

## THE EFFECT OF POLITICAL BUDGETING ON IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF POLITICAL EDUCATION IN SOCIETY: A LITERATURE REVIEW

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### Abstract

This paper discusses the influence of political budgeting in supporting the improvement of the quality of political education in the community through literature analysis. Political education plays an important role in creating a society that is aware of its rights, obligations and responsibilities in a democratic system. The provision of a political budget is considered a fundamental element to support the implementation of political education programmes, such as training, seminars and counselling. The study results show that adequate budget allocations can improve public access to political information and strengthen active participation in the democratic process. However, the effectiveness of budget provision is influenced by transparent and accountable management. The risk is that the budget may not be targeted if there is misuse or certain political interests. Therefore, political budgeting has great potential to improve the quality of political education if accompanied by good management and consistent policy support.

**Keywords:** Political Budgeting, Improving the Quality of Political Education, Society, Literature Review.

### Introduction

Political education is one of the important aspects in the development of a democratic society. Democracy depends not only on the existence of political institutions, but also on people's ability to understand, monitor and contribute to public decision-making processes. Political education provides people with knowledge about the political system, citizens' rights, and their role in maintaining democracy (Ohman, 2020) . Without adequate political education, people tend to become passive and do not understand the importance of their participation in elections, public policy, and oversight of the government. This risks creating a weak democracy, where political decisions are taken by only a few without effective control from the people (Soroka & Wlezien ., 2021)

In addition, political education not only serves as a means of understanding, but also builds a culture of active participation. People who understand politics tend to be more critical of policies and more willing to take part in various political activities, such as public discussions, advocacy, or being part of community organisations. This active

participation is important to create a political system that is inclusive and responsive to the needs of the people (Kim & Jung, 2021). When people are politically educated, they can act as watchdogs as well as partners in national development, so that democracy is not just a formal system, but comes as a real practice that involves all elements of society. However, in many countries, including Indonesia, the quality of political education in society is still an issue that has not received serious attention (Giugni & Grasso, 2021).

Indonesian people's participation in elections has shown a dynamic development over time. Since the reform era, Indonesia has witnessed various general elections, both at the national and local levels, which marks the improvement of the political awareness of its citizens. In the 2019 Legislative and Presidential Elections, the voter turnout rate reached around 81%, an increase compared to previous elections. This figure shows high enthusiasm from the public to engage in the democratic process and determine the political direction of the country. This high participation can also be seen as the success of various socialisation and political education efforts carried out by the government, political parties, and non-governmental organisations that are increasingly intensive ahead of elections (Norris & Abel van Es, 2021).

However, despite the high participation rate, there are still challenges that need to be overcome to ensure equitable participation across all groups in society. Some groups such as youth, people with disabilities and communities in remote areas often face barriers to active participation. Factors such as lack of access to information, logistics and uneven socialisation can affect their participation. However, people's understanding of political issues, the legislative process and political rights is still relatively low. This can be seen from the high number of misconceptions about political policies that often appear on social media and the low trust in political institutions (Ohman, 2020).

One factor that is said to influence the low quality of political education is the lack of budget allocation from the government. The political budget in question includes funds for the development of political education programmes, such as training, counselling, seminars, or the production of educational materials aimed at the public (Klomp & de Haan, 2021). If political education is not improved through adequate budget support, this can have an impact on the quality of democracy in Indonesia. People who lack understanding of the political process will find it difficult to make wise decisions in determining the direction of the country's leadership and policies. On the other hand, quality political education can strengthen democracy by equipping people with the knowledge and tools to participate actively and critically (Reichert, 2021).

Thus, from these issues, this study aims to understand the extent to which the provision of political budgets has an impact on improving the quality of political education in society through literature analysis. This research is expected to offer a

comprehensive view of the importance of political budget policies to support structured and sustainable political education programmes.

### **Research Methods**

The study in this research uses the literature method. The literature research method is an approach that focuses on the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data or information sourced from various written references, such as books, scientific journals, official documents, articles, and other publications. This research is used to understand concepts, theories, or studies that have been conducted previously related to a particular topic, in order to strengthen the theoretical basis and context in the research being conducted. Researchers in this method endeavour to identify research gaps, develop arguments, and formulate conclusions based on the results of literature review. Although it does not involve direct data collection from the field, this method still requires a critical and systematic approach to ensure the accuracy and relevance of the sources used (Carnwell & Daly, 2001) ; (Boote & Beile, 2005) .

### **Results and Discussion**

#### **The Effect of Providing Political Budgets on Improving the Quality of Political Education in Society**

Providing political budgets to institutions or parties engaged in political education has great potential to improve the quality of political education in society. The budget can be used to fund various political education programs, such as seminars, training, public dialogues, and political awareness campaigns (Reichert, 2021) . With the support of adequate funding, efforts to socialise political values will be more structured and sustainable, so as to reach more layers of society. In addition, a well-allocated political budget also allows political education organisations to use more modern and effective learning methods, for example through digital technology or social media (van Biezen & Rashkova ., 2020)

Quality political education is needed to create a politically literate society. People who understand their rights and obligations as citizens tend to be more active in participating in political decision-making, such as elections and deliberations. With a deeper understanding, people will be able to distinguish credible political information from misleading information, such as hoaxes or propaganda (Quintelier, 2020) . Improving the quality of political education also contributes to supporting the birth of rational and responsible voters. In other words, political budget allocations, if used optimally, not only increase people's political literacy, but also strengthen democracy (Persson, 2021) .

However, the success of political budgeting in improving political education is also highly dependent on the management and governance of the budget itself. If budget management is not transparent, there is a risk of misuse of funds for the benefit

of certain groups or even corruption (Campbell & Niemi, 2020). Therefore, there needs to be a strict monitoring mechanism to ensure that every rupiah allocated is actually used for activities that support public political education. Oversight institutions, both from the government and civil society, should be actively involved in monitoring the implementation of the budget (Falguera., 2020)

Another thing that needs to be considered is the equitable distribution of political budgets to all regions, especially in remote or underdeveloped areas. Often, political education tends to be more active in big cities, while people in rural areas or remote areas still have very minimal access. With an equitable budget allocation, political education programmes can reach all levels of society without exception. This condition can reduce the information gap and realise justice in getting political learning (Barberia & Avelino, 2023).

Improving the quality of political education through the budget can also involve collaboration with various parties, such as academics, non-governmental organisations, media, and community leaders. This collaboration allows political education to be more inclusive and relevant to existing social conditions. For example, local culture-based political education programmes can be introduced in certain regions to make it easier for people to understand political issues with an approach that suits their local values. With good collaboration, the impact of political budgeting will be more significant (Veiga & Veiga, 2023).

In addition, the government needs to develop policies that support the sustainability of political education, not only in the run-up to elections but as an ongoing programme. Political education that is only carried out incidentally tends not to have a significant impact due to the limited time and lack of continuity of the programme. When political education is designed as a permanent part of community development, the results will be more visible in the long term, including in improving the quality of democracy, accountability and public participation (Aidt et al., 2020).

Another challenge that needs to be addressed is ensuring that political education is neutral and free from the interests of particular political parties. In many cases, political budgets are often used to support a particular party's agenda, which can create polarisation in society. For political education to remain relevant and acceptable to all, the programmes funded should be general in nature and prioritise educational interests, not political propaganda. This neutrality is key to building public trust in political programmes funded by the public purse (Hooghe & Dassonneville., 2022)

Furthermore, one indicator of the success of the budget's impact on political education is the increased involvement of the public in local and national political issues. With better political education, people are not only active as voters, but also more critical of public policies, and involved in various discussion forums and other social actions. Political budgets can be directed to encourage initiatives such as the formation of citizen discussion groups, advocacy training, and access to policy information (Norris

& Abel van Es, 2021) . To address these challenges, the government must create budget policies that are accountable, efficient and results-orientated. Budget allocations should be based on the needs of the community, so that the available funds are actually adjusted to fund the most needed activities. In addition, periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of political education programmes need to be conducted, so that less successful programmes can be improved or replaced with more relevant methods (Galston ., 2022)

Thus, with proper management, political budgeting can be an important instrument in improving the quality of political education in the community. A well-targeted budget will open wider access for the public to political literacy, which in turn encourages the creation of an active, critical and empowered society in the democratic process. This not only brings benefits in improving the quality of democracy, but also strengthens the foundation of an inclusive and sustainable national politics.

### **Effectiveness of Political Budget Use in Political Education**

The use of political budget for political education is one of the strategic efforts to improve the quality of democracy in a country. Political education aims to provide citizens with a deep understanding of their rights, responsibilities and functions in the political system. The funds allocated for political education must be used effectively in order to have a significant impact on building public political awareness. This effectiveness can be measured through the achievement of the expected goals and the level of change in the mindset and political behaviour of citizens (Pontes et al., 2020) .

First, the effective use of political budgets in political education is highly dependent on careful programme planning. Political education programmes should be designed with targeted methods that meet the needs of the community, such as through hands-on training, seminars, information campaigns, and the use of technology to disseminate educational materials. With detailed and targeted planning, the budget invested in the programme has a greater chance of achieving the desired goals (Manning & Edwards, 2022) .

Second, fair and transparent budget distribution is an important factor in improving its effectiveness. Budget abuse is often a major obstacle, so there must be strict oversight mechanisms to prevent corruption and inappropriate spending. Transparency in budget use will ensure that available funds are allocated to programmes that truly have a positive impact on society (Geboers et al., 2022) .

Third, collaboration between the government, educational institutions, community organisations and the media can maximise the implementation of political education. The synergy between these institutions allows for more focused and efficient use of the budget. For example, the government can work with schools and universities to incorporate political education into the curriculum, or collaborate with

the media to disseminate massive political awareness campaigns (Kahne & Bowyer, 2022).

Fourth, effectiveness can also be assessed by the results of changes in people's political behaviour following an education programme. If the budget is used to provide materials and experiences that motivate citizens to actively participate in the political process-such as participating in public discussions, exercising their voting rights responsibly, and monitoring government-it has had the desired impact (Loader et al., 2020).

Fifth, using the budget to create digital technology-based political education is an important step in the modern era. Utilising social media and digital platforms as a means of community political empowerment can expand access to educational materials, especially in remote areas. Investment in these technologies can support budget effectiveness, as it allows the dissemination of information to a wider target at a relatively low cost (Torney-Purta & Amadeo, 2023).

Sixth, regular evaluation is an equally important aspect in ensuring the effectiveness of political education budget utilisation. The government and programme implementers need to assess the success of activities quantitatively and qualitatively. Transparent evaluation reports can be an indicator of whether the objectives of political education have been achieved or whether improvements are needed to the fund allocation strategy (Patterson, 2021).

Seventh, there is an important role for political leadership in ensuring that budgets are spent wisely. Political leaders with a strong democratic vision are more likely to support inclusive and quality political education. A commitment from leaders to focus on programmes that bring real impact can encourage productive use of the budget (Smith & Brown, 2021).

Eighth, effectiveness can also be seen from how the public understands the importance of the budget for political education. Campaigns and socialisation related to the purpose of using the budget need to be carried out so that the public has a clear picture of the benefits of the allocation of funds. Thus, they will also participate more in supporting and overseeing political education programmes (Ohman, 2020).

Ninth, the capacity of human resources managing political education programmes also determines the successful use of the budget. Competent experts in the field of political education are needed to design effective programmes that have appeal to the public. Investment in human resource capacity development is one of the strategic uses of the budget (Soroka & Wlezien., 2021)

Tenth, ultimately, the successful use of the political education budget will be felt through the improvement of the quality of democracy manifested in the form of a more critical, participatory society that understands their political rights and obligations. If the budget is used effectively, political education not only builds individual awareness

but also strengthens the political system as a whole (Kim & Jung, 2021) . Thus, political education is an important investment for the future of a nation's democracy.

## Conclusion

Political budgeting has a strategic role in supporting the improvement of the quality of public political education. A review of the literature shows that adequate budget allocations can create more inclusive and effective educational programmes, such as leadership training, seminars and counselling related to citizens' political rights. With this financial support, the public can more easily access information and knowledge related to the political system, thereby increasing awareness of their obligations and responsibilities as part of the democratic process.

However, the effectiveness of political budgeting depends on proper and transparent management. Without proper oversight mechanisms, the risk of budget misuse is high, which can result in poor quality political education programmes. A review of the literature also reveals that budgets are often held up by certain political interests, so that the main objective of building a politically savvy society is not maximised. Therefore, budget management must be carried out in an accountable manner by involving various parties to ensure that every rupiah is used as needed.

Overall, political budgeting has great potential to support the improvement of the quality of political education in society. However, its success is determined by a number of factors, such as good management, active public participation, and consistent policy support. With well-designed and targeted programmes, political budgeting can be an effective tool to create a society that is more aware of their political rights and responsibilities, and to encourage active participation in the country's democratisation process.

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