



The Influence of COVID-19 on Community Participation in the Mayoral Election: A Case Study from Barombong Village, Makassar City

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Abstract

This study aimed to assess the impact of COVID-19 on public participation in the mayoral election, focusing on the Barombong sub-district of Makassar City. Employing a quantitative approach and field research methodology, data was collected by distributing 98 questionnaires to residents of Barombong sub-district, Tamalate sub-district, who participated in the 2020 Makassar City Mayoral Election. The data analysis methods included descriptive analysis, classical assumption tests, simple linear regression analysis, and hypothesis testing using SPSS 21. The findings revealed that COVID-19 (X) had a positive influence on Community Participation (Y) in the Makassar Mayoral Election. Consequently, the primary hypothesis of this study was confirmed, indicating that COVID-19 did influence community participation in the election. While the general perception of COVID-19 is concerning, this research suggests that its impact on voter turnout was minimal, with only a 0.3 percent increase in community participation in the mayoral election.

Keywords

COVID-19, community participation, mayoral election, makassar city

Introduction

Community participation plays an instrumental role in the success of regional head elections, notably for mayoral positions. The significance of this participation becomes even more pronounced when looking at regions like Barombong Village, Makassar City during the 2020 elections. As stipulated by the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 1 of 2014 regarding the Election of Governors, Regents, and Mayors, community participation is indispensable for the effective execution of these elections. The absence of this engagement risks undermining the entire electoral process ([Biru, 2020](#)).

2020's regional head elections were distinctively challenging, marking the first time such elections took place in the shadows of the COVID-19 pandemic ([Habibi, 2021](#); [Habibi & Kusuma, 2022](#); [Heinmaa & Kalandadze, 2020](#); [Johan, Wahyudi, & Irawati, 2021](#); [Landman & Splendore, 2020](#); [Rangkuti, 2020](#)). As the pandemic posed unprecedented challenges globally, Indonesia too faced the herculean task of addressing its multifaceted impacts ([Fadillah, Sisgianto, & Mohammad Jafar Loilatu, 2021](#); [Habibi & Pratama, 2021](#); [Mustari et al., 2021](#); [Santana, Rama, & Bértoa, 2020](#)). Amidst this turmoil, the Indonesian government displayed agility and foresight in deciding to proceed with the simultaneous regional elections ([Angretnowati & Anggraheni, 2021](#); [Johan et al., 2021](#); [Marisa, Pornauli, Indra, & Aurora, 2020](#); [Saksono, 2020](#); [Wasisto & Prayudi, 2020](#)). This commitment to democracy was evident from the election data. For instance, Makassar City's Mayor Election in 2018 listed 990,836 permanent voters, whereas 2020 saw a slightly diminished count of 901,087. Yet, such fluctuations did not deter the democratic spirit in areas like Barombong sub-district, Tamalate sub-district. Here, voter participation swelled from 61% in 2018 to

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67% in 2020.

Several studies have delved into the dynamics of community participation in regional elections amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. [Sudaryanto et al. \(2022\)](#) examined the political participation in Kuantan Singingi Regency's elections, noting a decrease in voter turnout due to concerns about the pandemic and a lack of optimal election education. Similarly, [Yunita et al. \(2023\)](#) analyzed the Medan Mayor election, emphasizing the role of candidate popularity and the ambiguity of government policies in influencing voter turnout. [Weisman \(2021\)](#) explored remote community engagement during various crises, including the pandemic, racial justice movements, and wildfires, highlighting the challenges posed to service-learning courses and community involvement. [Parker and Hutti \(2022\)](#) documented the corporal and cognizant barriers to voting in St. Louis during the intertwined pandemics of COVID-19 and racialized violence, emphasizing the challenges organizers faced in mobilizing voters.

While these studies offer valuable insights, there remains a gap in understanding the direct influence of health protocols on community participation in regional head elections during the pandemic. Most of the existing research either focuses on the broader challenges of the pandemic or touches upon electoral participation without delving deep into the role of health protocols. Our research aims to bridge this gap, exploring the intricate relationship between health protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic and their impact on voter participation in regions like Barombong Village, Makassar City. We believe that by addressing this gap, we can provide a comprehensive understanding of how global crises can influence local political dynamics, especially in the context of regional head elections.

In the subsequent sections of this paper, we aim to delve deeper into the intricacies of voter participation amidst global crises, specifically focusing on the influence of health protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will analyze the disparities in voter turnout between 2018 and 2020, seeking to uncover the underlying factors that contributed to these changes. Moreover, the question central to our research—how does a global health crisis like COVID-19 impact local electoral participation?—will be explored comprehensively. Our intention is to shift this query from a mere question into a profound statement about the resilience of democratic processes even in challenging times.

Methods

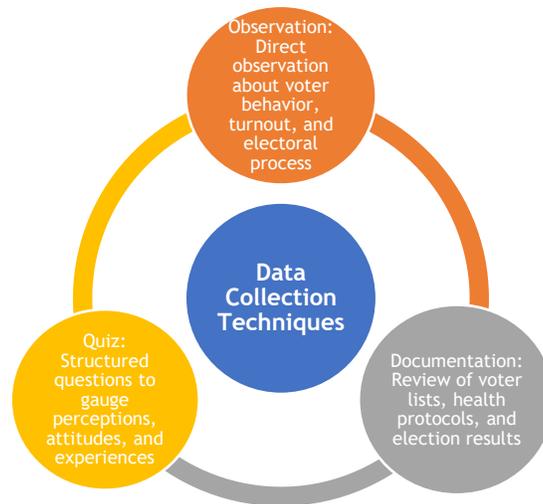
This type of research is quantitative research, as for this type of research, is descriptive quantitative which is used to analyze data by describing or describing the data that has been collected as it is. To obtain relevant data, a simple linear regression technique was used to see the magnitude of the influence of COVID-19 on community participation in the implementation of the Makassar Mayor's Pilkada. This study used three data collection techniques, namely observation, quiz and documentation.

This research employs a descriptive quantitative approach, which is a subset of quantitative research methodologies. The primary objective of this approach is to present and interpret data in its original form without any alterations. By employing this method, we aim to provide a clear and comprehensive description of the collected data, focusing on the impact of COVID-19 on community participation in the Makassar Mayor's Pilkada (regional head elections). To ascertain the extent of COVID-19's influence on community participation, we utilized a simple linear regression technique. This statistical method allows us to determine the strength and direction of the relationship between the pandemic and voter turnout, providing insights into the potential causal effects.

Data collection for this study was carried out using three distinct techniques:

1. **Observation:** Direct observation was conducted to gather firsthand information about voter behavior, turnout, and the overall electoral process in the context of the pandemic.
2. **Quiz:** A set of structured questions was administered to a select group of participants to gauge their perceptions, attitudes, and experiences related to the elections during the COVID-19 crisis.
3. **Documentation:** Relevant documents, such as voter lists, health protocols, and official election results, were reviewed to extract pertinent data and historical context.

Figure 1. Data Collection Techniques



The target population for this research comprised voters from Barombong village in Makassar city, amounting to a total of 6,935 eligible voters. To determine the sample size for the study, we employed the Slovin's formula, a widely recognized method for sampling in research. Based on the calculations derived from this formula, our sample was adjusted to include 98 respondents, ensuring a representative and manageable group for in-depth analysis.

Result and Discussion

Overview of the Research Location

Barombong Village is situated in the Tamalate sub-district of Makassar City. Known for its beach tourism, this urban village spans approximately 1.54 km² and is home to 5,500 households. The total population stands at 13,363, comprising 7,491 males and 5,879 females. Despite the challenges and debates surrounding the execution of general elections during the pandemic, the process in Barombong Village was seamless. Notably, the village recorded a high participation rate of 67 percent in the recent mayoral and deputy mayoral elections.

Respondents' Assessment of Respondent Identity

Characteristics of Respondents Based on Election Participant Class: Out of the 98 respondents, 89.65 percent were from the Permanent Voters List (DPT), 5.74 percent from the Special Voters List (DPPH), and 4.59 percent from the Temporary Voters List (DPTB).

Characteristics of Respondents Based on Gender: 45 of the respondents were male (40.2%), while 53 were female (59.88%). Characteristics of Respondents Based on Voting Experience: 42 respondents (42.85%) were first-time voters, while 56 (57.14%) had voted in previous elections.

The Effect of COVID-19 on Community Participation in the 2020 Makassar Mayoral Election

This study, titled "The Influence of COVID-19 on Community Participation in the Mayoral Election: A Case Study from Barombong Village, Makassar City," employs a descriptive quantitative approach. Data was gathered from residents of Barombong Village, Tamalate District, Makassar City. The study aimed to assess the impact of COVID-19 on community participation in the mayoral election. To this end, 98 questionnaires were distributed, categorizing responses by gender, voting experience, and voter list groups.

Several tests were conducted in this study, including data validity and reliability tests. The research yielded valid data for both variables X (COVID-19) and Y (Community Participation in the Regional Election), with an r-value greater than the r-table (0.202). The study's reliability was confirmed using the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient, which exceeded a value of 0.60.

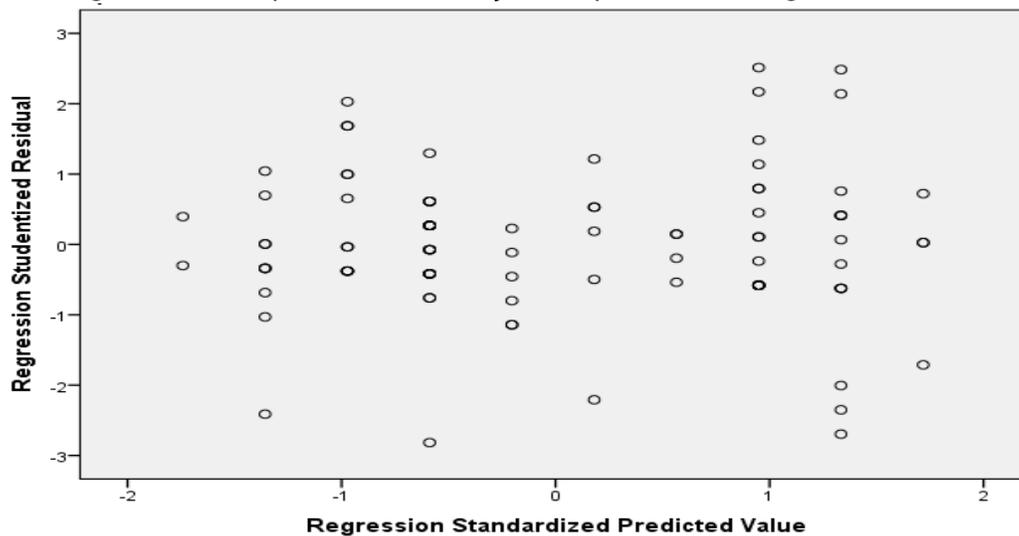
The classical assumption test comprises several components. However, in this study, only the normality test, linearity test, and heteroscedasticity test were utilized. The linearity test yielded a Deviation from Linearity Sig. value of 0.316, which is greater than 0.05.

Table 1. COVID-19 Impact for Community Participation in the Regional Election

			Sum of	df	Mean	F	Sig.
			Squares		Square		
		(Combined)	89,831	9	9,981	1,175	,321
COVID-19 Impact for	Between	Linearity	9,104	1	9,104	1,072	,303
Community	Groups	Deviation from					
Participation in the		Linearity	80,726	8	10,091	1,188	,316
Regional Election	Within Groups		747,649	88	8,496		
	Total		837,480	97			

To further validate the linearity test, it's evident from the table above that the F-value of 1.18 is less than the F-table value of 2.10. Based on this, it's concluded that there is a relationship between Variable X (COVID-19 Influence) and Variable Y (Community Participation in the Regional Election).

Figure 2. Scatterplot of Community Participation in the Regional Election



Upon evaluating the results of the normality test using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov method, the Asymp.sig. (2-tailed) value is observed to be 0.09, which is greater than 0.05, the threshold for the K-S normality test decision. This suggests that the data distribution is normal. In the heteroscedasticity test, the significance value displayed in the table above is 0.30, which exceeds 0.05. From this, it's inferred that there's no heteroscedasticity present. Additionally, the scatter plot illustrates that the data points are neither clustered nor patterned. The distribution of points on the plot indicates that the spread first broadens and then narrows again, further confirming the absence of heteroscedasticity in the acquired data.

From the regression equation provided, the constant is 20.333. This implies that if Variable X (COVID-19 influence) is absent, the constant value for Variable Y (political participation) would be 20.333. The coefficient for community participation in the election stands at 0.118. This indicates that for every unit increase in COVID-19's influence, voter participation would rise by 0.118. Thus, it can be deduced that the impact of COVID-19 positively correlates with community participation. The resulting regression equation is represented as $Y = 20.333 + 0.118x$.

Table 3. Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients
	B	Std. Error	Beta
1 (Constant)	20,333	2,032	
COVID-19 Impact	,118	,115	,104

a. Dependent Variable: Community Participation in the Regional Election

In addition to hypothesis testing, this study also examines the Coefficient of Determination (R^2). As evident from the table, the R Squares value indicates a Coefficient of Determination of 0.011 or 1.1%. This suggests that the influence of COVID-19 (Variable X) accounts for 1.1% of the variance in community participation in the Regional Election (Variable Y), with the remaining 98.9% being attributed to other factors.

Table 4. Model Summary^b

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,104 ^a	,011	,001	2,938

a. Predictors: (Constant), COVID-19 Impact

b. Dependent Variable: Community Participation in the Regional Election

The impact of COVID-19 on community participation in the Makassar Mayoral election, be it positive or negative, can be discerned through linear regression analysis. This analysis seeks to identify the nature of the relationship between the influence of COVID-19 (Variable X) and community participation in the mayoral election, and to predict the potential increase or decrease in participation.

One of the reasons residents of Barombong Village actively participated in the Mayoral Election amidst the pandemic is the economic challenges they faced. Many believe that money politics played a role in influencing their choice of mayoral and deputy mayoral candidates. Additionally, there's a prevailing sentiment among residents about the importance of electing a leader directly, especially given that Makassar city's leadership had been overseen by acting officials appointed by the Governor of South Sulawesi in recent years.

This research's conceptual framework, grounded in the indicators set by the COVID-19 task force—namely, the enforcement of health protocols, the 3 T's (Testing, Tracing, and Treatment), and mobility restrictions—points to factors that have influenced community participation in the mayoral election. Some community members have expressed disagreement with certain government policies, especially the 3 T's and mobility restrictions, which they feel disproportionately target smaller communities. Furthermore, there's a heightened community awareness of health protocols, leading to the belief that herd immunity is emerging in the face of the ongoing pandemic.

Conclusion

The research conducted in Barombong Village, Tamalate District, aimed to understand the impact of COVID-19 on community participation in the Makassar Mayor election. The findings indicate that COVID-19 (Variable X) positively influences Community Participation in the Makassar Mayor Election (Variable Y). Consequently, the initial hypothesis of this study is confirmed, suggesting that COVID-19 does indeed play a role in shaping community participation in the election.

While the effect of COVID-19 on community participation is positive, it is notably minimal. Despite widespread concerns about COVID-19, this study demonstrates that the pandemic has not significantly

deterred voter participation. In fact, there was a slight increase of 0.3 percent in community participation in the mayoral election. This suggests that, while the pandemic is a significant global concern, its direct influence on voter turnout in this context is relatively minor.

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