

TRADITION OF FAMILY CHOICE IN THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: A STUDY ON STUDENTS OF THE FACULTY OF USHULUDDIN AND ISLAMIC STUDIES UIN NORTH SUMATRA CLASS OF 2021

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to find out the extent of the influence of family choice traditions on students' political decisions in the 2024 Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections. This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach by collecting data through interviews and literature studies. The results show that the family is still the main political socialization agent that influences students' political preferences, mainly due to emotional bonds, economic dependence, and inherited values from an early age. However, technological advances, higher education, and political discussions in the campus environment also provide space for students to think critically and make political decisions independently. Thus, although the tradition of family choice is still strong, its influence on students' political decisions tends to begin to weaken with the development of the times and wider access to information.

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INTRODUCTIONS

General elections, which are used to elect candidates for various political offices, such as president, vice president, and people's representatives at all levels of government, are one of the hallmarks of a democratic country because it is open to all citizens. In Indonesia's democratic system, which elects the president and vice president through elections, everyone has the right to vote, and every vote counts. The right to make decisions directly, freely, personally, and independently belongs to the people, who are sovereign. The holding of general elections is one of the main political processes in democracy. The people have the opportunity to elect their representatives in government

through general elections. However, elections are also often a catalyst for political disputes among the constituents of society, especially within the family. (Santoso & Buddhism, 2021) (Rozak, 2016) (Sardini, 2011)

Research by Sukmawati Martani and Suharno shows that family background and political socialization in the family have a significant influence on the political participation of new voters. This study found a strong correlation between family background and political involvement, and a strong correlation between the political participation of new voters and political socialization in the family. These findings indicate that the family plays a role as an effective agent of political socialization in shaping the political orientation of the younger generation. (Martani & Suharno, 2022)

The closest social environment a person has is the family. Family members are interdependent and have an emotional bond with each other. In addition, values, attitudes, and mindsets are formed in the family. As a result, it is not surprising that differences of opinion about politics and electoral choices (Buling & Soesilo, 2021)

can lead to family disputes. Family conflicts related to elections and political infighting can be dangerous. Family members' relationships and trust can be destroyed by intense disagreements, which can then adversely affect the family's psychological and emotional health. The family is believed to function as a vehicle for education, parenting, and socialization of children, the development of the skills of each family member to be able to carry out their role in society effectively, as well as a provider of fulfillment and a healthy environment to realize a successful family. (Megawangi, 2004)

On the other hand, if we look at the tradition of family choice in elections, the ideal of obedience and unity in the family is the main driver of this practice. In some families, there are figures who have a great influence in making political choices, such as fathers, mothers, or grandparents. Their authority and experience are often used as a reference in making political choices by other family members. In addition, family interests and economic considerations also play a role, such as when a candidate has a close personal and financial bond with his or her family. Younger or less experienced family members tend to follow the decisions of their parents or other family members, resulting in a homogeneous voting pattern in the family.

The tradition of family choice in elections is a phenomenon in which an individual's political preferences are influenced by the family environment. The family, as the smallest social unit, plays an important role in shaping the political orientation of its members through the process of political socialization. In the context of students of the Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies UIN North Sumatra, this tradition is relevant for researched to understand the extent of family influence on their political choices in the 2024 election.

Thus, research on the tradition of family choice in presidential and vice presidential elections among students of the Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies UIN North Sumatra is important to understand the dynamics of family influence on their political preferences. This kind of study can provide insight into how family values and the process of political socialization in the family shape the political orientation of students.

METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach, which aims to describe and understand in depth how the tradition of family choice affects students' political decisions in the 2024 Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections. This approach was chosen because it is able to capture subjective meaning and social dynamics that cannot be quantitatively measured. Data collection was carried out through two methods, namely field research and library research. The field research was conducted by interviewing students of the Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies of UIN North Sumatra Class of 2021, who were chosen as the main informants because they were relevant to the research focus. This interview aims to explore the experiences, perceptions, and backgrounds of the respondents' political choices in the context of family influence.

Meanwhile, literature research is carried out by examining various literature sources such as books, scientific journals, articles, and the results of previous research that support theoretical analysis. The data obtained from these two methods were then analyzed descriptively to identify social patterns and tendencies in student choice behavior related to family choice traditions.

The theory used in the study is that the theory of voting behavior is part of political behavior that reflects the participation of citizens in the political decision-making process, especially in general elections. This activity involves cognitive (rational and informational thinking) and affective (feelings and emotions), which are influenced by the quality of information and the psychological situation of the voters. In a scientific context, the commonly used approach is the Michigan School which emphasizes the psychological aspect of voting behavior. According to Charles Prysby and Carmine Scavo this approach identifies four main factors that influence a person's political choices, namely the personal qualities of the candidate, the performance of the government in power, the issues raised by the candidate, and loyalty to the political party (party identification). This last factor is often formed from the socialization process in the family and is stable. Thus, the behavior of choice is not only based on rational considerations, but is also the result of complex psychological and social dynamics in the individual. (Prysby & Scavo, 2002)

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

The Form of Family Choice Tradition in the 2024 Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections

The tradition of family choice in the context of the 2024 presidential and vice presidential elections is a socio-political practice that inherits political preferences within the scope of the family. This tradition is characterized by the tendency of family members, especially young people, to follow the political choices embraced by parents or central figures of the family. In Indonesian society that is thick with a culture of collectivism, this form of tradition plays a role in maintaining family unity and minimizing conflicts between family members in a practical political context.

The form of this tradition can start from interpersonal communication between parents and children that takes place informally. In many cases, parents convey expectations or directions to their children about who should be elected in the election. In addition, the dominance factor of the role of parents as role models, both in terms of religion, economy, and education, also strengthens children's tendency to follow these choices. (Qoharuddin , 2022)

The results of a national survey published by Kompas.id revealed that as many as 72.4% of women and 59.3% of men admitted that their political choices were influenced by their family. This figure shows that in Indonesian society, the family is still the main agent of political socialization, even surpassing digital media or educational institutions. This is reinforced by research on a strong correlation between family background and political socialization and the participation rate of novice voters. (São Paulo, São Paulo , 2024)

Based on the results of this research interview, the form of family choice traditions in the 2024 presidential and vice presidential elections among students of the Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies UIN North Sumatra, among others, the existence of students who have a background in political education, organizational experience and digital literacy that continues to develop shows their tendency to conduct presidential and vice presidential elections in 2024 independently, because they have the space to express themselves while still respecting the views of their parents .

The Influence of Family Choice Traditions on Students' Political Decisions in the 2024 Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections

Student political decision-making in the context of the 2024 Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections cannot be separated from the influence of the nearest social environment, one of which is the family. In political

science, the family is positioned as the earliest and most powerful agent of political socialization. The tradition of family choice, namely the tendency to follow the political preferences of parents or close relatives, is part of the political heritage that is transmitted across generations. In the process of political decision-making, the family has a role as the main agent of political socialization.

The tradition of political choice in the family is the result of the process of inheriting values, political orientation, and loyalty to certain figures or parties that has been passed down from generation to generation. In the context of students, this tradition is often the basis for making political choices, especially at important moments such as the 2024 Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections. The family is the first institution that introduces individuals to the political system, either directly or indirectly, through conversations at home, the habit of watching political news, and comments on certain political parties. (Surbakti, 2010)

However, it is important to note that college students are not a homogeneous group that is completely subservient to tradition. Students are often positioned as rational voters because they have undergone a formal educational process that allows them to critically assess political information. However, empirical data shows that there are still many students who admit to following their family's political choices because they feel unwell or because there is emotional and economic pressure. This is reflected in research that revealed that 58% of college respondents said that parental choices have a great influence on their political decisions. In this context, tradition is not only a cultural heritage, but also a form of social adaptation to maintain harmony in family relationships. (Surbakti, 2010)

Economic factors are also a strong cause that makes students follow family political choices. Financial dependence on parents often discourages students from taking opposing political positions. This is reinforced by the results of research which states that in Indonesian society, family relationships are hierarchical and paternalistic, so different decisions from the head of the family can be considered a form of disobedience. In some cases, students are even afraid to voice different political views for fear of having an impact on their relationships and economic assistance. (Sulastri, 2023)

However, technological advances and information disclosure provide space for students to develop political thinking autonomy. Access to social media, discussion forums, and political literacy materials available online has given rise to groups of students who dare to have different views from their families. Mass media, including social media, functions as an agent of alternative political socialization that is able to rival the dominance of the role of the family in shaping individual political opinions. (Cangara, 2014)

In this study, the influence of family choice traditions on students' political decisions in the 2024 presidential and vice presidential elections among students of the Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies UIN North Sumatra shows that most students have their own decisions without having to be influenced by their families in determining the president and vice president in 2024, this they do considering the advancement of technology and political discussions in the world of lectures which provides information about politics that adds to their insight to think critically so that they can make their own decisions in the general election.

Factors that Strengthen the Practice of Family Choice Traditions in Determining Students' Political Choices

The tradition of family choice in determining student political choices in the 2024 election does not appear suddenly, but is strengthened by various social, cultural, economic, and psychological factors. A number of factors have been found to play an important role in strengthening this tradition. Primary Political Socialization: The family is the first and foremost agent of political socialization. From childhood, individuals are exposed to the values, norms, and political views embraced by parents and members of the nuclear family. Informal discussions, the habit of watching the news together, or even just listening to political conversations at home can shape a student's initial understanding of the world of politics. Parents teach children about the importance of honesty, responsibility and

respect which are values in political life. Budiardjo stated that in a society that still has a strong collective culture, the family is often used as the main reference in making decisions, including in political affairs. This shows that trust in the family as a source of political reference is still very high, even among young voters such as college students. (Budiardjo, 2013)

Emotional Bonds and Trust: Strong emotional relationships between family members, especially between parents and children, tend to make college students more trusting and following the political views of the family. The existence of respect and the desire to maintain family harmony also plays a role in maintaining the tradition of political choice. Obedience to parents as a form of respect or even worship is a normative value that is highly upheld in Indonesian society, especially in the Muslim environment. This is one of the main factors that make students reluctant to express differences in political views with their families. Students who have high religious leanings show stronger political conformity to family decisions. (Azizah, 2022)

Influence of the Microenvironment: A family environment that is homogeneous in political views (e.g., all family members support a particular party or candidate) can strengthen students' beliefs about the choice. Students may feel like they are part of the family's political identity. **Economic and Social Dependence:** In many cases, college students still have economic dependence on their families. This can indirectly affect their political decisions, as there is a desire not to contradict those who support their lives. Students who are still financially dependent on their parents tend to avoid political conflicts with their families. Economic dependence encourages students to follow their parents' political choices not because of ideological similarities, but because of dependency relationships. (Nurhayati, 2022) **Lack of Independent Political Knowledge or Interest:** Some college students may not have deep political knowledge or a strong interest in seeking information independently. In these conditions, they tend to rely on guidance from their families as a shortcut to make political choices.

Local Traditions and Culture: In some regions or community groups, family traditions and deliberations in decision-making are still very strong, including in terms of politics. Political choices are often a collective decision of the family to maintain solidarity and common interests. **Dynastic Politics:** The phenomenon of dynastic politics, in which political power is inherited or held by members of the same family, can also reinforce this practice. Students may feel obligated or proud to support family members who are involved in politics.

Formation of Political Identity: Identity politics is a political action carried out by individuals or groups of people who have the same identity in terms of ethnicity, gender, culture, and religion to realize the interests of its members. Identity politics is often used to recruit the support of marginalized people from the majority group or vice versa to strengthen the votes of the majority. For some students, family political choices are part of their identity. They grow up with certain political views and identify with the party or ideology that the family adheres to. (Ha et al., 2024)

Based on the above factors, keep in mind that along with age, campus experience and interaction between students, the development of technology with increasingly developed media with complete information, and the critical process in dealing with political issues, students can also develop independence in making their political choices. However, the foundation instilled by the family is often a significant factor in determining student choice.

CONCLUSION

Family choice traditions still play a significant role in shaping students' political decisions, primarily due to factors such as primary political socialization, economic dependence, and emotional bonds within the family. However, the findings reveal that the majority of students from the Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies at UIN Sumatera Utara, class of 2021, have demonstrated the ability to make political decisions independently. Influential factors such as organizational experience, digital literacy, and engagement in political discussions on campus have

enhanced their capacity for critical thinking, reducing their reliance on family traditions. Thus, while the influence of family choice traditions on students' voting behavior remains present, it is gradually diminishing in line with the advancement of knowledge and the rapid development of information technology to which they have access.

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