

The Appeal of Apoliticalism at the Intersection of Human Rights and Legal Violations

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ABSTRACT

This research explores the rise of apoliticalism at the intersection of human rights and legal violations in Indonesia. The objective is to examine how factors such as education, access to information, and trust in the political system influence apolitical attitudes and evaluate the legal frameworks governing political participation. The study uses a literature review method, analyzing academic journals, reports, and government data. Results indicate that while apoliticalism aligns with human rights principles, it threatens democratic legitimacy when widespread. The research concludes that balancing individual freedoms with collective responsibility is essential to mitigate the adverse effects of apoliticalism, ensuring both human rights protection and democratic participation.

INTRODUCTION

In the modern era, human rights (HR) have become a universally recognized fundamental principle and form the basis of laws and regulations across various nations. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, asserts the right of every person to freedom of opinion, association, and participation in political activities (Assembly, 1948). These rights are acknowledged as essential elements for ensuring individual well-being and promoting fair social development. However, amidst this freedom, the phenomenon of being apolitical has emerged—referring to individuals or groups who choose not to engage in political activities or support any particular political party. The apolitical stance is often misunderstood and perceived as a form of apathy or indifference towards social and political issues. Robert Putnam highlights the decline in civic participation in various social and political activities in the United States, reflecting the rise of apolitical attitudes (Putnam, 2000). Additionally, Inglehart and Norris, in their work on populism and authoritarian politics, examine how dissatisfaction with the existing political system can lead to apolitical behavior (Inglehart & Norris, 2017).

The growing phenomenon of apolitical attitudes, particularly among younger generations, raises a fundamental question: Is an apolitical stance a human right that must be protected, or can it be considered a violation of the legal obligation to participate in democratic life? In this context, this research aims to explore the position of apolitical attitudes at the crossroads between human rights and legal regulations. Human rights provide individuals the freedom to determine their own views and life choices, including the decision not to engage in politics. Freedom House, in its 2021 report, emphasizes the importance of individual freedom in determining political participation as part of civil liberties (Repucci & Slipowitz, 2021). On the other hand, legal regulations in many countries require citizens' active participation in the democratic process, such as voting in elections and contributing to public dialogue. Indonesia's Law No. 7 of 2017 on General Elections mandates citizens' participation in elections as a form of democratic responsibility (Syafei & Darajati, 2020).

This conflict creates a dilemma between respecting individual freedoms and fulfilling the collective obligation to participate in the governance of the state. On one hand, the freedom to choose not to engage in politics is an expression of an individual's right to determine their own life path without coercion. However, when a significant number of individuals opt out of political participation, it can threaten the health of democracy itself. Political participation is one of the main pillars of democracy; without broad and active citizen involvement, the legitimacy of the government and decision-making processes can weaken. Some countries have adopted regulations requiring political participation, such as mandatory voting in elections. Amnesty International, in its annual report, highlights how certain countries impose sanctions on citizens who do not participate in elections, sparking debates about whether forced political participation infringes on the right to abstain

(Amnesty International, 2021). Human Rights Watch, in its 2022 World Report, also underscores how legal regulations regarding political participation can potentially violate citizens' civil and political rights (Human Rights Watch, 2021).

This study will also analyze how apolitical attitudes are influenced by various factors, including levels of education, access to information, and trust in the political system. In the context of Indonesia, the 2023 annual report from the National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM) noted that the lack of political education and low trust in political institutions are the primary factors driving apolitical attitudes among the public (Komnas HAM RI, 2024). Additionally, Inglehart and Norris examined how dissatisfaction with the existing political system can trigger apolitical behavior as a form of protest against such discontent (Inglehart & Norris, 2017). Furthermore, it is crucial to consider the social impacts of apolitical attitudes. On one hand, apolitical behavior can be seen as an expression of individual freedom, guaranteed by human rights. The freedom to choose not to engage in politics is an expression of the individual's right to determine their own life path without coercion. However, on the other hand, when many individuals opt out of the political process, it can jeopardize the health of democracy itself. Political participation is one of the main pillars of democracy; without broad and active citizen involvement, the legitimacy of the government and the decision-making process can be undermined.

In the effort to balance individual rights and collective obligations, it is essential to develop an inclusive and participatory approach. The government and civil society must collaborate to raise political awareness and educate citizens about the importance of participating in the democratic process. Engaging and relevant political education programs, which explain how each individual's voice can make a difference, can help reduce apolitical attitudes. Furthermore, it is crucial to assess the impact of legal regulations that mandate political participation. Are such regulations effective in increasing political engagement, or do they instead provoke resistance and infringe upon human rights? This research will examine how legal regulations mandating political participation are implemented in various countries, including Indonesia, and their impact on individual freedom and democratic health. In the context of Indonesia, Law No. 7 of 2017 on General Elections requires active citizen participation in elections (Syafei & Darajati, 2020). However, this regulation has sparked debates over whether mandating political participation violates the human right to remain apolitical. Amnesty International, in its report, highlights how regulations mandating political participation can infringe upon human rights if not applied fairly and transparently (Amnesty International, 2021).

Moreover, this study will explore how apolitical attitudes are shaped by various social and cultural factors. In some societies, there is a tendency to avoid political conflict and contestation, which may be perceived as misaligned with values of social harmony and unity. On a psychological level, apolitical attitudes can also stem from feelings of powerlessness or cynicism about

individuals' ability to effect change through political participation. These feelings are often exacerbated by corruption scandals and disappointment with politicians who fail to deliver on their campaign promises. As part of this analysis, it is crucial to observe how the apolitical phenomenon is evolving in a global context. Freedom House's 2021 report highlights the declining political participation in many democratic countries, often accompanied by growing distrust in political institutions (Repucci & Slipowitz, 2021). In this regard, apolitical attitudes are not only a national issue but also a global challenge that requires international cooperation and knowledge exchange to address. Thus, this journal will examine apolitical attitudes from the perspectives of human rights and legal regulations, aiming to find a balance between individual freedom and collective responsibility. The findings from this research are expected to provide a comprehensive understanding of the apolitical phenomenon and its implications for democracy in Indonesia, particularly how it relates to human rights and legal violations. Furthermore, this study is expected to offer relevant policy recommendations to improve political participation, safeguard human rights in Indonesia, and prevent legal infringements that may arise due to apolitical attitudes in the country.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature studies reveal that the appeal of apoliticalism at the intersection of human rights and legal violations is a complex and nuanced subject. According to Goldberg and Moore in "Theoretical Perspectives on Human Rights and Literature" literature offers a profound lens through which human rights issues are explored and understood (Goldberg & Moore, 2013). Highlights how various literary genres, including fiction and memoirs, address the tensions and conflicts between universal human rights discourse and cultural differences (Mullins, 2008). "Moral and Political Conceptions of Human Rights" by Andreas Follesdal, examines the moral and political foundations of human rights and their implications for theory and practice (Follesdal, 2017). It provides insights into how apoliticalism can be both a critique of and a response to human rights discourse. "Political Liberalism, Neutrality, and the Political" by Chantal Mouffe critiques the liberal ideal of neutrality in politics, arguing that it overlooks the inherently conflictual nature of political life (MOUFFE, 1994). The Research emphasizes that politics is always about power and antagonism, making neutrality impossible, and calls for a democratic framework that embraces pluralism and conflict. These sources collectively provide a comprehensive understanding of how apoliticalism can be both a response to and a factor in the perpetuation of human rights issues and legal challenges.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a literature review approach to gather and analyze data. The sources used include academic journals, books, government reports, and other official documents. Each type of source plays a vital role. Academic journals provide the latest research and scientific theories that have undergone peer review. Books offer broader and deeper context on specific topics.

Government reports and other official documents present empirical data, statistics, and policies that illustrate the real-world situation. The analysis involves identifying key themes that emerge from the literature and evaluating how these themes relate to ethical issues surrounding apolitical behavior. This analytical process includes tracing patterns, concepts, or issues that frequently arise in the relevant literature. For example, issues such as freedom of expression, political participation, and the social impact of apolitical attitudes may become central themes for evaluation. The researcher then examines how these themes connect to ethical issues, such as whether apolitical attitudes respect individual rights while also threatening democratic principles. This method allows researchers to gain a comprehensive understanding of the studied topic and identify areas that still require further exploration. By integrating various sources and perspectives, the researcher can formulate a more holistic picture of the apolitical issue and its ethical implications. This approach also helps uncover gaps in the literature, which could serve as a basis for future research. For instance, if it is found that existing literature inadequately addresses the long-term impacts of apolitical attitudes on democratic legitimacy, this could become a suggested area for deeper investigation in the future. Overall, the literature review method employed in this study is a systematic and structured approach that not only provides a comprehensive understanding of the researched issue but also helps direct the focus of the research to areas needing further exploration. This ensures that the study is not only relevant to the current context but also contributes to the development of knowledge in the future.

RESEARCH RESULT

Origins and Motivations of Apolitical Attitudes

Apolitical attitudes are not a new phenomenon; they arise as a response to political environments perceived as corrupt or inadequate. In Indonesia, the long history of authoritarianism under the New Order regime has influenced many citizens to abstain from political involvement. The New Order regime, led by Suharto for over three decades, was known for its strict control over political activities and freedom of expression. During this period, public political participation was limited, and criticism of the government was often met with repression. This situation resulted in widespread political apathy among the Indonesian populace (Lev, 2009). After the 1998 reform movement, which marked the fall of the New Order regime, there was a great hope for a more inclusive and representative democracy. However, the transition to democracy has not been smooth. Political reform has brought new challenges, including the rise of identity politics and extreme polarization. Identity politics, often based on ethnicity, religion, or specific social groups, has become a tool for some political elites to gain power. This extreme political polarization has led to social fragmentation and exacerbated conflicts among various community groups (Bertrand, 2004).

For many, apolitical attitudes serve as a form of self-protection from the risks associated with engaging in what they perceive as unproductive political conflict. Avoiding political involvement can be seen as a way to maintain

personal and social peace amid ongoing political uncertainty. According to Zizek, apolitical attitudes can be viewed as a critical response to overly polarized politics (Zizek, 2008) When politics ceases to be a means of achieving social justice and becomes a tool for maintaining power, individuals who feel powerless tend to withdraw from the political arena. However, the phenomenon of apolitical attitudes can also lead to stagnation in democratic development. As Hannah Arendt articulated in *The Human Condition*, political participation is an integral part of public life and democracy. When citizens disengage from politics, they lose the ability to demand their rights, including the human rights that are often violated by the state (Arendt, 2013) A lack of political participation can diminish government accountability and pave the way for corruption and abuse of power.

Furthermore, the phenomenon of apolitical attitudes can also be examined in a global context. In many democratic countries, there is a trend of declining political participation, both in elections and in involvement with political organizations. According to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), global trends indicate a decrease in voter turnout in elections over the past few decades (IDEA, 2019) Distrust in political institutions, corruption, and dissatisfaction with government performance are primary factors driving apolitical attitudes. In Indonesia, a survey conducted by the Indonesian Survey Institute (LSI) in 2020 indicated that public trust in political parties and legislative bodies had reached a historic low (Sentosa et al., 2024). Only about 40% of respondents expressed confidence in political parties, while more than 50% voiced dissatisfaction with the performance of the House of Representatives (DPR) (Sentosa et al., 2024) This lack of trust reflects a legitimacy crisis faced by political institutions in Indonesia.

In addition, apolitical attitudes are also influenced by economic factors. Economic instability and high social inequality can exacerbate political apathy. According to a report by Oxfam, economic disparity in Indonesia continues to grow, with the four wealthiest individuals possessing wealth equivalent to that of the 100 million poorest people in the country (Oxfam International, 2018). This inequality creates dissatisfaction and frustration among the populace, who feel that political participation will not be able to change their economic conditions. In this context, it is essential to find ways to address apolitical attitudes and enhance political participation. The government and civil society need to collaborate in developing relevant and engaging political education programs that explain the importance of political participation in the democratic process. Increasing transparency and accountability within political institutions is also crucial for rebuilding public trust in the political system.

Factors Contributing to Apolitical Attitudes in Indonesia

Apolitical attitudes in Indonesia are influenced by a variety of complex factors, encompassing social, political, economic, and cultural dimensions. This phenomenon reflects a public indifference towards politics or a reluctance to engage in political processes, including elections, public discussions, or policy

advocacy. To gain a deeper understanding, here are some of the primary factors contributing to apolitical attitudes in Indonesia:

1. Distrust in Political Institutions

One of the primary factors contributing to apolitical attitudes in Indonesia is the public's distrust of political institutions, such as political parties, parliaments, and the government. Many citizens feel that these political bodies fail to effectively represent their interests and instead serve as tools for political elites to enrich themselves or consolidate their power. According to a survey conducted by Indikator Politik Indonesia, public trust in political parties and the parliament remains relatively low, with many people believing that politicians prioritize personal or group interests over the broader public good (Sentosa et al., 2024). Widespread corruption, unfulfilled campaign promises, and transactional political practices are the main reasons for the erosion of trust in political institutions. Mietzner's study also indicates that many voters in Indonesia feel that their votes do not lead to significant change, prompting them to adopt an apolitical stance and refrain from engaging in political activities (Mietzner, 2013).

2. Disappointment with a Corrupt Political System

Public disappointment with the high levels of corruption within the government is another significant factor contributing to apolitical attitudes. Corruption at various levels of government, from central to regional, has led to a widespread sense of pessimism regarding the effectiveness of Indonesia's political system. According to Transparency International's 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), Indonesia ranked 102 out of 180 countries with a score of 37 out of 100, indicating that corruption remains a serious problem in the country (Transparency International, 2020). Corruption involving public officials, politicians, and bureaucrats often erodes public trust in a political process that is perceived as dirty. Furthermore, corruption directly impacts the quality of public services and the well-being of citizens, reinforcing the belief that politics primarily benefits a select few. This situation fosters feelings of apathy and reluctance to engage in political processes, as the public feels that the political system is too corrupt to be repaired.

3. Political Polarization and Social Conflict

The increasing political polarization, particularly after the 2014 and 2019 elections, has created an unhealthy political environment in Indonesia. Intense political battles between opposing camps, especially concerning issues of religion and identity, have led to a sense of pressure among the public, making them reluctant to engage in political discussions. This polarization is not only prevalent among political elites but has also spread to the general public, where verbal conflicts and even physical altercations frequently occur between supporters of different political factions. The phenomenon of identity politics, where religion and ethnicity are used as tools for political mobilization, further exacerbates this situation. According to Aspinall, identity politics in Indonesia has

created profound social tensions, leading many individuals to feel safer staying away from politics rather than participating in it (Aspinall & Berenschot, 2019) Such polarization can instill fear in citizens regarding the expression of their opinions, as they worry about becoming targets of violence or intimidation.

4. Lack of Political Education and Human Rights Awareness

Another factor contributing to political apathy in Indonesia is the low level of political education and awareness of human rights. The formal education system in Indonesia places insufficient emphasis on the importance of political participation and citizens' rights in a democratic system. As a result, many people do not understand how they can effectively engage in the political process or advocate for their rights. According to studies by Aspinall and Mietzner, political education in Indonesian schools tends to focus on teaching the theoretical aspects of the government system, without providing deeper insight into the active role of citizens in sustaining democracy (Aspinall & Mietzner, 2010). This lack of political education fosters a generation that is apathetic toward politics and tends to avoid public involvement. Moreover, the lack of human rights socialization also leaves the public unaware of their political rights, including the right to freedom of expression, the right to assembly, and the right to criticize the government without fear of legal repercussions.

5. Fear of Political Repression

Political apathy in Indonesia is also driven by fear of political repression, where the government uses regulations and policies to limit freedom of speech and assembly. The Information and Electronic Transactions Law (UU ITE) is one such regulation that has been used to silence criticism of the government. According to Amnesty International, the UU ITE has become an effective tool for prosecuting activists, journalists, and social media users who are vocal in their criticism of government policies (Amnesty International, 2021). When people see that they can be criminalized simply for voicing criticism, they tend to withdraw from political engagement. This repressive legal regime in stills fear in the public, leading many to adopt an apolitical stance to avoid legal risks or violence.

6. Focus on Personal Economic Needs

Another factor contributing to political apathy in Indonesia is the public's focus on fulfilling their personal economic needs. Many people feel that politics does not have a direct impact on their daily lives, especially in terms of employment, income, and well-being. In a country with relatively high poverty and unemployment rates like Indonesia, the public often prioritizes efforts to meet basic needs over engaging in political activities, which are perceived as irrelevant to improving their personal economic conditions. According to a 2024 report by Indonesia's Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the poverty rate remains around 9.03%, and many people in vulnerable economic situations tend to lack the time

or resources to participate in political processes (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2024). Prioritizing work, education, and family income often takes precedence, leading people to view political involvement as non-essential.

Consequences of Apolitical in Indonesia

Apolitical in Indonesia brings about several significant consequences for the country and its society. While this stance can be viewed as an expression of individual freedom, its effects can be detrimental to the democratic system and the enforcement of human rights (HAM).

1. Weakening Democratic Participation

One of the primary impacts of political apathy is the weakening of participation in democratic processes. A healthy democracy requires active participation from its citizens in elections, public discussions, and other political activities. This participation is crucial to ensure that governance reflects the will of the people and is responsive to societal needs. According to Freedom House, declining political participation can undermine government legitimacy and create opportunities for authoritarian practices to take root (Repucci & Slipowitz, 2021). In Indonesia, low political engagement driven by apathy threatens the health of its democracy and weakens inclusive political representation (Repucci & Slipowitz, 2021).

2. Increase in Corruption and Abuse of Power

The lack of political participation by the public also paves the way for corruption and abuse of power. When citizens do not engage in the political process, oversight of government actions becomes weak. Achieving transparency and accountability is difficult without active civic participation. Transparency International's 2020 report highlights that Indonesia continues to face serious challenges in combating corruption, and political apathy worsens this situation by reducing public scrutiny of government actions (Transparency International, 2020).

3. Marginalization of Vulnerable Groups

Political apathy also leads to the marginalization of vulnerable groups in society. When the public is disengaged from politics, vulnerable groups such as women, children, and ethnic or religious minorities often fail to receive adequate attention from the government. Low political participation means that the needs and interests of these groups are not represented in political decision-making processes. Komnas HAM has noted that the marginalization of vulnerable groups is a recurring issue in Indonesia, partly due to the lack of inclusive political participation (Komnas HAM RI, 2024)

4. Exacerbation of Distrust in Political Institutions

Political apathy further deepens public distrust in political institutions. This distrust often stems from negative experiences with a political system perceived as corrupt and unresponsive. When people disengage

from politics, this sense of mistrust becomes more entrenched and challenging to overcome. Robert Putnam, in his book *Bowling Alone*, highlights how low social and political participation can erode social capital and intensify distrust in political institutions (Putnam, 2000).

5. **Legitimacy Crisis in Elections and Local Governance**
Political apathy can lead to a democratic legitimacy crisis during elections, both at the national and local levels. A healthy democracy relies on active citizen participation, and when large portions of the population opt out of political engagement, the legitimacy of the government and its decision-making processes becomes fragile. Freedom House notes that declining political participation can exacerbate dissatisfaction with the government and increase distrust in political institutions, further destabilizing the political landscape (Repucci & Slipowitz, 2021)
6. **Implementation of Non-People-Centric Policies**
Political apathy also results in the implementation of policies that are not pro-people during elections and political processes. When citizens do not engage in politics, their needs and aspirations are often not reflected in public policy. According to Komnas HAM, the lack of inclusive political participation in Indonesia frequently leads to the marginalization of vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and ethnic or religious minorities (Komnas HAM RI, 2024). Without public pressure and active involvement, the government tends to implement policies that favor political and economic elites, neglecting the broader needs of the populace (Komnas HAM RI, 2024).

Calls for Political Apathy May Violate the Law

Calls for political apathy –urging individuals or groups not to engage in political activities carry complex implications and can potentially violate laws, especially within a democratic context like Indonesia. On one hand, every individual has the right to choose whether or not to participate in politics, in line with the principle of freedom of expression recognized by human rights (HAM). However, such calls can also pose legal risks if they are perceived as obstructing a healthy and participatory democratic process.

1. **Violation of Democratic Participation Principles**
A healthy democracy relies on the active participation of citizens in the political process. When calls for political apathy diminish this participation, the fundamental principles of democracy are threatened. Law No. 7 of 2017 on General Elections in Indonesia mandates active citizen participation in elections as a form of democratic responsibility. A lack of political participation resulting from calls for apolitical attitudes can weaken government legitimacy and diminish inclusive political representation (Syafei & Darajati, 2020).
2. **Hindrance to Law Enforcement and Justice**
Calls for political apathy can also impede the enforcement of law and justice. When society refrains from political engagement, the oversight of

governmental actions becomes weak. This lack of engagement allows corrupt practices and abuse of power to proliferate without adequate scrutiny. Transparency International notes that corruption remains a serious issue in Indonesia, and an apolitical attitude exacerbates this situation by diminishing public oversight over government actions (Transparency International, 2020).

3. Abuse of Regulations to Silence Criticism

The Electronic Information and Transactions Law (UU ITE) is often utilized by authorities to silence criticism from the public. SAFENet reports that many activists, journalists, and citizens have been ensnared by articles in the UU ITE for criticizing the government or expressing their political views on social media (SAFENet, 2024). Calls for political apathy, which suggest refraining from engaging or criticizing the government, allow for this law to be employed without significant resistance (SAFENet, 2024)

4. Increasing Distrust in Legal Institutions

Calls for political apathy can also contribute to increasing distrust in legal institutions. When the public perceives that laws are being used as tools for oppression and silencing rather than for protecting their rights, trust in the legal system diminishes. This erosion of trust can exacerbate political apathy and create a cycle of indifference that is difficult to break. According to a report from the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM), distrust in legal institutions in Indonesia remains high, and apolitical attitudes contribute to this situation (Komnas HAM RI, 2024). As citizens withdraw from political engagement, they become less likely to advocate for reforms or challenge injustices, further entrenching the perception that legal institutions are unresponsive or biased.

5. Restriction of Freedom of Expression and Assembly

Calls for political apathy can also lead to the restriction of freedom of expression and assembly. When the government faces little pressure from the public, it tends to enact laws that limit civil liberties. Human Rights Watch notes that in many countries, including Indonesia, political apathy facilitates government actions to suppress freedom of expression and assembly without significant resistance (Human Rights Watch, 2021).

Solutions to Address Political Apathy in Indonesia

Addressing political apathy in Indonesia requires a comprehensive approach involving various stakeholders, including the government, educational institutions, civil society organizations, and the media. Here are some detailed solutions to combat political apathy in Indonesia:

1. Political Education and Awareness Raising

Political education is key to addressing political apathy. High-quality political education should start early, both through formal education curricula and out-of-school programs. The government, together with educational institutions, should develop curricula that teach the importance of political participation and human rights. According to

data from UNESCO, education is an effective tool for shaping more proactive attitudes and behaviors in political life (Bridges & Walls, 2019). Interactive and relevant political education programs can help raise awareness and understanding among the public about the significance of political participation.

2. Strengthening the Role of Media

The role of mass media is significant in shaping public opinion and enhancing political awareness. The media should act as an independent watchdog, providing accurate and balanced information. Additionally, the media should actively engage in educating the public about political processes and encouraging political participation. According to a report from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, independent media free from political intervention can enhance political participation by providing accurate and transparent information (Reuters Institute, 2023). Media campaigns promoting the importance of political participation can help mitigate apolitical attitudes.

3. Legal and Policy Reforms

Legal and policy reforms that support political participation are essential in addressing apolitical attitudes. The government must ensure that existing laws and regulations do not hinder political engagement. For instance, revising the Electronic Information and Transactions Law (UU ITE), which has often been used to silence criticism, is necessary to protect freedom of expression. Fealy and White highlight that discriminatory regulations are often employed to maintain the power of political elites (Fealy & White, 2008). Legal reforms focused on protecting human rights and fostering inclusive political participation can help mitigate apolitical attitudes.

4. Enhancing Transparency and Accountability

Transparency and accountability in political processes are crucial factors in fostering public awareness about political developments in Indonesia, not just during elections or regional head elections. The government must ensure that all political processes, including elections, are conducted transparently and accountably. This includes ensuring that campaign funds are used properly and that there are no corrupt practices. Transparency International emphasizes that transparency and accountability are essential in efforts to combat corruption and enhance political participation (Transparency International, 2020). The government needs to commit to improving transparency in all aspects of governance and ensure that public officials can be held accountable for their actions.

5. Encouraging Civil Society Participation

Civil society plays a crucial role in promoting political participation. Civil society organizations can serve as a bridge between the government and the public, advocating for pro-people policies and providing political education to the community. The government should support and collaborate with civil society organizations to enhance

political participation. Human Rights Watch notes that civil society organizations can help raise political awareness and encourage public participation in the political process (Human Rights Watch, 2021). Programs that involve the community in policymaking and political decision-making can help reduce apolitical attitudes.

6. Use of Technology

Technology can indeed be a highly effective tool for increasing political participation, particularly through the use of social media. Political campaigns that utilize social media platforms can reach a broader audience, especially among the younger generation. Social media can also be used to disseminate information about political processes and encourage public discussion. According to a report from the Pew Research Center, social media has become one of the primary sources of political information for many individuals (Pew Research Center, 2019). Both the government and the private sector can leverage social media to raise political awareness and encourage public participation in the political process.

7. Improving Social and Economic Welfare

Improving social and economic welfare can significantly enhance political participation. When people feel that their basic needs are met and they have opportunities to improve their quality of life, they are more likely to be proactive in engaging in political processes. Therefore, the government should focus on enhancing the social and economic welfare of its citizens. Oxfam highlights that economic instability and social inequality can exacerbate apolitical attitudes (Oxfam International, 2018). Programs designed to reduce poverty and promote welfare for the community can empower individuals to take an active role in increasing political participation.⁷

DISCUSSION

Apolitical attitudes, while representing a legitimate exercise of individual freedom as enshrined in human rights, pose significant challenges when they become prevalent in democratic societies such as Indonesia. On one hand, individuals retain the right to abstain from political activities; on the other hand, widespread apoliticalism can undermine democratic processes by reducing civic engagement and weakening government accountability. Legal frameworks, including Indonesia's Information and Electronic Transactions Law (UU ITE), have been criticized for stifling political critique, which may further suppress participation and exacerbate political disengagement. This disengagement diminishes oversight of government actions, potentially fostering corruption and infringing on civil liberties. Addressing this issue requires a delicate balance between safeguarding individual freedoms and promoting political involvement through enhanced political education, improved transparency, and legal reforms, aimed at fostering a more inclusive and accountable democracy. The study highlights that distrust in political parties, government institutions, and electoral systems is a key driver of

apolitical attitudes, linking this distrust to pervasive corruption, unfulfilled campaign promises, and the self-serving behavior of political elites, all of which contribute to public disillusionment with politics. Moreover, the phenomenon of apoliticalism is not unique to Indonesia but part of a broader global trend where declining trust in political systems and increased polarization lead individuals to withdraw from civic participation. The study argues that addressing this disengagement demands international attention, as political apathy threatens democratic principles on a global scale.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The apolitical attitude, while legitimate as a form of freedom of opinion and expression under human rights (HAM), can have serious consequences if it becomes widespread in society. When many individuals choose not to engage in the political process, it can weaken the legitimacy of democracy. Low political participation means that the voices of the people are less represented in decision-making, resulting in a government that may not fully reflect the will of the community. This threatens the foundational principles of democracy, where power should stem from the active participation of citizens. Therefore, this study recommends a balanced approach between individual freedoms and collective responsibilities. The freedom of individuals to adopt an apolitical stance should be complemented by efforts to enhance political participation collectively. This can be achieved through political education programs, increased transparency and accountability from the government, and regulatory reforms that encourage political involvement. With a balanced approach, Indonesia can reduce apolitical attitudes and strengthen an inclusive and representative democracy.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

Further research on apolitical attitudes at the intersection of human rights (HAM) and legal violations could encompass several important areas. First, a juridical analysis of the ITE Law, examining its use to silence political criticism and its impact on human rights. Second, studying the effects of political apathy on law enforcement and oversight of the government. Third, exploring the relationship between apolitical attitudes and the decline of transparency and accountability in the political process. Fourth, researching how apolitical attitudes affect freedom of expression and assembly. Lastly, providing recommendations such as political education, increased transparency, and legal reforms to address apolitical attitudes and strengthen democracy and the enforcement of human rights in Indonesia.

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