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**THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH IN
POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN N4 PANTAI DAMAI**

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ABSTRACT

Youth participation in Malaysian politics is not a new thing and it has its own history. Political maturity among the youth is a component in ensuring the stability and unity of the multiracial society in Malaysia. The phenomenon of active youth involvement in the political arena is interesting to study due to the dynamics of support given in the political development of a country. The study is aimed to see the involvement of youth in political activities among youth in N4 Pantai Damai. This study uses the population of students from N4 Pantai Damai, and the number of samples proposed is 380 people. Research data will be obtained through surveys where questionnaires will be distributed to respondents virtually. To see the correlation with the youth involvement in political activities, the main determinants used in this study are current political situation, political parties, and political knowledge. This research found that N4 Pantai Damai youths have a moderate level in participating in any activity. However, participation was not exhaustive. The study also found that the factors presented greatly influenced their stance on participation in political activities. In addition, this study found that political parties play a major role in attracting this group to be active in political activities. With these findings, it shows that the level of youth involvement in politics has improved a good deal. Therefore, this study can be a reference in formulating the best measures to increase youth involvement in nurturing the practice of democracy in Malaysia.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The study aims to investigate the reasons behind the lack of interest and understanding of politics among Malaysian youth in N4 Pantai Damai and to identify the impact of this phenomenon on the democratic process in the country. The research will also explore the effectiveness of initiatives such as Undi18 in promoting political education and increasing youth participation in politics. The involvement of young people in politics is crucial for the development of a democratic society. However, the lack of interest and understanding of politics among Malaysian youth has become a major concern for researchers. (Malaysia Now, 2021).

Various initiatives have been implemented to raise awareness and interest of youth in politics. One such initiative is Undi18, which aims to promote political education among young people and lower the voting age from 21 years to 18 years. The organization also holds forums, talks, and public gatherings to provide awareness on the democratic representation of young people and the empowerment of youth in shaping national politics. This research aims to investigate the factors that influence political involvement among youth in N4 Pantai Damai. The study will explore the reasons behind the lack of interest and understanding of politics among Malaysian youth and the impact of this phenomenon on the democratic process in the country. Additionally, the effectiveness of initiatives such as Undi18 in promoting political education and increasing youth participation in politics will be examined (Undi 18, 2019).

CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW & CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 INTRODUCTION

An analysis of the literature on young people's political participation will be presented in this chapter. This chapter will address earlier studies on young people's political engagement in Malaysia, how they view the country's political climate today, how political parties can engage young people in politics, and how young people engage in politics.

2.2 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AMONG YOUTH IN MALAYSIA

Political participation, according to Zuniga, Jung, and Valenzuela (2012), is the process of gathering and disseminating political information, engaging in political leadership interactions, engaging in political activities or democratic processes, and persuading others to engage in political activities. Physical and online participation by young people in politics can be divided into two categories. Physical involvement includes interactions like going to political gatherings, giving money to candidates, casting a ballot, and joining a political party. According to Halim et al. (2020), "virtual participation" refers to taking part in political activities online, such as joining petitions, reading about politics in alternative media, and posting opinions on social media. Youth involvement in politics is widespread and not only restricted to voting. As a result, it paints a clear picture of how young people affect the social patterns of political engagement.

Different theoretical frameworks and conceptualizations exist for youth political participation. Youths have the right to participate in politics and decision-making processes, and participation is one of these right-based practises. Youth empowerment is also facilitated by youth involvement in politics. This strategy suggests a more progressive understanding of participation as a means of providing youth a voice in society, addressing youth political marginalisation, and altering power dynamics between generations.

Young people can advise policy makers to be more sensitive to the needs of youth in national development, help in the process of revitalising the political system, and develop better national policy by participating in political activities, which is one way to ensure the effectiveness of policy and its implementation. Young involvement in politics is a tool for fostering youth growth. This is true because when this group participates in decision-making, it not only enables teenagers to comprehend the political structure in society but also aids in the development of soft skills like self-worth, confidence, negotiation skills, a sense of autonomy, and other things.