

Voter Age Limit: Readiness as A Voter Among Secondary School Students in Kuala Kangsar District, Perak

By

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Abstract

This study was conducted to examine the readiness as a voter among secondary school students in district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak and its relationship with three motivational factors in Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB). Quantitative method using questionnaire was used in this study to obtain data. A total of 373 Form Four and Form Five students were selected as respondents in the stratified random sampling technique. The questionnaire consists of four constructs which are the readiness of students, Attitude Towards Behavior (ATT), Subjective Norms (SN) and Perceived Behavioral Control (PBC) has been distributed to students. The results showed that there is a moderate positive relationship between the all three motivational factors (ATT, SN and PBC) with the readiness as a voter among students. Perceived Behavioural Control (PBC) has been identified as the motivational factor that become the best predictor for increase student voting readiness. The study also shows that demographic background and the socio-economic (SES) status of students found insignificant to the student readiness. This study shows that PBC is a significant factor in improving student readiness as a voter.

Keywords: Readiness, voting, education, politic, general election

Introduction

The political landscape in Malaysia has undergone a drastic change by constitutional amendments related to the minimum voting age limit in the elections that were tabled and passed unanimously in Parliament on 25 July 2019 (Hansard Dewan Rakyat, 2019). This amendment allows almost 1.5 million individuals between the ages of 18 to 20 to be eligible to vote (EC, 2019). In addition, this amendment has been officially gazetted and is effective from 15 December 2021 (EC, 2022). In the Malaysian context, the basis for the policy of lowering the voting age is to provide opportunities for more people, especially young people, to be involved in the democratic process, particularly voting in elections (Hansard Dewan Negara, 2019). In addition, this amendment was also made after the government was confident in the ability of young people to balance between the need to seek knowledge with political awareness and the responsibility of shaping the future (Prime Minister's Office, 2019).

However, among the main problems faced in modern democratic systems around the world are the low level of participation and involvement as well as the declining turnout in recent years. According to Birch (2015), this downward trend is seen as very significant, especially among young people. This statement is supported by many previous studies,

including in Malaysia. For example, a study conducted by Wan Rozima et. al (2020) among students at Tunku Abdul Rahman University, Kampar, Perak showed that young voters still feel hesitant and uncertain to fulfill their responsibilities as voters in the next election. In addition, according to Ramli (2012) Malaysian youths do not care much about the political situation in the country and subsequently do not exercise their rights as voters. Mohd Fuad (2012) found that the level of political interest among young people, especially among students in IPT is low. Therefore, this study was conducted to examine the level of readiness of secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak as voters.

Research Purpose

This study aims to determine the level of readiness as a voter among secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak. In addition, this study also aims to see whether there are any differences in readiness as a voter among students based on demographic and socioeconomic status background (SES). This study applies Ajzen's Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) to determine whether there is a significant relationship between the motivational factors studied namely Attitudes Toward Behavior (ATT), Subjective Norms (SN) and Perceived Behavior Control (PBC) with readiness as a voter. Finally, this study also aims to identify the best predictors of readiness as a voter.

Conceptual Framework

Figure 1 shows the conceptual framework of the study

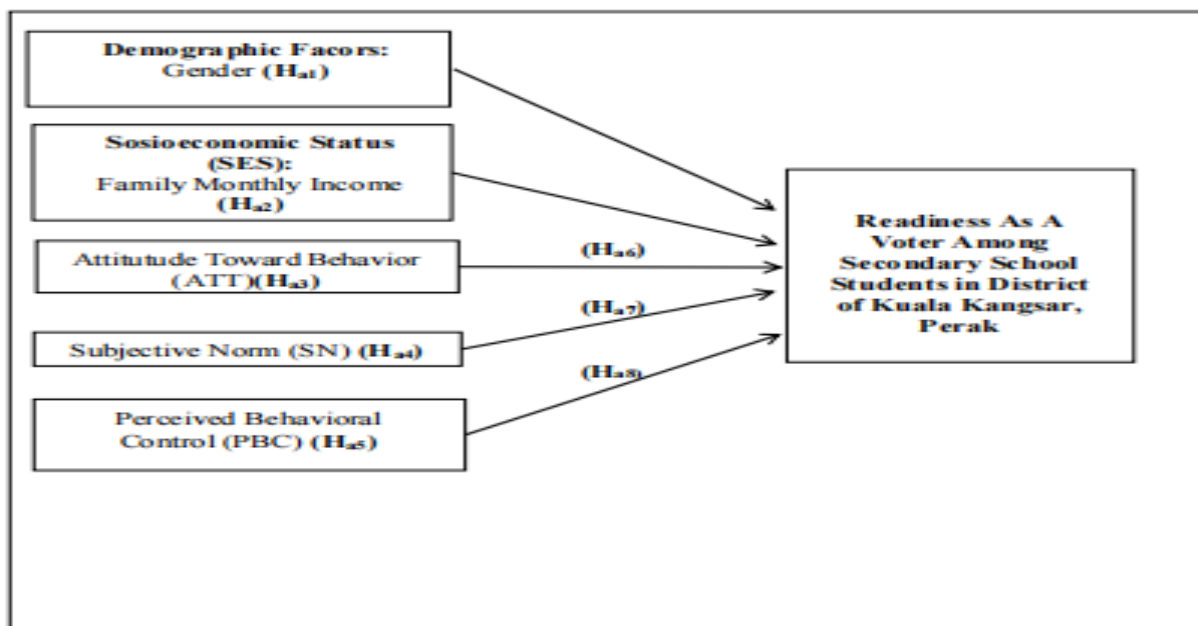


Figure 1 Conceptual Framework of the Study

Source: Built for research

Literature Review

Readiness as A Voter

Readiness as a voter is often associated with political involvement by individuals in certain aspects. According to Munroe (2012), political involvement is defined as the extent to which citizens exercise their right to influence or engage in political activity. It includes activities such as going out to vote, campaigning and being a legally registered member of a political party. Political involvement can be divided into two forms, namely conventional and

unconventional involvement. Conventional involvement is including voting, campaigning and membership in a political party. While, unconventional involvement is activities considered inappropriate or seen as non-compliance with the rules such as demonstrations, revolutions and political violence (Marshelayanti et al., 2016).

Youth and Participation in a Democratic System

Several past studies have focused on the willingness of youth to participate in a democratic system especially as voters. For example, a study by O'Brien and Kohlmeier (2013) found that young people aged 18-25 showed low turnout. Moreover, studies in the United States found that low turnout among young people was due to "widening segregation gaps" in addition to factors of lack of caring attitudes among them (Bahmueller, 1991 in Tie and Chua, 2011). Nevertheless, the involvement of British youth aged 16-24 in voting activities in the Scottish Independence Referendum was seen to increase significantly to reach 68 per cent compared to before due to the existence of awareness and willingness to vote among these groups (Henn & Hart, 2017). Norris (2017) in turn noted that British youths began to tend to get involved in politics because political parties in the country wisely winning their hearts (Nur Elyanis, M.B. and Junaidi, A.B., 2020). Moreover, studies related to youth participation show that youth in Australia are more actively involved in politics as the country imposes mandatory penalties on individuals who do not vote (Nur Elyanis, M.B. and Junaidi, A.B., 2020). According to Mohamed Bincof (2018), the participation of youths in Somalia is based on certain interests. They reject the struggles of some political leaders who put the interests of certain races above the country. Instead, they called for the adoption of a multi-party system across Somalia (Mohamed Bincof, 2018 in Khairunisa'a and Junaidi, A.B. 2020).

In Malaysia, Moten (2011) found that there is a change in political involvement from moderate to higher levels in the country. Voting is a frequent activity, with 79 per cent of respondents admitting they went out to vote in the 2009 and 2013 general elections (Moten 2011 in Marshelayanti, 2016). In addition, the findings of a study conducted in Johor showed that participation in politics is very high in terms of registering as a voter (Othman et. Al., 2003). However, in the findings of another recent study, it was found that there is a declining trend of political involvement among young people in Malaysia (Nadeya et. Al., 2017).

Readiness As a Voter Based on Demographic Background and Socioeconomic Status (SES) of the Family

A few previous studies have shown that there are differences in the level of readiness as a voter according to demographic factors as well as socioeconomic status (SES) of the family.

Gender

Relatively, women are often to be seen have less knowledge, interest and no clear personal views on political issues (Verba et. Al., 1997; Delli Carpini & Keeter, 1996; Repoport, 1981 in Wen et. Al., 2013). Moreover, compared to men, women were found to be less active in engaging in formal political activities (Bimber, 1999; Norris, 2002; Schlozman et al., 1999; Verba et al., 1997; Schlozman et al., 1995). In Malaysia, a study by Khairunnisa & Zakaria (2013) found that the level of readiness to engage in politics among Malaysian women is still low. This finding is supported by Siti Noranizahhafizah (2019) who found that the involvement of women youth in Perak in politics is low and shows a very passive attitude in the aspect of political involvement. However, female youths were found to be active in formal political activities such as going out to vote in elections.

Socioeconomic Status (SES) of the family

The Socioeconomic status (SES) of the student's family studied in this research is the total monthly income of the student's family.

Family Monthly Income

According to Berinsky & Lenz, (2010) and Cohen et al. (2001), socioeconomic factors such as income and employment are the factors that can influence participation in politics. High-income groups were found to be more likely to go out to vote (Tony A. et al., 2001). In contrast, political engagement for low-income earners is less encouraging (Böhnke, 2011; Solt, 2008). This is evidenced through statistics showing a declining trend of turnout in the 2016 Presidential election in the United States which recorded only 46 percent among those below the national poverty line (Matt. S., 2020). However, in certain aspects, the attitudes and behaviors of voting among young people are not seen to be tied to family background or socioeconomic factors. For example, a study by, Meghan Condon and Mathew Holleque (2013) who examined the psychological factors of self-efficacy (self-efficacy) to the voting behavior of young people. The findings show that young people who come from families with low socio-economic backgrounds have high self-efficacy in politics. The positive effect of this attitude is an increase in voter turnout for this group.

In Malaysia, a study by Itam (1984 in Junaidi et. Al. 2020) showed that the low level of readiness as a voter among Orang Asli families is due to the fact that the education of the group is not perfect. This makes them unwilling to be actively involved in the democratic and political process. However, the study of Wan Asna et. al., (2011) who studied the relationship of willingness to participate in politics with the level of political education found that there is no clear relationship between educational background with willingness to engage in politics.

Motivational Factors in Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) and its relationship to Willingness as a voter

This study applies Ajezen's (1991) Theory of Planned Behavior. Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) states that an intention in an action or behavior by an individual depends on three motivational factors namely Attitude Towards Behavior (ATT), Subjective Norms (SN) and Perceived Behavior Control (PBC). This study focuses on the relationship of these three motivational factors with readiness as a student voter.

Attitudes Toward Behavior (ATT)

The first motivational factor, Attitude Towards Behavior or ATT, refers to an individual's positive or negative evaluation of an action. A positive evaluation means that an individual feels positive or otherwise towards voting behavior such as registering as a voter or going out to vote. A study by Han (2008) showed that an individual's positive evaluation of voting can be formed from a variety of stimuli. For example, the mass media has a significant influence as well as being able to increase stimulus, form a positive assessment and motivate voters to go out and vote. However, the study of Schulz, Zeh and Quiring (2005) found that not all media can influence voters to go out to vote. Moreover, a study by Pfau et. al. (2005) stated that different forms of communication can also increase the stimulus and positive evaluation as well as motivation to voters to go out to vote.

Subjective Norms (SN)

The second motivational factor, the Subjective Norms or SN, refers to the social pressure felt around. In the context of voting, if the parents of students believe that by going out to vote is important, then the chances for students to go out to vote will also be higher. A study by Belanger & Eagles (2007) found that there was a significant relationship between surrounding social pressures and readiness as a voter (going out to vote). These findings were confirmed by the study of Glynn et. al. (2009) who found that readiness as a voter for the majority of young people was influenced by family and friends. However, a study by Wan Rozima et. al (2020) found that the factors of friends and family did not have a significant relationship with the readiness of young people as voters. This finding is supported by Chucu

(2015) who found that social stress did not exert a significant influence in increasing motivation and readiness as a voter.

Perceived Behavioral Control (PBC)

Perceived Behavior Control or PBC, on the other hand, means an individual's perception or evaluation of a behavior, whether it is difficult or easy to do. If the individuals feel there are many obstacles in the process of going out to vote, then the PBC of students is low (Wan Rozima et al., 2020). In the context of readiness as a voter, among the examples of PBC factors that have been studied are the factors of convenience and comfort to register as a voter and polling location. According to Gronke et. al. (2008), nowadays, most political parties have realized the importance of providing facilities to voters to register as voters and go out to vote on polling day. The reason is it has a direct effect in increasing the willingness of voters to go out to vote (Gronke et. al., 2008). This is in line with the findings of a study by Schulz, Zeh and Quiring (2005) who stated that the more comfortable and easier it is to get to the polling location, the higher the willingness of voters to go out to vote. In the context of Malaysia, Wan Rozima (2020) stated that, one of the factors that contribute to the low turnout among voters in Malaysia is to avoid traffic jams on polling day and uncomfortable to line up at the polling station. This shows that if the PBC element is low, then the level of readiness as a voter is also low.

Figure 2 shows the Theory of Planned Behavior by Ajzen 1991.

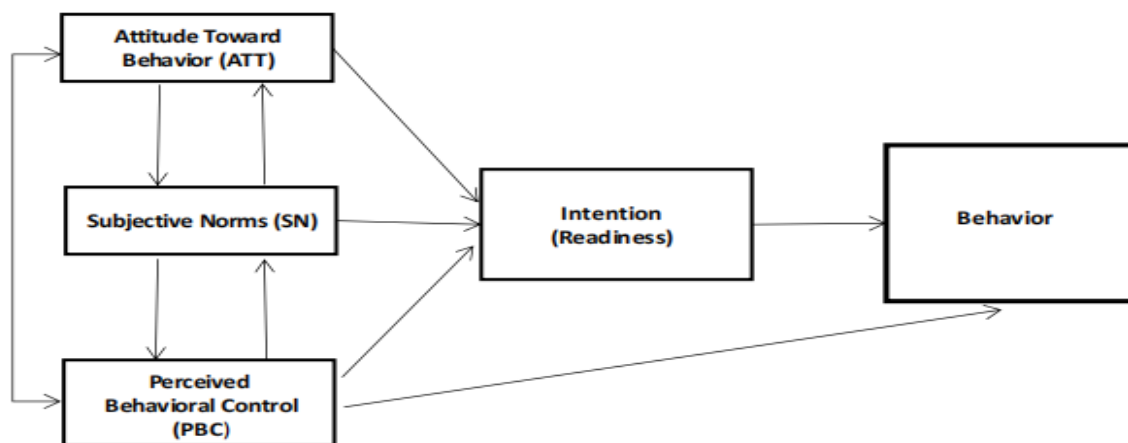


Figure 2 Theory of Planned Behavior Ajzen (1991)

Methodology

This is a quantitative study in the form of a survey using a questionnaire to examine the level of readiness as a voter among secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak and its relationship with motivational factors found in the theory of Planned Behavior (TPB). The constructs of readiness and motivation as a voter were adapted from a set of questionnaires by Douglas (2012) and Wan Rozima et. al (2020). The construct of readiness as a voter consists of two items, namely the readiness to register as a voter and the readiness to go out to vote on polling day. The motivational factor constructs include the items Attitudes Toward Behavior (ATT), Subjective Norms (SN) and Perceived of Behavior Control (PBC). All items in the construct were constructed with five answer choices using a Likert scale. A total of 373 Form Four and Five students from 18 schools answered the questionnaire through stratified random sampling. A pilot study was conducted and a Cronbach Alpha reliability test was conducted to determine the reliability of this set of questionnaires. The constructs in the questionnaire have shown high reliability exceeding the value of 0.60. The

constructs in the research questionnaire have shown high reliability namely readiness construct as a voter (0.790), motivational factor construct i.e., ATT (0.792), SN (0.619) and PBC (0.847). According to Sekaran & Bougie (2016), the Cronbach's Alpha value of an instrument must be equal to or greater than the value of 0.60 as recommended by most research in other social sciences.

Results

The results of this study are divided into several parts which are the level of readiness as a student voter as a whole, comparison of readiness as a student voter based on differences in demographic background and socioeconomic status (SES) of students, correlation between the level of readiness as a student voter with motivational factors in TPB (ATT, SN, and PBC), as well as variables that may be the best predictors of the level of readiness as a student voter.

Readiness as A Voter Level Among Students

The level of readiness as voters of secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak was analyzed descriptively by referring to the Mean Score Interpretation Table adapted from Zamri & Nadiah (2012). Interpretation of mean score values can be classified into three levels, namely low, medium and high (Zamri & Umi Naidah, 2012). Table 1 shows the mean score interpretation table.

Table 1 Mean Score Interpretation Table (Adapted from Zamri & Umi Naidah, 2012)

Mean Score	Interpretation
1.00 – 2.33	Low
2.34 – 3.66	Moderate
3.67 – 5.00	High

The results of the analysis are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2 Level of Readiness as a Voter Among Students

Item	Min	S. D	Interpretation
I am ready to register as a voter.	4.06	0.685	High
I will definitely go down to vote in the next general election if I have qualified as a voter.	4.03	0.727	High
Level of Readiness as A Voter	4.05	0.706	High

Readiness as a Voter based on Gender

An independent t-sampling test was conducted to compare the mean between the groups of male and female students to the level of readiness as their voters. The findings showed that there was no significant difference between the groups of male and female students. Table 3 shows the findings of the study. **Table 3** shows the p values for the independent t -test were greater than the significance level ($t = 1.288$, $p = 0.199 > 0.05$). P values greater than 0.05 are considered insignificant. Therefore, the null hypothesis fails to be rejected. This shows, there is no significant difference in the level of readiness as voters of secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak based on gender factors. The findings of the analysis of this study prove that the difference between male and female students does not affect the level of readiness as voters of secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak.

Table 3 Independent T-Test Analysis of Readiness as A Voter Based on Gender (N = 373)

Gender	Mean	S. D	t	P Value
Male	3.843	0.699	-1.288	0.199
Female	3.933	0.619		

Readiness as a Voter Based on the Socioeconomic Status (SES) of the Student's Family

- H01 : There is no significant relationship between the level of readiness as a voter among secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak according to the total family income and the educational level of parents.
- Ha1 : There is a significant relationship between the level of readiness as a voter among secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak according to the total family income and the educational level of parents.
-

Family Monthly Income

A one-way ANOVA test was conducted to compare the mean between groups of total monthly family income to the level of readiness as their voters. **Table 4** shows the findings of the study. The results showed that the p value for one -way ANOVA was greater than the significance level ($F = 1.781, p = 0.150 > 0.05$). P values greater than 0.05 are considered insignificant. Therefore, the null hypothesis fails to be rejected. This shows that there is no difference in the level of readiness as voters of secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak based on the factor of total family income per month. The findings of the analysis of this study prove that the difference between the total family income per month of students does not affect the level of readiness as voters of secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak.

Table 4 One-Way Anova Analysis of Readiness as A Voter Based on The Families Monthly Income of The Student's Family (N = 373)

	Sum of Square	Df	Mean Square	F Value	Sig.
Between Groups	2.275	4	0.758	1.781	0.150
Within Groups	157.147	369	0.426		
Total	159.422	372			

The results showed that the p value for one -way ANOVA was greater than the significance level ($F = 1.781, p = 0.150 > 0.05$). P values greater than 0.05 are considered insignificant. Therefore, the null hypothesis fails to be rejected. This shows that there is no difference in the level of readiness as voters of secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak based on the factor of total family income per month. The findings of the analysis of this study prove that the difference between the total family income per month of students does not affect the level of readiness as voters of secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak.

The Relationship Between the Motivational Factors Of ATT, SN And PBC With the Level of Readiness as Voters Among Secondary School Students in District of Kuala Kangsar, Perak

The following are the null hypothesis and the research hypothesis for the research question of the relationship between readiness as a voter with the motivational factors of ATT, SN and PBC.

-
- H01 : There is no significant relationship between the motivational factors of ATT, SN and PBC with the willingness to vote of secondary school students in Kuala Kangsar, Perak.
- Ha1 : There is a significant relationship between the motivational factors of ATT, SN and PBC with the willingness to vote of secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak
-

The relationship between readiness as a voter with ATT, SN and PBC motivational factors was tested using Pearson correlation analysis.

The results of the analysis are shown in **Table 5**.

Table 5 Correlation Between Readiness as A Student Voter with Att, Sn and Pbc Factors (N = 373)

Variables	R	ATT	SN	PBC
Raediness As a Voter (K)	1	0.570**	0.396**	0.625**
Attitude Towards Behaviour (ATT)		1	0.321**	0.640**
Subjective Norm (SN)			1	0.249**
Perceived Behaviour Control (PBC)				1

** significant correlation at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Based on **Table 5**, the results of Pearson correlation statistical analysis showed that Pearson correlation coefficient 'r' between the variables of readiness level as a voter with all motivational factors (ATT, SN and PBC) was positive and greater than the value of 0 i.e., ATT = 0.570, SN = 0.396 and PBC = 0.625. These findings successfully reject the null hypothesis. Based on the index given by Chua (2006), the findings show that there is a positive relationship between all motivational factors studied with the level of readiness as voters of secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak.

Variables That Can Be Predictors of Students' Readiness as Voters

H₀₁ : There is no significant influence between the motivational factors of ATT, SN and PBC with the willingness to vote of secondary school students in Kuala Kangsar, Perak.

H_{a1} : There is at least one significant influence between the motivational factors of ATT, SN and PBC with the readiness as voters of secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak

The following are the null and the research hypothesis for the predictor factor studied.

Table 6 Analysis of Multiple Regression Results (N = 373)

	B	t	Sig.
Constant	0.296	1.299	0.195
Attitude Toward Behavior (ATT)	0.245	4.570	0.000
Subjective Norm (SN)	0.321	5.460	0.000
Perceived Behavior Control (PBC)	0.418	8.686	0.000
R	0.694	R²	0.481
F	114.065	Sig.	0.000

Table 6 shows the results of multiple regression analysis. The value of R² = 0.481, indicates that as much as 48.1% of the total variation of readiness as a voter of secondary school students in Kuala Kangsar district, Perak is explained by attitudes towards behavior (ATT), subjective norms (SN) and perceptions of behavior control (PBC). The remaining 51.9% was explained by other variables not included in this study. Overall the model was significant with a value of F = 114.065 and a value of p (sig.) = 0.000 smaller than the significance level of 0.05 (p = 0.000 < 0.05). This indicates that at least one of the three independent variables namely attitudes towards behavior (ATT), subjective norms (SN) and behavioral control perceptions (PBC) can be used to model the readiness as voters of secondary school students in Kuala Kangsar, Perak.

The results of multiple regression analysis through **Table 6** showed that all three independent variables were significant. Attitudes toward behavior (ATT) was significant with a t value = 4.570 and a p value smaller than the 0.05 significance level ($p = 0.000 < 0.05$). The subjective norm (SN) was also significant with a t value = 5.460 and a p value smaller than the 0.05 significance level ($p = 0.000 < 0.05$). While the perception of behavioral control (PBC) also showed a significant value with a value of $t = 8.686$ and a p value smaller than the significance level of 0.05 ($p = 0.000 < 0.05$). The results of this analysis also found that the perception of behavior control (PBC) most influenced the readiness as a voter of secondary school students in Kuala Kangsar, Perak which is 0.418, followed by subjective norms (SN) affect the readiness as a voter by 0.321 and finally attitude on behavior (ATT) affects by 0.245.

Discussion

Overall Level of Readiness as A Voter

This study has found that the level of readiness as voters of secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak is at a high level (mean = 4.05). The high level of readiness as a voter among these students is in line with and supports the findings of the government when presenting the motion to lower the voting age in the Dewan Rakyat in 2019 (Hansard Dewan Rakyat, 2019). The Prime Minister at the time noted that political awareness among young people was on the rise. Therefore, they are believed to be able to balance between the task of seeking knowledge with the responsibility of shaping the future (Prime Minister's Office, 2019). In addition, the findings of this study also support the findings of Mohd Nasir (2008) and Mazli Mamat et. al. (2015) who found that there is awareness among youths (students) about the importance of voting in elections.

The findings result show that the effectiveness of the application and appreciation of the values of patriotism to students at the school level, especially in related subjects such as History. This is because, according to KPM (2002), through the appreciation of history, students can build the strength of the spirit of love for the country.

Differences in Readiness as A Voter Based on Demographic Background and Socio-Economic Status (SES) of the Student's Family

Findings of the study related to demographic variables showed that demographic background and socio-economic status (SES) of students did not have a significant effect on the level of readiness as a voter among students.

The findings of this study support what was stated by Siti Noranizahhafizah (2019) that women's involvement is active in formal activities such as going out to vote where respondents are more likely to be involved in voting activities. This might be because women have gained access to the quality education on an equitable basis. This is support with the findings of Delli and Keater (1996) who stated that among the factors that cause low political involvement is due to

Limited Access to Education

The study also showed that there was no significant difference between the level of readiness as a voter with the total monthly income of the family. This means that the total monthly income of the family does not bring any difference to the readiness of students as voters. The results show that socio-economic factors such as the total family income do not make a difference on the level of readiness as student voters. It also suggests that students have their own assessments of their importance and responsibilities as voters without being bound by family socioeconomic status alone. These findings also indicate that parents nowadays have inculcated awareness and importance as voters earlier in their children at home. This explains

that socioeconomics is not a determining factor on readiness as a voter but rather political inclinations among family members can increase individual awareness in the field of politics. The summary of the findings of this study shows that the factors of gender and total monthly family income do not affect or have a direct impact on the readiness to vote among students. On the other hand, as knowledge and awareness increase, students will be better prepared to be voters regardless of gender background.

The relationship between the level of readiness as a voter with the motivational factors of ATT, SN and PBC

The results of the study have shown that there is a positive relationship between all three motivational factors Attitude Towards Behavior (ATT), Subjective Norms (SN), Perceived of Behavioral Control (PBC) with readiness as voters of secondary school students in Kuala Kangsar, Perak. This means that all motivational factors influence the readiness as a voter. These findings are in line with the studies of Han (2008), Hensen & Jensen (2007), Belanger & Eagles (2007), Glynn et. al. (2009), Schulz, Zeh and Quiring (2005), La Barbera & Ajzen (2015), as well as Wan Rozima et. al (2020). These studies found that ATT, SN and PBC factors were important in influencing readiness as a voter. These motivational factors can be formed through various methods and means such as the influence of the mass media, the views of family members and peers as well as facilities at the polling station. This indicates that without these motivational factors, the level of student involvement in the democratic system will be low. In turn, it will cause the turnout to also decrease. Therefore, these motivational factors need to be given serious attention if we want to ensure the maximum involvement of students in the democratic process, especially from the aspect of voting.

Predictive Factors of Readiness as a Voter Among Students.

The findings of this study found that the PBC factor which is the individual assessment of whether a behavior is easy or difficult to implement is the best predictor of readiness as a voter among secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak. Ease of going out to vote is the main factor for students to be involved in activities either to register as a voter or go out to vote on polling day. These findings are in line with the studies of Schulz, Zeh and Quiring (2005), La Barbera & Ajzen (2015), as well as Wan Rozima et. al (2020) who found that the PBC factor is the most important factor in determining readiness as a voter.

This shows that the easier the voting process can be done, the higher the level of readiness as a voter among the respondents who consist of young people. This is not surprising as the younger generation nowadays is seen to be more inclined towards a simpler lifestyle without having to take a long time. Therefore, the online registration and voting process can be considered from now on as one of the alternative methods to further increase the readiness and involvement of the people, especially the young in the democratic process in the future. This is because, through online voting, it is easier and may be able to attract this group to register as voters and go out to vote.

Proposed Further Study

The study sample involved in this study is secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak only. Kuala Kangsar district is a district in the semi-urban category. The knowledge and exposure of these students may differ from those of urban area students. Access to information may also be limited. This study can be extended to other districts, especially urban areas in Malaysia to see the level of readiness as a voter among students and its relationship with motivational factors, demographics and background socioeconomic status (SSE) of the family. Apart from that, this study can also be extended to students under the age

of 16 years. This can provide more comprehensive and accurate information and facts related to readiness as a student voter. Further research through a qualitative approach is proposed to gain a deeper knowledge of readiness as a voter among students through observations and interviews. Observations of students' tendencies will be able to provide more information on how students' readiness and behavior in terms of involvement in politics more comprehensively.

Conclusion

The findings of this study show that the level of readiness as voters of secondary school students in the district of Kuala Kangsar, Perak is high. In addition, the findings also show that there is a relationship between the level of readiness as a voter with the motivational factors studied, namely Attitudes Toward Behavior (ATT), Subjective Norms (SN) and Perceived Behavior Control (PBC). In addition, this study has also identified the PBC factor as a predictor factor of readiness as a voter among students. However, factors such as racial and gender differences as well as the socio-economic background (SES) of the student's family were insignificant to the readiness as a voter.

As conclusion, the level of readiness as a voter among secondary school students can be further enhanced by organizing academic programs, awareness and campaigns related to the importance of self-involvement as a voter. This kind of activities should start earlier, that is, since primary school. In addition, efforts to increase student involvement in politics, especially from the aspect of voting can be done by facilitating the registration and voting process. This is because, the process is easier and does not take too long will be more attractive to voters, especially among young people and first-time voters.

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