here's where you'll put your topic sentence construct a tale notion. In terms of political efficacy, social media, particularly Facebook, is crucial. Abdulrauf (2016) looked the youth of Malaysia as well as Nigeria cognitive participation and online political contribution at Facebook and Twitter, and found that political knowledge and needs boosted young people's political contribution as well as trust. In addition, Abdu with his researchers examined into the function of Facebook and how it is used by teenagers, and also engagement, accurate information, and their political interest. According to the findings of the research, "Facebook use and political interest positively correlates with online political participation" (Abdu et al., 2017). In the with this, Conroye as well as his co-workers discovered the online political parties and offline participation in politics are inextricably linked; nevertheless, the association among online political politicians as well as social information has been incomplete due to online group dissertation, however link between online or offline involvement remains very powerful (Conroy et al., 2012). On the other hand, Heiss et al. (2016) investigated the effect of politicians' interactive Facebook postings on youth PE, Person with greater external overall collective effectiveness and low cynicism had significant positive impacts, according to the findings. Chan et al. (2013) looked at the usage of Facebook in political activities and came to the conclusion that "social media use among youth can facilitate greater political and civic engagement, particularly for those who perceive that they have limited ability to participate and understand political affairs".

A lot of research has been done throughout the last year on the effect of social media and the Internet across both online as well as offline political activity. Facebook, such as, has evolved from one essential platform for online consumers to confer politics and participate throughout offline political activities. [Njegomir \(2016\)](#) Although Twitter as well as YouTube were not utilized for political objectives, Facebook was and may have a detrimental influence on official political engagement in both developed and the developing nations. [Westling \(2007\)](#) examined the evolution of a public spotlight and the effect of Facebook on political statement. He recognized that Facebook was a feasible channel for connecting political statement among the general populace by connecting political statement methods towards the growth of a political square. [Marcheva \(2010\)](#) in another research, researchers observed a significant correlation between SM sites and cooperative movements.

Facebook assisted in the understanding of many perspectives on political activity, such as controversial discussions. A number of indicators have been developed by researchers to assess the effect of the Internet on campaign and political communications. It's tough to analyse the effects of SM on netizens because of the obvious medium's monolithic nature. During elections, political involvement on Facebook skyrockets. Politicians use Facebook to communicate with their constituents and keep them informed about their agendas and political efforts ([Rustad et al., 2013](#)). at the annual conference of the "International Communication Association", he presented his findings on the use of Facebook during the presidential campaign those postings praising the [Carr et al.](#) looked examined Facebook usage as well as political contribution during the 2008 election in a similar way. They came to the conclusion that there may be consequences for applicants and political groups if they use SM differently.

According to [Hanson et al. \(2010\)](#), SM use predicts political cynicism negatively. According to [Andersen et al. \(2009\)](#), voters prefer the internet scope since they are informed regarding their political applicants over different ways of party firms. According to [Gerodimos et al. \(2015\)](#), Obama's 2012 election utilized Facebook as a marketing platform, focusing on Obama's personality as a method that drove supporters to perform instead of feel encouraged. During his master's thesis on SM politics (Facebook), [Stumpel \(2010\)](#) thinks that discursive procedures and anti-*proto zoological* measures is a major political factor influencing user behaviour on social media sites. We might claim that published information indicates the potential and problems of SM in politics in a range of nations throughout the world, based on the huge quantity of literature devoted to SM with political engagement.

Social media is trendy, inexpensive, and simple to use ([Gounas, 2020](#)), particularly among young people, who account for half of the 13.3 million voters. As a result, online platforms such as Facebook and Twitter became conduits for political participation in Malaysia ([Salman et al., 2015](#)). This is

due to the fact that they promote the democratisation of knowledge and information (Sani et al., 2014b) and are among the most popular social media platforms in the country (Abdul Hamid et al., 2015). Thus, (Kasmani et al., 2014) stated that social media is to blame for the growth in political activity among Malaysian youngsters. Today, Facebook fan sites promoting political activity, as well as tweet exchanges between politicians and individuals, have changed Malaysia's media and political scene (Sani et al., 2014a). Despite these positive reviews on Indonesia use of social media for political participation, (Salman et al., 2015) argue that, unlike youths in other third-world countries, Indonesia youth do not actively use social media for political participation, as a study of aged 18 to 25 found that Indonesia youths use new media more for entertainment and social networking. Similarly, according to Hefler et al. (2013), Indonesia teenagers prefer to utilise social media for recreational purposes.

In other words, public policy arose in reaction to rising social strife and government responsibilities to safeguard citizens' welfare (Ogutu et al., 1998). The study of in which way social issues being defined, developed, and dealt with it on a political level is known as public policy, and it is concerned with the consequences of a government's acts or inactions. Contrary to common opinion, public policy encompasses all parts of a states decision-making mechanism (John, 2013). Public policy covers an extensive range of economic, social, as well as political problems that influence the general public, including education, health, the environment, security, agriculture, and finance, among others (Peters et al., 2006). Setting the agenda, drafting policies, making decisions, executing policies, reviewing them, and terminating them are all steps in the policy process is explained by N. C. Smith (2003). On the other hand, the public is not constrained by a definite timeline: it can be improvised or adjusted in a predetermined manner by actors or policymakers that could enhance the political participation (Simeon, 1976).

Additionally, the public give an proper motivation which is required to devote a proper time to participate in political activities (Ahuja et al., 2006). Therefore, the public policy is considered to be predictor of public political participation (Ehret et al., 2014) but also considered to be a participation necessary condition. Consequently, Rauf et al. (2016) and Dunn (2015) argued that public policy is an important predictor of various political participation. In addition, within the democracy, the policies related to public should be proper pursue that could transform the effect on public political participation significant and positive (Ehret et al., 2014). Nonetheless, the public policy played an important role through providing an important direct association with the political participation (Johnson & Kaye, 2014). This is a reason, the citizens of Indonesia are considered to be more expressive to know about the public policies which are mentioned by the government to increase the public political participation (Nardelli et al., 2014). Moreover, Razali et al. (2013) had been argued that the citizens are not properly trusting on the policies which are prepared by government

that is negatively effecting to the public political participation (Purnama et al., 2020). On the other hand, it is also found that public policy had a positive and significant association with the public political participation (B. L. Smith, 2003). Thus, based on previous discussion, it is hypothesized that,

H1: The social had a positive and significant relationship with public political participation.

H2: The Public policy had a positive and significant relationship with the public political participation.

Research Framework

The discussion of literature review from both theoretical and empirical perspective must turn out to be the foundation to improve the current exploration framework in the context of Indonesia. The constant growing number of youngsters in the political activities had become the foundation of increase the area of interest. The current research framework is consisting of two types of variables, namely social media and public policy which are exogenous variables and public policy participation which is endogenous variables. These variables are predicted in the following Figure.1 Below.

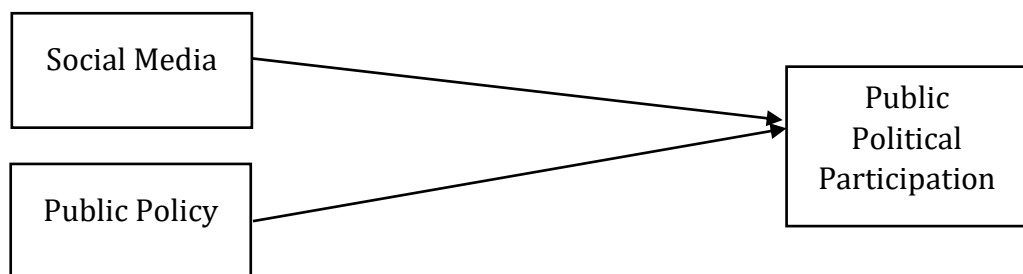


Figure.1: Research Framework

Research Methodology

There are two following research approaches, quantitative and qualitative. Among of those, the current research had applied the quantitative research approach because this research approach had more reliability (Sekaran et al., 2016). Using the cross-sectional research design and is a correlational study. The data collection mode was being used online because face to face data collection was difficult at the time of COVID-19. The respondents of the study were the youngster national and overseas who were actively involved in the public political participation. The core reason for selecting the youngsters of national and overseas because about the total population 65 million people in Indonesia are youngsters out of these, in 2020, there remained about 53.21 thousand Indonesian nationals were doing work in Hong Kong. In total, about 113.2 thousands Indonesian young workers

were employed as overseas worker in that year ([Stastista Research Department, 2021](#)).

The list of respondents of overseas was collected from embassy of Indonesia. The convenient sampling method remained applied for the purpose of collection data and information. The reason to choose this technique is that it saves time, cost, easy to use and allows the respondents voluntary participation in filling the questionnaire. The previous scientific studies ([Hu et al., 2018](#); [Yang et al., 2017](#)) have used this technique to collect data through survey. Moreover, using the ten times rule of thumb, G*Power program version 3 was also to be employed to ensure that sample size was sufficient for the study. A prior test of analysis for G*Power was to be used for the proper sample size estimation on some statistical parameters ([Faul et al., 2007](#)). Using 2 predictors, medium 0.15 effect size, 0.05 level of significance, and this study was obtained a 121-sample size at the statistical power of 0.95. Moreover, it is argued that diversified samples enhance the generalizability of the results ([Highhouse, 2009](#)). For the data collection, the self-administered questionnaires was used which distributed among the 1000 respondents. Among of those 600 respondents were returned back which shows a 60 percent response rate. According to [Mugenda et al. \(2003\)](#), a 50% response rate is considered to be adequate, 60% is good, while 70% is very good. This indicates that the response rate for this study which is 60% is good.

Research Instrument

The study was consisting of three following main variables. Social media and public policy are exogenous variables and public participation policy is endogenous variables. The questionnaires these variables were adopted from the previous studies. The Social media was dignified by three items which were measured from the study of ([Oginni et al., 2015](#)). The public political participation was measured by fifteen items which was adopted from the study of ([Mangi et al., 2019](#)). On the other hand, the public policy was measured by five items which were adopted in the study of ([Mangi et al., 2019](#)). These variables were measured on five-point Likert Scale which was ranged from 1 strongly disagree to 5 strongly agree.

Data Analysis

Descriptive analysis was being carried out in the SPSS. [Table 1](#) predicted the descriptive analysis of the constructs which are used in the present study. The analysis findings indicate the respondents' perceptions of the factors. The analysis was performed on the mean score of all items. The variables mean score was being ranged from 4.05 to 4.20. The variables score of mean are strongly moderated, indicating that respondents are heavily active in the activities of the exogenous and endogenous constructs. Furthermore, the standard deviation (S.D.) of the constructs ranges from

0.57 to 0.65. The mean score and SD for each variable are shown in [Table 1](#).

Table.1: Descriptive Statistics

Variable	Range	Min	Max	\bar{x}	SD.	Variance	Sk	Ku
Public Policy	2.90	2.72	5.00	4.20	0.57	0.33	-0.08	-0.78
Public political Participation	2.95	2.00	5.00	4.08	0.59	0.34	-0.28	0.35
Social Media	3.00	2.20	5.00	4.05	0.65	0.43	-0.26	-0.44

Note: PP-public policy, PPP-public political participation, SM-social media

Measurement Model

After the descriptive statistics, the next process is to check the reliability and validity of the construct. For this purpose, the Partial Least Square (PLS)-Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) was applied. This technique has more predicted acceptability as compared to [others \(Hair Jr et al., 2021\)](#). In the measurement model, reliability of the construct is deliberated to be vital formerly the model assessment of the study [\(Hair, Sarstedt, Hopkins, & Kuppelwieser, 2014\)](#). For this purpose, firstly the researcher assessed the measurement model validity and discriminant validity. The following [Table 1](#) has shown the findings of measurement model. In the convergent validity, factor loading should always be greater than 0.5 which is required to establish the indicators' reliability. Moreover, the minimum required value for the Cronbach's alpha > 0.70, composite reliability (CR) > 0.70, and lastly average variance extracted (AVE) > 0.5 [\(Hair, Hult, Ringle, & Sarstedt, 2014\)](#). All of these values are predicted in the following [Table 2](#) that fulfills all these above discussed criteria. For discriminant validity, in the Fornell and Larcker criterion, the diagonal values shows the square of AVE that must be greater than the constructs' correlation with other variables [\(Hair, Hult, Ringle, & Sarstedt, 2017\)](#). Similarly, the results of the Fornell and Larcker criterion and HTMT are shown in [Table 3 and Table 4](#) predicted values have established the discriminant validity of the construct.

Structural Model

After the model assessment, the structural model was run through using 500 resampling approaches for testing hypothesis of the study. The structural model of current research must run through utilizing 500 resampling techniques towards examination the study hypothesis which was supported by 10% level of significance value. The Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) results display that social media (SM) have a positive as well as significant association with public policy participation (IPP), providing sustenance to suggested hypothesis. This discovery indicated at that time SMS awareness of youngsters about government policies rises, after that youngster's attraction about the political participation also increases. This shows that SM was playing an important role to increase the participation of public in the political activities especially in the days of

COVID-19. On the other hand, public policy (PP) had negative and significant relationship with the PPP which shows that youngsters were not satisfied from the policies of government which were developed in the days COVID-19 and before. This shows that Government of Indonesia should pay a significant attention to increase the significance level contribution of youngsters to actively take a participation in the political activities. Another possible reason for relationship will be that there could be an overlapping of other variables in the models because the social media and public policy are different categories of variables. The above discussed findings are illustrated in the [Table 5](#) below.

Table.2: Measurement Model (Factor Loading, Cronbach’s Alpha, CR, and AVE)

Variable	Item	Loading	Alpha	CR	AVE
Public policy	PP1	0.738	0.850	0.892	0.675
	PP2	0.905			
	PP3	0.717			
	PP4	0.851			
	PP5				
Social Media	SM1	0.802	0.777	0.855	0.597
	SM2	0.841			
	SM3	0.737			
Public Political Participation	PPP1	0.731	0.858	0.898	0.639
	PPP2	0.781			
	PPP3	0.845			
	PPP4	0.826			
	PPP5	0.888			
	PPP6	0.871			
	PPP7	0.827			
	PPP8	0.747			
	PPP9	0.834			
	PPP10	0.879			
	PPP11	0.826			
	PPP12	0.783			
	PPP13	0.782			
	PPP14	0.673			
	PPP15	0.852			

Note: PP-Public Policy, PPP-Public Political Participation, SM-Social-Media

Table 3: Discriminant Validity ([Fornell et al., 1981](#))

	PP	SM	PPP
PP	0.822		
SM	0.176	0.772	
PPP	-0.136	0.468	0.799

Note: PP-public policy, PPP-Public Political Participation, SM-Social-Media

Table 4: Discriminant Validity (HTMT)

	PP	SM	PPP
PP			
SM	0.198		
PPP	0.183	0.552	

Note: PP-Public Policy, PPP-Public Political Participation, SM-Social-Media

Table.5: Hypothesis Results

	Original Sample	Standard Deviation	T Statistics	P Values	Decision
PP-> PPP	0.352	0.193	1.821	0.069	Supported
SM -> PPP	-0.355	0.198	1.792	0.074	Not Supported

Note: PP-Public Policy, PPP-Public Political Participation, SM-Social-Media.

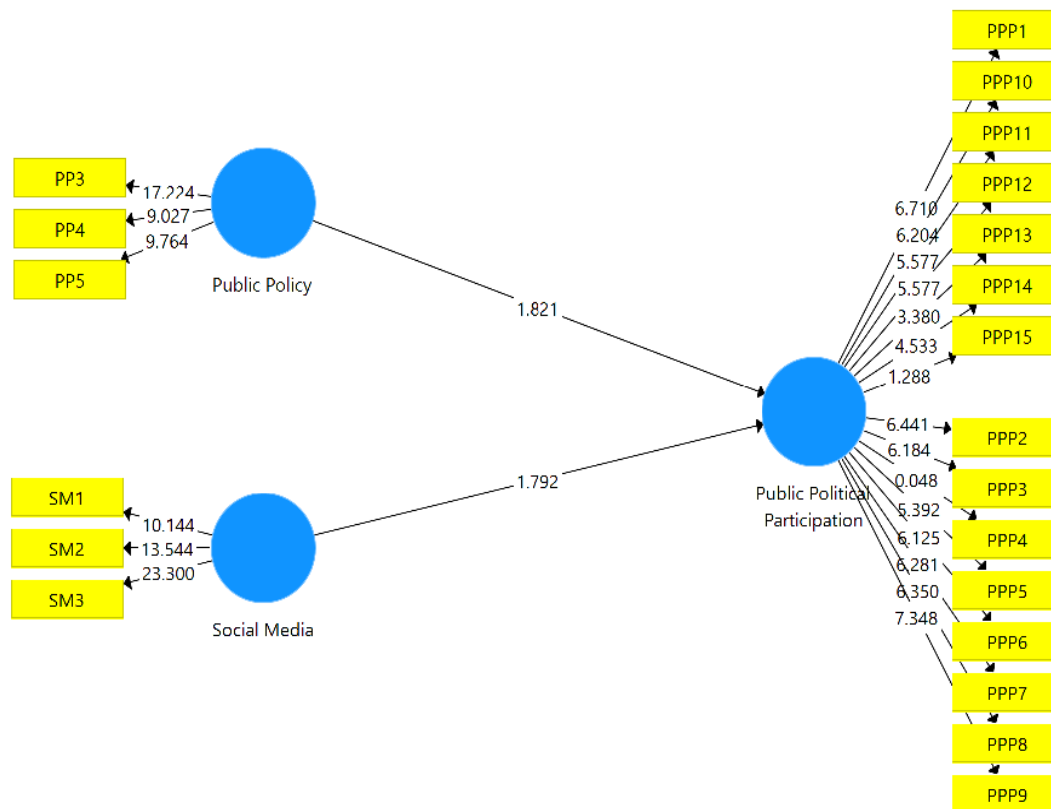


Figure.2: Structural Model

Discussion and Conclusion

History has shown that a young guy can succeed, but it is difficult to keep people coming from both home and abroad. Youths must learn from history to develop an identity and a strong foundation, as well as to see where change must take place. Therefore, the current study objective is to

check the perceptions of national and overseas youngsters to check influence of public policy, social media on public political participation during the Covid-19. For this purpose, the data was collected from the national and overseas of Indonesia by using a convenient sampling technique. The positive relationship between social media and public political participation had been found which supports to H1. Same results had been found in the study of [Bimber et al. \(2013\)](#) which was conducted in United States. In addition, same result has been supported with another study of which assertions that, alike social media that truly follow the spirit of democracy is essential to attract individual towards political activities ([Gil de Zúñiga et al., 2016](#)). On the other hand, current research found the negative and significant relationship between public policy and public political participation in the political affairs of the country.

The obtained result of H2 is not supported. These same results had been found in various previous economies, such as the United Kingdom ([Koc-Michalska et al., 2017](#)), the United States, ([Huyser et al., 2017](#)) and the Netherlands ([van Houwelingen, 2017](#)). These findings show that youngsters were not satisfied from the policies of government which were developed in the days COVID-19 and before. This shows that Government of Indonesia should pay a significant attention to increase the significance level contribution of youngsters to actively take a participation in the political activities. Another possible reason for relationship will be that there could be an overlapping of other variables in the models because the social media and public policy are different categories of variables.

Based on the above findings, it has been concluded that Indonesian youths are encouraged to participate in political concerns, that their participation has enhanced political efficacy, and that this has drawn attention to the political cleavage. As a result of this study, it was established that youths are the primary indicator of societal change, and that youths are numerous in Indonesian society. It is a perfect opportunity for the government to incorporate youths in their decisions in order to maintain a robust social media and youth policy.

Research Implications

Keeping in view the current study findings that could help from both of theoretical and practical perspective. As previously stated, public policy is a negative relationship between the exogenous and endogenous variables. Therefore, it is suggested that government of Indonesia should develop a proper public policy to actively involve youngsters in the political participation because at the time of COVID-19 the policies of Indonesia for public were not effective. In addition, the findings could also help to the politicians and other parities to know about the importance of social media usage and public policies to get the involvement of youngsters in the health activities. Moreover, the study could also help to the researcher to boost their research in their future study with this pioneer study. This study

could add a body of literature in the previous researches that could become a major contribution of the study. The findings of this study may also be useful in developing methods to improve public trust in government and its institutions. Political scientists have recommended a non-traditional polling approach to solve the issue of accessibility. The best areas to put polling stations are supermarkets, parks, public places, and shopping malls (Stein et al., 1997). As a result, this research will aid in understanding the significance of polling precincts in encouraging public participation as well as ensuring free and fair elections in Indonesia. Political parties can play an active role in increasing public political involvement. The study's conclusions may be useful to leaders.

Research Limitations and Future Directions

During an examination of the literature, it was discovered that domain researchers had mostly neglected Indonesia. There were numerous study gaps identified in the available literature. In the future, scholars will be able to investigate Indonesia's vulnerable election system. Furthermore, scientific research is required in the areas of public indifference, public contentment, preference for democracy, the role of the military and judiciary in the political system, and regionalism. In addition, the current research was conducted only direct effect of exogenous and endogenous variables. There are various other variables that could moderate and mediate among their relationship, therefore future research could be conducted along with moderating and mediation variables like public trust, public motivation etc. On the other hand, the research had used the convenient sampling techniques which are a non-probability research technique which has low generalizability. Future research could be conducted along with probability sampling technique to increase the research generalizability.

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