

Enhancing Voter Awareness Through Election Law Socialisation in Limo Village

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ABSTRACT

General elections (elections) are the main pillars of democracy that demand active public participation, transparency, and integrity. Amendments to the Election Law and the Constitutional Court Decision No. 135/PUU-XXII/2024 have important implications for the national and regional simultaneous election systems. However, low political literacy, apathy, money politics, and hoaxes are still challenges. This study addresses the following questions: (1) the extent of the understanding of the people of Limo Village regarding changes in election regulations, and (2) the effectiveness of socialisation in increasing the awareness of socialisation participants about voting rights in general elections and active voter participation. The method used in this community service is Participatory Action Research (PAR), with 18 socialisation participants as the subjects, using discussion forums, election simulations, and questionnaire evaluations. The study found an increase in residents' understanding: previously, 16 people were unaware of the change in general election rules, and this understanding rose to 100% (a 100% increase). In addition, this socialisation also resulted in an understanding level of 83.3% (15 out of 18 participants) on citizens' voting rights due to changes in general election regulations. This socialisation also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) 16, and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17).

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INTRODUCTION

General elections are one of the main instruments of modern democracy, serving to realise the people's direct sovereignty. The Indonesian Constitution expressly states that sovereignty belongs to the people and is implemented in accordance with the 1945 Constitution, including a direct, public, free, secret, honest, and fair election mechanism (LUBER JURDIL), as outlined in Article 23E of the 1945 Constitution. Elections are not just an electoral procedure; they are also a means of forming a legitimate government, a mechanism for controlling people's representatives, and an instrument of citizen participation in determining the direction of public policy (Jimly Asshiddiqie, 2020).

Throughout its development, Indonesian elections have undergone significant regulatory changes. The amendment to the Election Law aims not only to improve the governance of election implementation but also to adapt the legal system to political, social, and information technology dynamics (Lusin Tammu, 2023). However, these changes are often not fully understood by the public, especially at the local level. Low political literacy, the still-rampant practice of money politics, and the increase in hoaxes and disinformation ahead of the election are serious challenges to the realisation of elections with integrity (Agus Sudibyo, 2019).

The momentum of these changes has strengthened following the Constitutional Court Decision Number 135/PUU-XXII/2024. This ruling reaffirms the design of simultaneous elections in Indonesia, emphasising the importance of alignment between national elections (President, legislative, and the regional representative council) and regional elections (governors, regents/mayors, and regional legislative) (Putusan Mahkamah Konstitusi Nomor 135/PUU-XXII/2024, n.d.). In its consideration, the Court emphasised that the implementation of elections must reflect the principles of effectiveness, efficiency, and the maintenance of equal voting rights for citizens.

This ruling also rejects practices that have the potential to result in democratic fragmentation, such as electoral separation, which actually causes inequality in political representation. With the Constitutional Court Decision, the resulting juridical consequence was the adjustment of regulations and practices for holding elections to remain in line with the principle of constitutionality. This certainly has direct implications for the public, especially voters, who must understand the new mechanism, the implementation schedule, and the political impact of the simultaneous elections. Without a good understanding, the risk of misunderstanding, apathy, and low political participation will be greater (Ahmad Ari Fatullah, M. Maghfur Agung, & Rahman Meladiah, 2025).

The phenomenon of political apathy is also strengthening at various levels of society. Many residents feel that their votes do not have a significant impact, so they choose to be passive or even abstain. This attitude has the potential to undermine the legitimacy of elections and create more space for transactional political practices. In fact, citizen participation is an essential condition for substantive democracy, in which the people are not only present as voters but also serve as participatory supervisors of the electoral process (Nurhasim, 2024).

Limo Village, Cinere District, Depok City, is an area with diverse socio-economic characteristics and heterogeneous levels of political literacy. As a fast-growing urban area, Limo faces challenges in raising the political awareness of its citizens, particularly among first-time voters, women, and marginalized communities. This makes socialisation activities regarding changes to the Election Law and the implications of the Constitutional Court Decision No. 135/PUU-XXII/2024 highly relevant to strengthen citizens' political participation and encourage transparent, inclusive, and integrity elections (Ubaid &

Subandi, 2022).

Various studies have been conducted on this topic. First, Kristina Roseven Nababan et al. (2024). This socialisation focuses on young voters by delivering material that helps novice voters better understand the electoral process, procedures, and the importance of their participation in democracy. Second, research by Pratiwi et al. (2024) found an increase in public understanding and awareness of money politics, as well as greater readiness to maintain the integrity of elections. The difference between the research and this service lies in several aspects: differences in regional targets and contexts, the latest regulations based on the Constitutional Court Decision, and local community-based participation methods.

Against this background, this community service, in the form of socialisation, faces challenges that will be addressed. First, what is the level of understanding and awareness of the people of Limo Village towards the changes to the Election Law, including the implications of the Constitutional Court Decision No. 135/PUU-XXII/2024, in the context of realising transparent and integrity elections? Second, how effective is the socialisation of changes to the Election Law in improving political literacy and encouraging the active participation of the people of Limo Village to reject the practice of money politics, hoaxes, and voter apathy ahead of the election? In the addresses question, the author provides material and question-and-answer discussions that can impact participants, specifically promoting a holistic paradigm shift towards participation and the community's role in elections.

METHOD

This socialisation activity was conducted using the Participatory Action Research (PAR) method, which involves cooperation between the author and the socialisation participants, who serve as the research subjects. (Rahmat & Mirnawati, 2020). This socialisation was held on July 24, 2025, and was attended by 18 participants (12 men and six women). The research subject is the result of cooperation between the author and the local village head. The village head invited the following participants: the head of the neighbourhood unit, the residents' association, the Mothers of Family Welfare Empowerment, and the regional youth organisation. The parameters of this method's success are the extent of change in understanding regulatory changes related to general elections and the degree to which these changes affect citizens' voting rights. The PAR method is intended to understand a problem and, collectively, intervene to change conditions in the community environment (Dedy Hidayat, 2018). In the PAR process, several stages and work steps are carried out as follows: (Rahmat & Mirnawati, 2020).

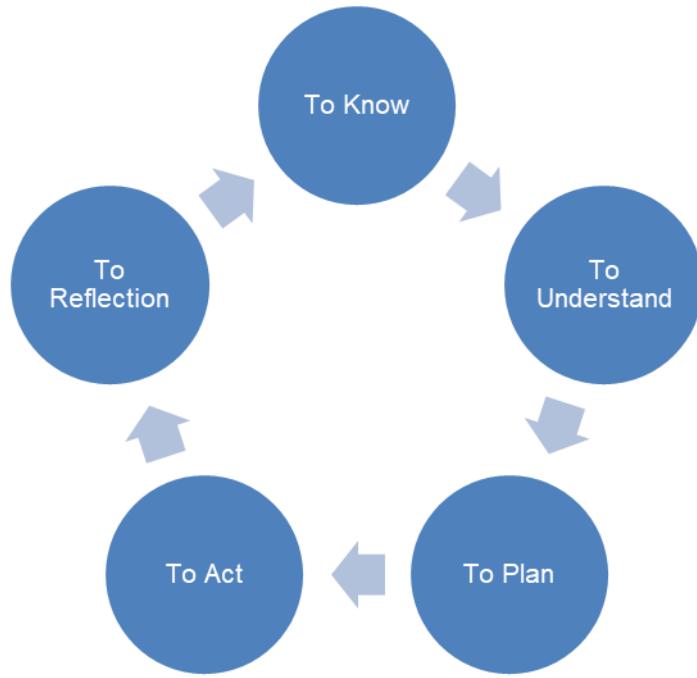


FIGURE 1. Participatory Action Research (PAR)

- **To Know**

In this first stage, before the socialisation began, the authors distributed questionnaires to the participants. They held discussions to get an overview and a general opinion on changes to general election regulations.



FIGURE 2. Phase To Know

- **To Understand**

After mapping the participants' existing paradigm, the next stage is to understand, decode, and detail the problems to form an increasingly specific pattern.



FIGURE 1. Phase To Understand

- To Plan

At this stage, the author, who has mapped the problems in the previous stage, provides material and a question-and-answer session to facilitate the paradigm change in detail and in stages.



FIGURE 4. Phase To Plan

- To Act

At this stage, the author provides a new perspective, using a scientific approach to understand the problem.



FIGURE 5. Phase To Act

- To Reflection

In this last stage, the author administered the questionnaire again to determine the extent of the

paradigm shift among the socialisation participants.



FIGURE 6. Phase To Reflection

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of the activity show that most of the people of Limo Village previously did not fully understand the substance of the changes to Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning Elections, especially after the issuance of the Constitutional Court Decision No. 135/PUU-XXII/2024, which affirmed the simultaneity between national elections and regional elections. In this section, the author presents limitations on the results of community service, based on questionnaires administered before and after socialisation. The questionnaire asked: First, did the participants already know that there had been a change in the general election rules? The success parameter in this question is the extent of the shift from participants not understanding to understanding, brought about by the author's presentation of the material. Second, do the participants know that this change in election rules can affect citizens' voting rights? The success parameter for this question is a significant increase in participants' understanding of this socialisation, from those who previously did not understand to those who now do. Third, after participating in this socialisation, it is necessary to determine whether changes to the general election rules are required. In addition, the author included an analysis of women's representation and the impact of this socialisation on the SDGs, based on a discussion during the author's presentation.

Level of Knowledge about Changes in General Election Rules

TABLE 1. Level of Understanding of Socialisation Participants on Changes in General Election Rules

Information	Don't Understand	Understand	Total
Before Socialisation	16	2	18
After Socialisation	0	18	18

The data in Table 1 indicate that before the socialisation, 88.9% of participants (16 out of 18) admitted that they did not understand the latest changes to the General Election Law and the legal consequences of Constitutional Court Decision No. 135/PUU-XXII/2024. After the socialisation process, 100% of participants reported understanding the materials delivered by the research team, especially the new design for simultaneous national and local elections.

This transformation demonstrates the effectiveness of the Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach in enhancing public literacy about electoral regulations. The interactive sessions, comprising discussions, simulation of voting procedures, and question-and-answer forums, allowed citizens to relate the abstract legal concepts to their daily political experiences. These results prove that participatory

education through community-based socialisation substantially improves the cognitive and behavioural aspects of political literacy in urban communities. (Nurhasim, 2024)

These results differ from the research conducted by Kristina Roseven Nababan et al. (2024), especially in terms of participatory processes that lead to greater understanding of election law, more decisive rejection of money politics, and greater willingness to serve as participatory election supervisors. In addition, this socialisation shows that urban societies that are more socially heterogeneous need interactive and dialogical communication to improve political literacy, in contrast to research on rural communities (e.g., Pratiwi et al., 2024).

Level of Knowledge that Changes in General Election Rules Affect Citizens' Voting Rights

TABLE 2. The Level of Understanding of Socialisation Participants on Changes in General Election Rules Affecting Voting Rights

Information	Don't Understand	Understand	Total
Before Socialisation	12	6	18
After Socialisation	3	15	18

The data in Table 2 reveal that before the socialisation, two-thirds of participants (66.7%) did not understand that legal amendments in the electoral system could directly affect the scope of their constitutional voting rights. This condition reflects a widespread gap in legal literacy and civic comprehension at the community level, especially in urban fringe areas such as Limo Village, where diverse socioeconomic backgrounds often correlate with unequal access to political information.

After the socialisation activity, the level of understanding increased to 83.3 % (15 of 18 participants). Although some participants (16.7 %) still expressed partial confusion about the technical implications, this is because the Constitutional Court Decision introduced significant changes to the general election rules, creating a 2-year gap between national and local elections: 2029 for national elections and 2031 for regional elections. However, most participants began to recognise that the Constitutional Court's Decision No. 135/PUU-XXII/2024 ensures equality in the value of each vote (equal suffrage) and strengthens democratic legitimacy.

This outcome substantiates that legal socialisation grounded in participatory education can enhance public awareness of electoral rights as part of human rights (civil and political rights) protected under Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and Article 25 of the ICCPR. Furthermore, the increase in comprehension corresponds with Ahmad Ari Fatullah et al. (2025), who argue that public legal awareness of Constitutional Court rulings is fundamental in translating constitutional jurisprudence into civic empowerment. In this study, participants began to internalise that the reform of electoral laws is not a distant political agenda but an issue directly affecting their rights to participate, be represented, and supervise governance.

Thus, the findings confirm that Participatory Action Research (PAR) provides a productive framework for bridging constitutional theory with community empowerment. Through reflexive learning cycles of knowing, acting, and reflecting, citizens evolve from passive recipients of information into active stakeholders who internalise democratic principles and safeguard electoral integrity. This transformation mirrors the vision that democracy can only mature when citizens regard participation not as an obligation, but as an ethical and civic responsibility.

The Level of Public Need for Changes in General Election Rules

TABLE 3. The Level of Public Needs for Changes in General Election Rules

Information	Ammount
Needed	13
Not Needed	5
Total	18

The data in Table 3 show that 13 of 18 respondents (72.2%) agreed that amendments to the General Election Law are necessary to improve the quality, transparency, and integrity of democratic processes in Indonesia. Meanwhile, 5 participants (27.8 %) expressed the view that frequent regulatory changes might create confusion and distrust among voters. Based on the question-and-answer session in this socialisation, the 27.8% data is reasonable. This is due to public opinion, which is confused because every general election before has changed the rules, so the community no longer needs constant rule changes. In addition, the government's modifications are not well communicated, so socialisation is necessary, for example, through the author's community service.

This finding suggests that the majority of participants recognise the urgency of electoral reform as a mechanism to respond to evolving political, technological, and social dynamics. These results show that revising the electoral law is not just a bureaucratic necessity but an essential step to ensure fair representation and institutional accountability.

The participants' responses also reflect a growing civic consciousness that legal frameworks must evolve in tandem with democratic maturity. Many respondents articulated that changes in election regulations, particularly following Constitutional Court Decision No. 135/PUU-XXII/2024, are vital to synchronise national and regional elections, reduce administrative costs, and reinforce citizens' trust in the system.

Overall, the data affirm that public demand for regulatory improvement is substantial, but sustained education and transparent communication remain crucial to bridge the gap between public expectations and legal comprehension. Without a consistent civic education framework, regulatory reform may not translate into genuine empowerment, as citizens must first perceive the law as an accessible instrument for achieving justice and equality.

This result reinforces that Participatory Action Research (PAR) based socialisation effectively transforms community perspectives from passive recipients of legal change into active contributors to democratic reform. In the context of Limo Village, this transformation also illustrates how localised civic engagement can scale up into national democratic consolidation.

Women's Participation in General Elections

Women's participation in elections is an essential indicator of the quality of substantive democracy. Under the law, women's political rights are guaranteed by Articles 27 (1) and 28D (3) of the 1945 Constitution, which affirm the equality of every citizen before the law and in government. This regulation marks the country's commitment to gender justice and inclusive political representation. In the contemporary context, women's participation has shifted from symbolic roles to transformative roles. Women are no longer only objects in the electoral process but are also beginning to position themselves

as social agents who actively influence the direction of political policies, especially at the local level (Rasyidin & Fidhia Aruni, 2016).

In elections, women's role as voters is vital in Indonesia. In the 2024 election, the number of female voters was 102,588,719, while the number of male voters was 102,218,503 (Komisi Pemilihan Umum Republik Indonesia, 2023). This data shows that women are not only the objects of affirmative policy but also active subjects in shaping the nation's political direction. However, challenges remain, including low political literacy, the influence of gender-biased social media, and domestic burdens that limit public participation.

From a social-theoretical perspective, women's participation in elections represents a shift from patriarchal to reflective and participatory politics. Based on the structuration theory put forward by the United Nations (2015), placing individuals, including women, as empowered social agents to change structures through conscious and reflective action.

What about the results of this socialisation? 6 women, 2 of whom still do not understand that this change in election rules affects citizens' voting rights, and feel that the changes in the regulations that occur in each election create confusion for homemakers. This was conveyed during the question-and-answer session. Of the six women who attended this socialisation activity, none of them were involved in an election organising committee in their area. This analysis shows that women's participation in elections remains minimal.

Impact for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global development agenda agreed by 193 United Nations member states in 2015 through Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SDGs comprise 17 goals and 169 targets that encompass the economic, social, and environmental dimensions within a single sustainable development system (United Nations, 2015).

The SDGs are not just a framework for economic development, but a moral contract of humanity that places social justice and democratic governance as the foundation of global sustainability (Jeffrey D. Sachs, 2015). Thus, the SDGs function not only as a development compass but also as an ethical standard for the state in realising a transparent, participatory, and corruption-free government.

Amartya Sen (1999) argues that democracy is developmental freedom, in which political, economic, and social freedom are conditions for society to develop its potential sustainably. This perspective was later developed by Kate Raworth, 2017) through Doughnut Economics, which states that sustainable development cannot be achieved without a political system that provides equal participation space for all citizens, including vulnerable groups such as women and persons with disabilities.

Based on this, this socialisation is an effort made by the authors to create a democracy that promotes developmental freedom through the parameters of the SDGs, as Table 4.

TABLE 4. Analysis of the Impact of Socialization on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

No	SDG	Category	Contribution Aspect	Impact
1	SDG 4	Quality Education	Providing legal and political education to the public regarding changes to the Election Law, including citizens' voting rights.	Increasing public understanding of the democratic process and election regulations encourages active participation, based on knowledge.
2	SDG 5	Gender Equality	Increase women's awareness of gender representation in elections and encourage their involvement both as voters and election implementation committees.	Supporting the realization of gender equality in political processes and decision-making at the local level.
3	SDG 10	Reduce Inequalities	Ensure election information reaches all layers society, including vulnerable groups such as first-time voters, people with limited access, and marginalized groups.	Reduce information inequality and strengthen inclusivity in political participation.
4	SDG 16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	Encourage peaceful, honest, fair, and transparent elections by increasing public understanding of the importance of integrity in the democratic process.	Forming voters who are critical, legally aware, and play an active role in supervising the election process, strengthening trusted democratic institutions.
5	SDG 17	Partnership for the Goals	Involving cooperation with local governments, the head of the neighbourhood unit, the residents' association, the Mothers of Family Welfare Empowerment, and the regional youth organization.	The establishment of strategic partnerships that encourage the sustainability of political education programs and improve the quality of local democracy.

CONCLUSION

This community engagement program demonstrates that socialisation of election law amendments through the Participatory Action Research (PAR) method effectively enhances citizens' understanding and participation in democratic processes. The data indicate a substantial increase in participants' knowledge regarding both the substance of changes in the Election Law and the implications of Constitutional Court Decision No. 135/PUU-XXII/2024, which regulates the simultaneity of national and regional elections.

Before the socialisation, the majority of participants exhibited low levels of political literacy, limited awareness of how legal reforms affect voting rights, and uncertainty regarding the necessity of legal

amendments. After the activity, participants showed a significant transformation in their comprehension and attitudes, reflected in the following outcomes: First, a 100 % increase in understanding of election law changes. Second, 83,3% of respondents are aware of how those legal reforms influence voting rights. Moreover, third, 72,2% recognise that such reforms are essential to improving electoral integrity.

However, this socialisation is confined to Limo Village and may not have a national impact. However, locally, this socialisation has a significant impact on participants' knowledge within their community. This socialisation is also limited to its achievements, namely, increasing understanding of changes in election rules and knowledge of citizens' voting rights. However, beyond that, this socialisation seeks to improve citizens' participation, especially women's, in the next election.

In terms of policy recommendations, the authors propose: (1) the General Elections Commission (KPU) and Bawaslu should institutionalise regular civic education forums at the neighbourhood and subdistrict levels; (2) local governments, assisted by universities, should integrate political literacy programs into community empowerment initiatives at least one year before elections; and (3) collaborations between women's organisations and electoral institutions should be strengthened to promote gender-sensitive voter education through participatory and inclusive methods. These initiatives should be implemented continuously and monitored at every electoral cycle to ensure adaptive learning and consistent impact.

Finally, this program's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is tangible. It advances especially quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) 16, and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17) by promoting transparent, participatory, and integrity-driven electoral practices. Collectively, these impacts affirm that local-scale participatory education initiatives can serve as catalysts for achieving broader democratic and developmental transformation in Indonesia.

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