

Factors Influencing The Perception Of Low Economic Level Communities Towards The Importance Of Regional Head Elections In Bombana District, Southeast Sulawesi Province

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Abstract

This research is motivated by a phenomenon that occurs at the level of society where there is a low level of public participation in politics and the discovery of banners that say "we are ready to accept the dawn attack", this is one of the factors that causes the democratic system in Indonesia to not run optimally. The Low Economic Level (poor) community group is a vulnerable group in this phenomenon. This phenomenon occurs in almost all regions in Indonesia, including Bombana Regency. This research was conducted to determine the level of concern and factors that influence the perception of Low Economic Level (poor) communities regarding the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency. The method used in this research is mixed methods sequential explanatory design. The theories and variables used in this research are factors that influence participation according to Ramlan Surbakti. Data collection techniques in this research were carried out using interviews and questionnaires with data analysis techniques in the form of data reduction to drawing conclusions and the Chi-Square test with the statistical tool used in this research is Statistical Product and Service Solution (SPSS) 26.0 for Windows software. The results of this research show that the level of concern of the Low Economic Level (poor) community is still relatively low and from all the variables measured, the results obtained with H0 being rejected and H1 being accepted or political participation factors having a significant influence on the perception of the Low Economic Level (poor) community regarding the regional head election in Bombana Regency. Therefore, it is necessary to increase public political education related to the importance of regional head elections so that the implementation of democracy can run according to expectations.

Keywords: *Perception, Low Economic Level (poor) society, Regional Election*

I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia's democratic system is carried out in the life of the nation and state based on law and popular sovereignty. The government can simply be described as a government elected by the people, from the people, and for the people as a form of democratic activity as a tool used to run the government system (Rosana, 2016). (Rosana, 2016). An example of practicing democracy in Indonesia is the organization of direct elections. General elections are a means of implementing popular sovereignty which is carried out directly, generally, freely, secretly, honestly, and fairly (*luber and jurdil*) as mandated by Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning the Implementation of General Elections.

Elections and democracy are two things that are very closely related and their existence. Elections are defined as a means or media for the realization of people's sovereignty in producing people's representatives who are qualified, responsible, aspirational and able to place the interests of the community above all in accordance with Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. The election process is one of the applications of political participation tools for citizens who become a democratic system (Surbakti in Sari, 2020: 307). The elaboration of election activities includes Pelpres, Pilcaleg, and Pilkada.

Pilkada is an election conducted to elect regional heads and deputy regional heads in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia in accordance with the ideology of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. The implementation of Pilkada is carried out based on the principles and fulfills all aspects that are the requirements for the implementation of general elections. General elections and regional head elections are said to be successful if the parameters of the achievement of elections and regional head elections can be achieved in accordance with the targets expected by the government. The success of democratic elections and regional elections must be carried out in accordance with the principles that are directly proportional to the expectations of the government. The principles that must be achieved include community participation, integrity and professionalism of the organizers, an honest, fair, transparent and accountable election process, as well as law enforcement of elections or elections with certainty. However, of all these principles, the government's important concern is related to community participation in elections. Community political participation is very important in realizing the ideal democratic process so as to create *good* and clean *governance*. (Widhiastini et al., 2019). Therefore, participation is closely related to the implementation of democracy and participation can also affect the legitimacy of a government. (Indriany, 2020).

The Economist research team in 2016 conducted a research study related to the democracy index in several countries in the world. Where from the results of the study, Indonesia experienced a decline in ranking from 48th in 2016 to 68th in

2017, this ranking was below Timor Leste which was ranked 43rd. This condition is a matter of great concern for the implementation of democracy in Indonesia. From 2014 to 2020, the level of public participation in the implementation of elections continues to experience unstable dynamics and is in the low category because according to KPU RI Commissioner Idham Holik, the cumulative participation rate in the 2019 general election was below the target of national participation expectations. (Warid, 2023). This proves that public trust in the government that is running is still low and there are allegations that certain people do not get any benefits from the general election process so that the right to vote to elect and determine representatives or leaders of an area is not used. The above is supported by the phenomena that often occur in the community ahead of the Pilkada, Pilcaleg, and Presidential Election events. These phenomena include the existence of villages or villages that make banners that say "*we are ready to accept dawn attacks*" Kompas (2019). so that it can be directly said that community political participation in Indonesia is currently influenced by certain factors.

Bombana Regency is one of the regencies in Southeast Sulawesi province with 99,855 voters (KPU, 2017). However, in the 2017 Bombana Regent election, the KPU received only 80,718 votes or only 80% of the total number of voters (KPU, 2017). This proves that the level of political participation in Bombana Regency is still relatively low because it is still below the national voter turnout. The low level of political participation is caused by several factors.

Ramlan Surbakti (2014) in his book entitled *Understanding Political Science* provides an explanation that there are several important variables that affect the high and low levels of a person's political participation, including economic factors, social factors, organizational experience factors, and community political affiliation factors.

From the expert's explanation above, it can be seen that there are several possible reasons for the low level of political participation in Kabupaten Bombana during the 2017 regional head election. One of the most influential factors in people's political participation is their economic level. (A. S. Putri & Putri, 2022). This can be seen from the strong influence of *money politics* to influence people's choice in the regional head election (Muhammad et al., 2023). (Muhammad et al., 2023). The ironic thing is that the target of money politics is generally the poor (*low economic level*), which in the perspective of sociology is categorized as a vulnerable group. In general, vulnerable groups referred to in Pilkada are voters who have limited access to information and knowledge (low education), are not independent and are easily influenced by certain interests (Karyono et al., 2020; Triyono, n.d.). (Karyono et al., 2020; Triyono, n.d.). In addition, according to Surbakti in Indriany (2020), "if the government cannot be influenced in the political decision-making process, then for them active participation is futile".

This is in line with the implementation of Pilkada in Kabupaten Bombana, where public participation is relatively low, and Kabupaten Bombana is ranked 5th with

the highest number of poor people in Southeast Sulawesi Province out of 17 regencies/cities with a percentage of 13.23 (BPS, 2023). As a region with a high number of poor people (*low economic level*), it is assumed that there are people who consider the regional head election as a very important matter because it has a positive impact on the survival of the community, but there are also some people in this circle who think that the regional head election is not an important matter because it has absolutely no influence and impact on economic growth.

In addition to the main factors or key factors related to poverty that have been explained previously, there are also other factors that can influence people's perceptions of the implementation of regional elections, which will have an impact on the number of community participation in the election process.

There are several issues related to the level of participation of *low economic level* communities in the regional elections in Bombana Regency, Southeast Sulawesi Province. The low participation rate is one of the main problems. In the 2017 elections in Bombana Regency, the voter turnout rate only reached 80% or 80,718 votes (KPU, 2017). This figure is still relatively low because it is below the national voter turnout.

The high poverty rate in Kabupaten Bombana is also a problem with the level of community participation. Based on national data, the number of poor people in Kabupaten Bombana is 20,520, or 13.23% of the total population, and ranks fifth out of 17 kabupaten/cities in Southeast Sulawesi. Public awareness of the importance of Pilkada is also still relatively low, and many people think that Pilkada is just a formality and does not provide benefits to the lives of the community.

This research was inspired by several previous studies, both in the context of public perceptions of elections, factors that influence participation and the influence of economic levels and other factors in the implementation of Pilkada. Rismawati's research entitled Perceptions of the Kodingareng Community Towards the Implementation of Regional Elections with a Single Candidate Pair (Study on the Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Makassar) Rismawati (2019), found that the perceptions and assumptions of the community towards a single candidate pair are divided into two, namely there are people who have positive perceptions and negative perceptions where most of the community disagrees with the implementation of regional elections with a single candidate. And the community accepted the superiority of the empty column in the Makassar regional election. Sayuda Anggoro's research found that people's perceptions of the party's buying action in the implementation of Pilkada in Serang Regency obtained the results of the selection process analysis showing the results of 88.65% (very good), organization 87.97% (very good), and interpretation 86.50% (very good). Research by Rahmad Muhammad, et al entitled Poor Groups in Local Democracy in Indonesia (Case Study of the 2020 Makassar Mayoral Election) obtained results show that money politics is also a phenomenon in the

2020 Makassar Mayoral election, especially among the poor. The money politics process was carried out 3 days before the voting day. The massiveness of money politics (although in many cases it is difficult to prove) among the poor, this is due to several aspects including; (1) low understanding and political education among the poor; (2) the poverty factor itself; (3) the existence of apathetic political behavior (Muhammad, R., Latief, M. I., Usman, M., 2023). Research by Adella Sintyana Putri, Nora Eka Putri (2022) that economic factors, educational factors and several other factors have an influence on the implementation of simultaneous regional elections in Guguak sub-district (Putri, A. S., & Putri, N. E, 2022). And research by Martinus Laia, Heri Kusmawanto & Warjio (2021) on the Influence of Money Politics and Socio-Economic Status on Community Participation in the 2019 Legislative Election obtained the results that the magnitude of the influence of money politics and socio-economic status simultaneously / together is 57% which can be interpreted that these two aspects have a strong influence on the level of community participation to vote. (Laia et al., 2021).

The author conducts different research that has never been done by previous studies, where this research is carried out in the context of measuring the concern of *low economic level* communities for the implementation of Pilkada and knowing other factors that influence *low economic level* communities in the implementation of Pilkada in Bombana Regency that have never been studied before. In addition, this study uses a *mixed methods sequential explanatory design* research method that was not used in previous studies in this research. This study also uses different theoretical concepts, namely perception theory according to Irwanto (Pratiwi et al, 2019: 286) and participation according to Ramlan Surbakti (2014) in his book entitled *Understanding Political Science*.

This study aims to analyze and obtain an overview of the level of concern of the *low economic level* community in the implementation of Pilkada, to know and understand the factors that influence the perception of the *low economic level community* in the implementation of Pilkada and appropriate recommendations to prevent factors that influence the perception of the *Low Economic Level* (poor) community towards the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency.

II. METHODS

This study uses a *mixed methos* research approach. According to sugiyono in agustina (2022) the combination research method (*mix methods*) is an approach or research method that combines qualitative methods with quantitative methods to be used simultaneously in a research activity, so that more *valid*, comprehensive, *reliable* and objective data is obtained. (ai agustina, 2022). In this study, the method used is *mixed methods sequential explanatory design*, namely in the form of quantitative

research followed by qualitative research where qualitative research is used to explain the results of quantitative research.

The author collected data using questionnaires, interviews, and documentation. In collecting quantitative data, the author distributed questionnaires to 124 respondents taken through a simple random sampling method to all poor people in Bombana Regency, which was analyzed using the *Chi-Square* test. The statistical tool used in this research is *Statistical Product and Service Solution (SPSS) 26.0 for Windows*. Qualitative data was collected through interviews with key informants to elaborate and clarify the results of the quantitative data analysis, consisting of political government experts, the head of the Bombana Regency KPUD, and members of the Bombana Regency DPRD. The analysis used perception theory and the theory of factors that influence perception.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The author in this study analyzes the factors that influence the perception of low economic level communities towards the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency by using Irwanto's perception theory which consists of two dimensions, namely positive perception and negative perception, as well as factors that influence participation according to Ramlan Surlbakti which are translated into 8 (eight) indicators, namely gender, latest education, residence status, occupation, parents' involvement in political organizations, involvement in community organizations, usefulness of government policies and support for the government. The author in this study will analyze the relationship between community perceptions as measured by concern for the implementation of Pilkada with the 8 (eight) factors outlined in the predetermined indicators.

3.1 The Level of Concern of Low Economic Level Communities on the Importance of Regional Head Elections in Bombana Regency

Based on the questionnaires distributed to the respondents, namely the community, especially the *low economic level* (poor) community, which amounted to 124 respondents representing the total population of the poor in Kabupaten Bombana. From the questionnaire results, the level of awareness of the poor on the importance of regional head elections in Kabupaten Bombana can be described as follows:

Table 1.

The Level of Concern of *Low Economic Level* Communities on the Importance of Regional Head Elections in Bombana Regency

NO	Level of Care	Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Important	80	64,52
2	Not Important	44	35,48
	Total	124	100

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

Based on the data in the table above, it can be seen that the responses of the respondents regarding the level of concern of the poor on whether or not the local elections in Bombana Regency are important can be seen that there are 44 respondents who said that the local elections in Bombana Regency are not important or around 35.48% of the total population of the poor. Meanwhile, 80 respondents or 64.52% of the total population thought that the elections were important.

3.2 The Influence of Gender Factors on the Importance of Regional Head Elections in Bombana Regency

The respondents' answers based on gender factors on the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency and after testing with Chi-Square technique, the following results were obtained:

Table 2.

Distribution of Respondents' Answers to Gender/Gender Factors Importance of election * Gender Crosstabulation

			Gender		
			Female	Male	Total
Head_Region	No	Count	25	19	44
		% within Regional Head	56.8%	43.2%	100.0%
	Important	Count	28	52	80
		% within Regional Head	35.0%	65.0%	100.0%
Total		Count	53	71	124
		Percentage of Level of Importance	52.83%	73.23%	

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

From the results of the respondents' answers above, it can be seen that the distribution of answers to the importance of Pilkada when viewed from the gender/gender factor, namely there are 25 female respondents who consider Pilkada is not important, 19 male respondents who consider Pilkada is not

important, 28 female respondents who consider Pilkada is important and there are 52 male respondents who say Pilkada is important for the poor from the total number of respondents selected.

Based on the distribution of this data, the male gender in the sample is statistically more dominant in saying that the implementation of Pilkada is important. The ratio of the male gender who consider it important is 73.23% compared to the female gender who consider it important only 52.83%. The *Chi-Square* test results of the data are as follows:

Table 3.

Chi-Square Test Results Respondents' Answers to Gender/Gender Factors Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2- sided)	Exact Sig. (1- sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	5.522 ^a	1	.019		
Continuity Correction ^b	4.666	1	.031		
Likelihood Ratio	5.511	1	.019		
Fisher's Exact Test				.023	.015
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.477	1	.019		
N of Valid Cases	124				

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

Based on the results of the *Chi-Square* test on respondents' answers to the gender/gender factor, the *significant* value of *cance pearson* chi-square is 0.019 and the Person Chi-Square Value is 5.522^a. These results illustrate that the male gender/gender factor has a higher ratio than the female gender ratio towards the importance of regional head elections in Kabupaten Bombana for the poor significantly with a 90% confidence level.

3.3 The Influence of Educational Factors on the Importance of Regional Head Election in Bombana Regency

The respondents' answers based on educational factors towards the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency and after testing with Chi-Square technique obtained the following results:

Table 4.

Distribution of Respondents' Answers to Education Factors Importance of election * Education Crosstabulation

			Education				
			Not in School	SD	SMP	HIGH SCHOOL	Total
PILKADA	No	Count	11	19	13	1	44
		% within Regional Head	25.0	43.2	29.5	2.3	100.0
	Important	Count	1	8	22	49	80
		% within Regional Head	1.3	10.0	27.5	61.3	100.0
Total		Count	12	27	35	50	124
		Percentage of Level of Importance	8.3%	29.62%	62.85%	98%	

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

From the results of respondents' answers above, it can be seen that the percentage of poor people who consider Pilkada important or not can be seen from the education factor. The number of respondents who chose that Pilkada in Bombana Regency was not important was 44 respondents, consisting of 11 respondents who did not go to school or 25.0%, 19 respondents who only went to elementary school (SD) or 43.2%, 13 respondents with junior high school education or 29.5%, and 1 respondent who went to high school and who went to higher education or 2.3%.

The number of respondents who chose that Pilkada in Bombana Regency was important was 80 respondents, of which 1 respondent had no education or 1.3%, 8 respondents had only primary school education or 10.0%, 22 respondents had only junior high school education or 27.5%, and 49 respondents had high school and college education or 61.3%.

Based on the distribution of respondents' answers above, the percentage of the level of interest of people who did not take education was 8.3%, the percentage of the level of interest of people who only graduated from elementary school was 29.62%, the percentage of the level of interest of people who took junior high

school education was 62.85% and the percentage of people who took high school education and higher education was 98%. So based on this table, it is stated that the higher the level of education of the community, the higher the level of concern for the implementation of the elections. The significance value of the education

factor on the importance of Pilkada implementation in Kabupaten Bombana after the *chi-square* test is as follows:

Table 5.

Chi-Square Test Results Respondents' Answers to Education Level Factors Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance
Pearson Chi-Square	55.429 ^a	3	.0001
Likelihood Ratio	65.614	3	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	50.771	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	124		

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

Based on the results of the *Chi-Square* test on respondents' answers to the education level factor, the *significant* value of *cance pearson chi-square* is 0.0001 and the *Person Chi-Square Value* is 55.429^a. These results illustrate that the education level factor has a significant influence on the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency for the poor with a 90% confidence level.

3.4 The Effect of Population Status on the Importance of Regional Head Elections in Bombana Regency

The respondents' answers based on the population status factor on the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency and after testing with the Chi-Square technique, the following results were obtained:

Table 6.

Distribution of Respondents' Answers to the Population Status Factor Election Importance

* Population Status Crosstabulation

		Population Status		Total
		Migrants	Original	
PILKADA	No	Count	15	29
		% within	34.1%	65.9%
		Regional Head		100.0%
	Important	Count	10	70
		% within	12.5%	87.5%
		Regional Head		100.0%
Total		Count	25	99
		Percentage of Level of Importance	40%	70,70%

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

From the results of the respondents' answers above, it can be seen that the distribution of answers to the importance of Pilkada when viewed from the population status factor, namely there are 15 immigrant respondents who consider Pilkada to be unimportant, 29 native respondents who consider Pilkada to be unimportant, 10 respondents of immigrant communities who consider Pilkada to be important and there are 70 native respondents who say Pilkada is important for the poor from the total number of respondents selected.

Based on the distribution of the data, the indigenous population in the sample is statistically more dominant in saying that the implementation of Pilkada is important. The gender ratio of indigenous people who consider it important is 70.70% compared to migrants who consider it important only 40%. The *Chi-Square* test results of the data are as follows:

Table 7.

Chi-Square Test Results Respondents' Answers to the Population Status Factor Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2- sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	8.221 ^a	1	.004		
Continuity Correction ^b	6.934	1	.008		
Likelihood Ratio	7.905	1	.005		
Fisher's Exact Test				.009	.005
Linear-by-Linear Association	8.155	1	.004		
N of Valid Cases	124				

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

Based on the results of the *Chi-Square* test on respondents' answers to the population status factor, a *significant* value of *cance pearson chi-square* of 0.004 and a *Person Chi-Square Value* of 8.221^a. These results illustrate that the population status factor has a significant influence on the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency for the poor with a 90% confidence level.

3.5 The Effect of Employment Status on the Importance of Regional Head Election in Bombana Regency

The respondents' answers based on work factors on the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency and after testing with *Chi-Square* technique, the following results were obtained:

Table 8.

Distribution of Respondents' Answers to Employment Status Factors Importance of election * Job Crosstabulation

Election	No	Count	Jobs		Total
			Work	Not Working	
	Important	Count	15	29	44
		% within Regional Head	34.1%	65.9%	100.0%
		Count	64	16	80
	Not Important	Count	80.0	20.0%	100.0%
		% within Regional Head	80.0%	20.0%	100.0%
		Count	79	45	124
Total		Percentage of Level of Importance	81,0 1%	35,55 %	

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

From the results of the respondents' answers above, it can be seen that the distribution of answers to the importance of Pilkada when viewed from the employment factor, namely there are 15 respondents of the working community who consider Pilkada is not important, 29 respondents of the community who do not work consider Pilkada is not important, 64 respondents of the working community consider Pilkada is important and there are 16 respondents who do not work say Pilkada is important for the poor from the total number of respondents selected.

Based on the distribution of this data, the poor who have jobs are statistically more dominant in saying that the implementation of Pilkada is important. The ratio of people who have a job considers the implementation of the elections to be important is 81.01% compared to people who do not work who consider it important only 35.55%. The *Chi-Square* test results of the data are as follows:

Table 9.

Chi-Square Test Results Respondents' Answers to Job Factors Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance	Exact Sig. (2- sided)	Exact Sig. (1- sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	25.877 ^a	1	.002		
Continuity Correction ^b	23.930	1	.001		
Likelihood Ratio	25.929	1	.001		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	25.669	1	.000		
N of Valid Cases	124				

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

Based on the results of the *Chi-Square* test on respondents' answers to the employment factor, a *significant* value of *cance pearson chi-square* of 0.002 and a *Person Chi-Square Value* of 25.877^a. These results illustrate that work factors have a significant influence on the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency for the poor with a 90% confidence level.

3.6 The Influence of Parents' Political Affiliation Status on the Importance of Regional Head Election in Bombana Regency

The respondents' answers based on parents' political affiliation factor on the importance of regional head election in Bombana Regency and after testing with Chi-Square technique, the following results were obtained:

Table 10.

Distribution of Respondents' Answers to the Factor of Parents' Political Affiliation Status

Importance of election * Political affiliation of parents Crosstabulation					
		Related Parents			
		Follow			
		No	Parents	Total	
Election	No	Count	25	19	44
		% within Regional	56.8	43.2	100.0
		Head	%	%	%
	Import	Count	69	11	80
ant		% within Regional	86.3	13.8	100.0
		Head	%	%	%
	Total	Count	94	30	124
		Percentage of	73,4	36,6	
		Importance	%	%	

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

From the results of the respondents' answers above, it can be seen that the distribution of answers to the importance of Pilkada when viewed from the political affiliation factor of parents, namely there are 25 respondents who do not follow parental politics consider Pilkada is not important, 19 respondents who follow parental political affiliation consider Pilkada is not important, 69 community respondents who do not follow parental political affiliation consider Pilkada is important and there are 11 respondents who follow parental political affiliation say Pilkada is important for the poor from the total number of respondents selected.

Based on the distribution of this data, people who do not choose to follow their parents' political affiliation are statistically more dominant in saying that the implementation of Pilkada is important. The ratio of people who choose not to follow their parents' political affiliation considers the implementation of Pilkada important at 73.4% compared to people who follow their parents' political

affiliation who consider it important at only 36.6%. The *Chi-Square* test results of the data are as follows:

Table 11.

Chi-Square Test Results Respondents' Answers to the Political Affiliation Factor of Parents

Chi-Square Tests				
	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	13.408 ^a	1	.001	
Continuity Correction ^b	11.851	1	.001	
Likelihood Ratio	12.978	1	.000	
Fisher's Exact Test				.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	13.299	1	.000	
N of Valid Cases	124			

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

Based on the results of the *Chi-Square* test on respondents' answers to the political affiliation factor of parents, the *significant* value of *cance pearson chi-square* is 0.001 and the *Person Chi-Square Value* is 13.408^a. These results illustrate that the political affiliation factor of parents has a significant influence on the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency for the poor with a 90% confidence level.

3.7 The Effect of Participation in Political Organizations on the Importance of Regional Head Elections in Bombana Regency

The respondents' answers based on the factor of participation in political organizations on the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency and after testing with the *Chi-Square* technique, the following results were obtained:

Table 12.

Distribution of Respondents' Answers to the Participation in Political Organizations

Factor

Importance of election * Community participation Crosstabulation			Participation_O rmas		
			No	Ever Particip ated	Total
Head_Regi on	No	Count	43	1	44
		% within Regional	97.7	2.3	100.
		Head	%	%	0%
	Important	Count	57	23	80
		% within Regional	71.3	28.8	100.
		Head	%	%	0%
Total	Count		100	24	124
	Percentage of Level of Importance		57	95,8	
			%	3%	

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

From the results of the respondents' answers above, it can be seen that the distribution of answers to the importance of Pilkada when viewed from the factor of involvement in community organizations, namely there are 43 respondents who have never followed or participated in community organizations that consider Pilkada is not important, 1 respondent who has followed and or participated in political organizations considers Pilkada is not important, 57 community respondents who have never followed and or participated in political organizations consider Pilkada is important and there are 23 respondents who have participated and participated in community organizations consider Pilkada is important for the poor from the total number of respondents selected.

Based on the distribution of these data, people who have participated and or are involved in community organizations are statistically more dominant in saying that the implementation of regional elections is important. The ratio of people who have participated and / or involved in community organizations considers the implementation of Pilkada important is 95.83% compared to people who have never participated and / or involved in community organizations consider it important only 57%. The *Chi-Square* test results of the data are as follows:

Table 13.

Chi-Square Test Results Respondents' Answers to the Involvement in Community Organizations Factor

Chi-Square Tests					
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	12.75 0 ^a	1	.002		
Continuity Correction ^b	11.11 0	1	.001		
Likelihood Ratio	16.32 0	1	.002		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	12.64 7	1	.000		
N of Valid Cases	124				

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

Based on the results of the *Chi-Square* test on respondents' answers to the involvement factor in community organizations, the *significant* value of *cance pearson chi-square* is 0.002 and the *Person Chi-Square Value* is 12.750^a. These results indicate that involvement in community organizations has a significant influence on the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency for the poor with a 90% confidence level.

3.8 The Effect of Government Policy Benefit for the Community on the Importance of Regional Head Election in Bombana Regency

The respondents' answers based on the factor of the usefulness of government policies for the community on the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency and after testing with the Chi-Square technique, the following results were obtained:

Table 14.

Distribution of Respondents' Answers to the Benefit Factor of Government Policies for the Community

Importance of election * Benefits of government policy Crosstabulation					
		Benefits_of_Government			
		_Policy			
		No	Helpful	Total	
Head_Region	No	Count	29	15	44
		% within Regional Head	65.9%	34.1%	100.0%
	Important	Count	3	77	80
		% within Regional Head	3.8%	96.3%	100.0%
Total		Count	32	92	124
		Percentage of Level of Importance	9,37%	83,69%	

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

From the results of the respondents' answers above, it can be seen that the distribution of answers to the importance of Pilkada when viewed from the factor of the usefulness of government policies for the community, namely there are 29 respondents who do not receive the benefits of government policies so that they consider Pilkada is not important, 15 respondents who feel the benefits of government policies consider Pilkada is not important, 3 respondents who do not receive the benefits of government policies consider Pilkada is important and there are 77 respondents who feel the benefits of government policies consider Pilkada is important for the poor from the total number of respondents selected. Based on the distribution of these data, people who feel the benefits of government policies are statistically more dominant in saying that the implementation of regional elections is important. The ratio of those who feel the benefits of government policy considers the implementation of regional elections important at 83.69% compared to people who do not feel the benefits of government policy consider it important at only 9.37%. The *Chi-Square* test results of the data are as follows:

Table 15.

Chi-Square Test Results Respondents' Answers to the Benefit Factor of Government Policy

Chi-Square Tests					
	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2- sided)	Exact Sig. (1- sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	57.284 ^a	1	.001		
Continuity Correction ^b	54.084	1	.002		
Likelihood Ratio	59.563	1	.003		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	56.822	1	.000		
N of Valid Cases	124				

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

Based on the results of the *Chi-Square* test on respondents' answers to the usefulness factor of government policies, a *significant* value of *cance pearson chi-square* of 0.001 and a *Person Chi-Square Value* of 57.284^a. These results illustrate that the usefulness of government policies has a significant influence on the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency for the poor with a 90% confidence level.

3.9 The Effect of Government Policy Support on the Importance of Regional Head Elections in Bombana Regency

The respondents' answers based on the factor of Support for Government Policy on the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency and after testing with Chi-Square technique, the results are as follows:

Table 16.

Distribution of Respondents' Answers to the Support Factor for Government Policy

Importance of election * Support policy Crosstabulation						
			Support Policy			
			No	Support	Total	
Head_ Region	No	Count	11	33	44	
		% within Regional Head	25.0%	75.0%	100.0%	
	Important	Count	2	78	80	
		% within Regional Head	2.5%	97.5%	100.0%	
Total	Count		13	111	124	
	Percentage of Level of Importance		15,38%	70,27%		

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

From the results of the respondents' answers above, it can be seen that the distribution of answers to the importance of Pilkada when viewed from the factor of support for government policies, namely there are 11 respondents who do not support government policies considering Pilkada is not important, 33 respondents who support government policies consider Pilkada is not important, 2 respondents who do not support government policies consider Pilkada is important and there are 78 respondents who support government policies considering Pilkada is important for the poor from the total number of respondents selected.

Based on the distribution of these data, people who support government policies are statistically more dominant in saying that the implementation of regional elections is important. The ratio of people who support government policy considers the implementation of regional elections important at 70.27% compared to people who do not support government policy consider it important at only 15.28%. The *Chi-Square* test results of the data are as follows:

Table 17.

Chi-Square Test Results Respondents' Answers to the Support Factor for Government Policy

Chi-Square Tests					
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	15.313 ^a	1	.001		
Continuity Correction ^b	13.009	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	15.035	1	.001		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	15.190	1	.000		
N of Valid Cases	124				

Source: processed by researchers, 2024

Based on the results of the *Chi-Square* test on respondents' answers to the factor of support for government policies, the *significant* value of *cance pearson chi-square* is 0.001 and the *Person Chi-Square Value* is 15,313^a. These results illustrate that the factor of support for government policies has a significant influence on

the importance of regional head elections in Bombana Regency for the poor with a 90% confidence level.

Based on the results of the analysis above and then developed according to the opinions of informants consisting of political government experts, the head of the Bombana Regency KPUD and members of the Bombana Regency DPRD, the research results obtained through questionnaires to the public and have passed the analysis stage using SPSS tools are in line with the concepts of academic experts, election organizers and government administrators with different arguments.

3.10 Recommendations to Prevent the Increasing Indifference of Low Economic Level Communities to the Importance of Regional Head Elections in Kabupaten Bombana

Based on the results of the above research, the author provides recommendations to prevent the indifference of *low economic level* communities towards the importance of regional head elections in Kabupaten Bombana. The recommendations are as follows:

1. There is a need for family education (political domestic education);
2. Strengthen the responsibility of educational institutions to carry out *civic education* and strengthen curricula designed for political education;
3. There needs to be a role for community organizations to provide political education for the community;
4. The government must make a *green design* related to the policy system to how efforts to conduct *civic education* in the community so that not only the KPU is tasked with increasing the political understanding of the community but all elements of government also play a role;
5. KPU must be able to carry out socialization related to the importance of the implementation of general elections and the need for the ability of political parties that also play a role in the political education process;
6. Elected government administrators should provide policy benefits for the entire community.

3.11 Discussion of Research Findings

The level of concern of the *low economic level* (poor) community in Kabupaten Bombana towards the implementation of Pilkada is very alarming, where 35.48% of the poor only consider Pilkada as something that is not important or only a formality and does not bring benefits to the lives of the people in Kabupaten Bombana. In addition, the latest finding obtained in this study is the level of factors that have an influence on the level of community participation.

Based on the results of the Chi-Square test of respondents' answers regarding the factors influencing the perceptions of the *Low Economic Level community* towards the importance of regional head elections in Kabupaten Bombana, it is found that all factors that are indicators in this study have an influence. However, what

distinguishes one factor from another is the level of influence that can be seen from the *Value Person Chi-Square value*. The level of influence of the indicators or factors are as follows:

Table 18.

Level of Influence of Indicators on Community Perceptions

No	Influencing Factors	Person Chi-Square Value	Order of Influence
1	Gender or Sex	5,552 ^a	VIII
2	Community Education Level	55,429 ^a	II
3	Population Status	8,221 ^a	VII
4	Community Occupation	25,877 ^a	III
5	Parents' Political Affiliation	13,408 ^a	V
6	Involvement in Community Organizations (Ormas)	12,750 ^a	VI
7	Benefits of Government Policy	57,284 ^a	I
8	Support for Government Policy	15,313 ^a	IV

Source: Chi-Square Test Results with SPSS Tools, 2024

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The author concludes that 35.48% of the poor think that the local elections in Kabupaten Bombana are not important. While the other 64.52% still think that the regional head election is important, but the level of community awareness is still relatively low.

The results of the *chi-square* test show that there are 8 (eight) factors that have an influence on the perception of the *Low Economic Level* (poor) community towards the importance of regional head elections in Kabupaten Bombana. However, with different levels of significance. In this study, the most influential factor is the usefulness of government policies, followed by the level of education of the community, and the factor with the least influence is gender.

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