

Phenomenological Review of the Issue of Political Apathy of Indonesia's Young Generation

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Abstract:

This article explores the growing political apathy among Indonesia's young generation, which poses significant challenges to the nation's democratic future. Utilizing a phenomenological approach, the study delves into the lived experiences of Indonesian youth to uncover the factors contributing to their disengagement from political processes. Key factors identified include disillusionment with the political system, the influence of digital media, socio-economic pressures, cultural and familial expectations, and educational shortcomings. The article also discusses the implications of this apathy for Indonesia's democracy and proposes recommendations to re-engage the youth in the political process. These include reforming civic education, leveraging digital media for positive engagement, addressing socio-economic barriers, promoting a culture of political participation, strengthening political institutions, and encouraging youth leadership.

Keywords:

Phenomena; Apathy; Politics; Indonesia; Young generation

I. Introduction

In contemporary Indonesia, the role of the young generation as agents of change is increasingly under scrutiny. As the country navigates through the complexities of democracy, economic development, and social transformation, the participation of its youth in political processes is paramount. However, a growing concern has emerged regarding the political apathy observed among Indonesia's younger population. This phenomenon, characterized by disengagement and a lack of interest in political matters, poses significant challenges to the future of Indonesia's democratic health and governance.

Political apathy among young people is not a uniquely Indonesian issue; it is a global phenomenon documented in various countries. However, in the context of Indonesia, with its rich history of youth-led movements that played pivotal roles in shaping the nation's political landscape, the apparent disinterest in politics among the current generation is particularly disconcerting. This chapter seeks to explore the issue of political apathy among Indonesia's young generation through a phenomenological lens, aiming to uncover the underlying factors contributing to this disinterest and the potential implications for the country's future.

1.1 Understanding Political Apathy

Political apathy is the need for more interest, enthusiasm, or concern for political processes and activities. It manifests in various forms, such as low voter turnout, minimal engagement in political discourse, and indifference towards political institutions and leaders. In Indonesia, political apathy among the youth can be seen in their limited participation in elections, reluctance to join political organizations, and a general sense of disillusionment with the political system.

To fully grasp the phenomenon of political apathy among Indonesia's young generation, it is essential to consider the broader socio-political environment in which they are situated.

Indonesia's transition to democracy, marked by the fall of the Suharto regime in 1998, opened new avenues for political participation. However, the subsequent years have seen fluctuating levels of political engagement, with the youth often at the forefront of both active participation and growing disengagement.

1.2 The Phenomenological Approach

A phenomenological review examines individuals' lived experiences to gain insights into their perceptions, attitudes, and behaviours. By applying this approach to the issue of political apathy, this chapter aims to delve into the subjective experiences of Indonesia's young generation, exploring how they perceive politics, what influences their attitudes, and how these perceptions shape their political behaviour.

One of the critical aspects of a phenomenological review is the recognition that individuals' experiences are shaped by their historical, cultural, and social contexts. For Indonesia's youth, several factors may contribute to their political apathy. These include disillusionment with the political elite, perceived corruption and inefficiency within the government, the influence of digital media, and the pressures of modern life that prioritize economic and social success over political involvement.

1.3 Factors Contributing to Political Apathy

Several intertwined factors contribute to the political apathy observed among Indonesia's young generation. Firstly, the disillusionment with political leaders and institutions is a significant driver. The perception that politics is plagued by corruption, nepotism, and a lack of transparency has led many young people to distance themselves from political engagement. The repeated exposure to political scandals and the slow pace of reform have fostered a sense of cynicism, making it difficult for the youth to trust the political system.

Secondly, the rise of digital media has both positively and negatively influenced political engagement among the youth. While social media platforms have provided new spaces for political discourse and activism, they have also contributed to the fragmentation of political communication. The spread of misinformation, echo chambers, and the focus on superficial content have diluted meaningful political engagement, leading to apathy.

Thirdly, the pressures of modern life, particularly in urban areas, have shifted the priorities of the young generation. Education, career development, and social life demands often precede political involvement. In a rapidly changing society, economic achievements and social status often measure success, and political participation may seem less relevant or rewarding to many young people.

1.4 Implications and Future Prospects

The political apathy of Indonesia's young generation carries significant implications for the country's democratic future. If left unaddressed, this disengagement could lead to a weakened democratic system, where a small, unrepresentative group makes decisions, and the voices of the youth are marginalized. Moreover, the lack of political participation among the youth could hinder the development of policies that address their specific needs and concerns, further perpetuating the cycle of apathy.

However, there is also hope for reversing this trend. Initiatives to increase political literacy, promote transparent governance, and create more inclusive political platforms could help re-engage the youth in the political process. By understanding the root causes of political apathy and addressing them through targeted interventions, Indonesia can foster a more politically active and engaged young generation, essential for the continued development of its democracy.

This introductory chapter sets the stage for a deeper exploration of the phenomenological aspects of political apathy among Indonesia's young generation. Subsequent sections of the article delve into specific case studies, personal narratives, and potential solutions to this pressing issue.

II. Review of Literature

Political apathy, particularly among the younger generation, has garnered significant scholarly attention globally, with various studies exploring its causes, manifestations, and implications. In Indonesia, political apathy among the youth is a growing concern, as it threatens the vibrancy and sustainability of the nation's democratic processes. This chapter reviews the existing literature on political apathy, focusing on its prevalence among young people in Indonesia and the broader socio-political factors that contribute to this trend.

2.1 Global Perspectives on Youth Political Apathy

Political apathy among youth is a well-documented phenomenon in many democracies around the world. Scholars have identified several common factors contributing to this trend, including disillusionment with political systems, a lack of trust in political leaders, and the perception that political participation is futile. In Western democracies, such as the United States and Europe, studies have shown that young people often feel alienated from the political process, perceiving it as inaccessible or irrelevant to their lives (Norris, 2002; Dalton, 2008). The concept of "civic disengagement," as discussed by Robert Putnam (2000) in *Bowling Alone*, highlights the decline in community and political participation among the younger population, emphasizing the shift from collective civic involvement to individualism.

In the context of developing countries, political apathy among youth is also prevalent, though the underlying causes may differ. In regions such as Latin America and Africa, political apathy is often linked to historical experiences of political instability, corruption, and authoritarianism (Bratton, 2013; Levine & Bishai, 2010). These factors contribute to a pervasive sense of distrust in political institutions and a belief that participation in the political process is unlikely to lead to meaningful change.

2.2 Youth Political Apathy in Indonesia

The Indonesian context presents a unique case for studying youth political apathy. Indonesia's political history, characterized by decades of authoritarian rule under Suharto and a relatively recent transition to democracy, has shaped the political attitudes of its young population. Scholars have explored how the legacy of authoritarianism continues to influence political engagement in the post-Reformasi era. Aspinall (2005) argues that the transition to democracy has not entirely eradicated the culture of fear and suspicion towards political institutions, which persists among the older generation and has been passed down to the younger cohort.

Research specifically addressing political apathy among Indonesian youth is limited but growing. A study by Sukma (2010) highlighted that many young Indonesians remain disillusioned with the political process despite the increasing need to be political freedom following Suharto's fall. This disillusionment is often attributed to the perceived inefficacy of political participation, widespread corruption, and the lack of responsiveness of political leaders to the needs and concerns of the younger generation.

The role of education in shaping political attitudes among Indonesian youth has also been examined. According to research by Hidayat and Anto (2012), while emphasizing civic education, the Indonesian education system often fails to foster critical political engagement among students. The curriculum focuses on rote learning and transmitting established political narratives rather than encouraging active participation or critical thinking about political issues.

2.3 The Impact of Digital Media on Political Engagement

The advent of digital media has significantly altered the landscape of political engagement, particularly among young people. In Indonesia, where internet penetration and social media usage are rapidly increasing, digital platforms have become a primary source of information and a space for political discourse among the youth. However, the literature presents a mixed view of the impact of digital media on political engagement.

On the one hand, studies have shown that social media can serve as a catalyst for political activism by providing a platform for disseminating information and organizing grassroots movements (Lim, 2012). For example, the role of social media in the 2012 Jakarta gubernatorial election demonstrated its potential to mobilize young voters and influence political outcomes (Tapsell, 2013).

On the other hand, there is evidence that the nature of political engagement on social media can be superficial and transient. A study by Nugroho et al. (2012) found that while Indonesian youth are active on social media, their engagement with political content is often limited to passive consumption, such as liking or sharing posts, rather than meaningful participation in discussions or offline activism. This phenomenon, often referred to as "slacktivism," raises questions about the effectiveness of digital media in fostering genuine political engagement.

2.4 Socio-Economic Factors and Political Apathy

Socio-economic factors also play a significant role in shaping political apathy among Indonesia's youth. The literature suggests that economic challenges, such as unemployment and underemployment, can lead to political disengagement as young people prioritize economic survival over political participation (Affandi & Astuti, 2014). Furthermore, the pressure to succeed in a competitive job market may lead to a focus on personal advancement at the expense of collective political action.

Cultural factors, including the influence of traditional values and familial expectations, also contribute to political apathy. In many Indonesian communities, political involvement is not seen as a priority for young people, who are often encouraged to focus on education and economic stability before engaging in political activities (Nilan et al., 2011). This cultural emphasis on economic and social success further perpetuates the cycle of political apathy among the youth.

III. Research Methods

This chapter outlines the research methods employed in conducting a phenomenological review of political apathy among Indonesia's young generation. Given the complex and subjective nature of political apathy, a phenomenological approach was deemed most appropriate to capture the youth's lived experiences and perceptions. This chapter discusses the research design, data collection methods, sampling strategy, data analysis procedures, and ethical considerations that guided this study.

3.1 Research Design

The study utilized a qualitative research design, specifically grounded in phenomenology, to explore political apathy among Indonesia's young generation. Phenomenology is a branch of qualitative research that seeks to understand and describe how individuals experience a particular phenomenon. In this case, the phenomenon under investigation is political apathy, and the goal is to gain insight into how young Indonesians perceive and engage with the political landscape.

Phenomenology was chosen because it allows for an in-depth exploration of participants' subjective experiences, essential for understanding the complex factors contributing to political apathy. This approach is beneficial for capturing the nuances of individual perceptions, emotions, and attitudes that might not be fully revealed through quantitative methods.

3.2 Data Collection Methods

Data were collected using semi-structured interviews, which are well-suited for phenomenological research. Semi-structured interviews allow for flexibility in the conversation, enabling the researcher to probe deeper into specific areas of interest while also allowing participants to express their thoughts and feelings in their own words.

The interview guide was designed to explore various aspects of political apathy, including participants' definitions of it, their personal experiences with political engagement or disengagement, and their perceptions of the broader political environment in Indonesia. Questions were open-ended to encourage detailed responses, and follow-up questions were used to clarify or expand on participants' answers.

In addition to interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted to capture broader perspectives and facilitate group reflection on political apathy. FGDs were particularly useful for exploring the collective dimensions of political apathy, such as peer influence and social norms. The discussions provided a dynamic setting where participants could interact with one another, offering insights that might not have emerged in one-on-one interviews.

3.3 Sampling Strategy

The study employed purposive sampling to select participants who were most likely to provide rich and relevant data on the phenomenon of political apathy. Participants were chosen based on specific criteria, including age (between 18 and 30 years), geographic location (urban and rural areas across Indonesia), and varying levels of political engagement (active, passive, or apathetic).

The sample included diverse young Indonesians to capture various experiences and perspectives. Participants were drawn from different socio-economic backgrounds, educational levels, and religious affiliations to ensure that the study reflected the diversity of Indonesia's youth population. This diversity was crucial for understanding how different factors—such as socio-economic status, education, and cultural background—might influence political apathy.

3.4 Data Analysis Procedures

Data analysis was conducted using a thematic approach, common in phenomenological research. Thematic analysis involves identifying and reporting patterns (themes) within the data. The analysis began with transcribing the interviews and focus group discussions verbatim, followed by an initial reading of the transcripts to gain a general sense of the data.

Next, the transcripts were coded, with codes assigned to specific segments of the text relevant to the research questions. Coding was done inductively, meaning that codes were generated from the data itself rather than predetermined by the researcher. This approach allowed for the emergence of themes that were directly grounded in the participants' experiences.

After coding, the researcher identified vital themes that recurred across the data. These themes were then categorized and refined to capture the essence of the participants' experiences with political apathy. The final themes were interpreted in the context of existing literature on political apathy, allowing the researcher to draw connections between the participants' experiences and broader theoretical concepts.

3.5 Ethical Considerations

Given the sensitive nature of discussing political attitudes and behaviours, ethical considerations were paramount in this study. The research adhered to the principles of informed consent, confidentiality, and the right to withdraw from the study at any time.

Participants were fully informed about the purpose of the study, the nature of their involvement, and the potential risks and benefits of participation. Informed consent was obtained in writing before the interviews and focus groups were conducted. Participants' identities were anonymized in the transcripts and final report to ensure confidentiality, with pseudonyms used instead of real names.

The study also created a safe and non-judgmental environment during data collection, allowing participants to express their views freely without fear of retribution or judgment. The researcher was mindful of the potential for distress when discussing political issues and allowed participants to skip questions or end the interview if they felt uncomfortable.

IV. Result and Discussion

This chapter presents the findings from the phenomenological review of political apathy among Indonesia's young generation and discusses its implications. The findings are organized thematically, reflecting the key areas of political apathy identified during the analysis. A table summarizing the primary themes and sub-themes is included to provide a concise overview of the results.

Variable 1. Summary of Themes and Sub-Themes on Political Apathy among Indonesia's Young Generation

Theme Sub -Themes

1. Disillusionment with the Political System - Perception of widespread corruption
 - Lack of trust in political leaders
 - Inefficacy of political participation
2. Influence of Digital Media - Superficial engagement (slacktivism)
 - Exposure to misinformation and fake news

- Fragmentation of political discourse
- 3. Socio-Economic Pressures - Focus on economic survival
 - Prioritization of education and career over politics
 - Lack of time for political engagement
- 4. Cultural and Familial Expectations - Political engagement is seen as secondary to economic and social success
 - Influence of family and community norms
- 5. Educational Shortcomings - Lack of critical thinking skills
 - Rote learning in civic education
 - Inadequate emphasis on political participation

Theme 1. Disillusionment with the Political System

One of the most prominent themes from the data was the widespread disillusionment with the political system among Indonesia's youth. Many participants believed the political system is riddled with corruption, inefficiency, and a lack of transparency. This perception has led to a significant erosion of trust in political leaders and institutions, which, in turn, fuels political apathy.

Perception of Widespread Corruption: Participants consistently cited corruption as a significant reason for their political disengagement. They expressed frustration with what they perceive as a political environment dominated by self-serving elites prioritizing their interests over the public's. This disillusionment was particularly pronounced among participants who had witnessed or heard about corruption scandals in their communities or through the media.

Lack of Trust in Political Leaders: The erosion of trust in political leaders was another significant factor contributing to political apathy. Many young people feel that political leaders need to be more connected to the realities of everyday life and are more concerned with maintaining power than addressing the populace's needs. This lack of trust discourages them from participating in political processes, as they believe their efforts will not lead to meaningful change.

Inefficacy of Political Participation: The perception that political participation is ineffective further exacerbates political apathy. Several participants shared experiences of engaging in political activities, such as voting or joining political organizations, only to feel their efforts could have been more successful. This sense of futility has led to a growing belief that political engagement is not worth the time or energy, especially when there are more immediate personal concerns to address.

Theme 2. Influence of Digital Media

Digital media plays a dual role in the political engagement of Indonesia's youth. While it provides a platform for information dissemination and political discourse, it also contributes to the superficiality of political engagement, often referred to as "slacktivism."

Superficial Engagement (Slacktivism): The study found that many young Indonesians superficially engage with political content on social media. Activities such as liking, sharing, or commenting on political posts are everyday, but these actions often do not translate into offline political participation. While giving the appearance of political involvement, this form of engagement does not contribute to meaningful political action or change.

Exposure to Misinformation and Fake News: Another significant concern is the prevalence of misinformation and fake news on digital platforms. Participants reported being overwhelmed by the sheer volume of online information, much of which could be more reliable or biased. This exposure has led to confusion and scepticism, further discouraging political participation as young people struggle to discern fact from fiction.

Fragmentation of Political Discourse: Digital media has also contributed to the fragmentation of political discourse. Instead of fostering inclusive and constructive debates, social media often amplifies divisive rhetoric and creates echo chambers where users are exposed only to opinions that align with their own. This fragmentation can lead to polarization and alienation, making it difficult for young people to find common ground or engage in meaningful political discussions.

Theme 3. Socio-Economic Pressures

Socio-economic pressures emerged as a significant theme in the study, highlighting the impact of economic concerns on political apathy.

Focus on Economic Survival: Many participants indicated that their primary concern is economic survival, particularly in a competitive job market. The pressures of finding stable employment and achieving financial independence often precede political engagement. For many young people, the time and energy required to engage in politics are considered luxuries they cannot afford.

Prioritization of Education and Career Over Politics: The study also found that education and career development are top priorities for Indonesia's youth. The focus on academic success and career advancement leaves little room for political participation, especially when political engagement is perceived as having little direct impact on personal success. This prioritization reflects a pragmatic approach to life, where immediate, tangible goals are valued over abstract political ideals.

Lack of Time for Political Engagement: The demands of modern life, including balancing work, education, and personal commitments, result in a lack of time for political engagement. Many participants expressed that they do not have the time to follow political news, attend events, or participate in discussions, further contributing to their apathy.

Theme 4. Cultural and Familial Expectations

Cultural and familial expectations play a significant role in shaping the political attitudes of Indonesia's young generation.

Political Engagement Seen as Secondary to Economic and Social Success: Many Indonesian families do not prioritise only political engagement. The emphasis is often on achieving economic stability and social success, with political participation viewed as a secondary concern. This cultural attitude discourages young people from becoming involved in politics, as they are conditioned to focus on personal advancement.

Influence of Family and Community Norms: The study found that family and community norms profoundly impact young people's political behaviour. In some cases, participants reported that their families actively discouraged political involvement due to a fear of reprisal or a belief that politics is inherently corrupt and untrustworthy. These norms create an environment where political apathy is normalized and even encouraged.

Theme 5. Educational Shortcomings

The role of education in fostering political engagement is critical, yet the study found significant shortcomings in the Indonesian education system.

Lack of Critical Thinking Skills: One of the significant educational shortcomings identified was the lack of emphasis on critical thinking skills. Participants noted that their education primarily focused on rote learning and memorization, with little opportunity for critical analysis or debate. This lack of critical thinking leaves young people ill-prepared to engage with complex political issues, contributing to their disengagement.

Rote Learning in Civic Education: The study also highlighted issues with how civic education is taught in Indonesia. Civic education, which should ideally prepare students for active citizenship, is often reduced to memorizing facts and government structures without encouraging active participation or critical questioning of political systems. This approach must inspire a sense of civic duty or interest in politics.

Inadequate Emphasis on Political Participation: Finally, the education system's inadequate emphasis on political participation was identified as a key factor in political apathy. While students are taught about the formal aspects of government and politics, little emphasis is placed on the importance of participation or the impact of individual actions on the political process. As a result, many young people leave school with a limited understanding of their role in a democracy and a diminished motivation to participate.

The findings of this study provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors contributing to political apathy among Indonesia's young generation. The themes identified highlight the complex interplay between individual perceptions, socio-economic pressures, cultural norms, and educational experiences in shaping political attitudes.

Implications for Democratic Participation: The widespread political apathy among young people in Indonesia significantly affects the country's democratic future. As the youth comprise a substantial portion of the electorate, their disengagement could lead to a democratic deficit, where a small, unrepresentative segment makes population decisions. This lack of participation could also hinder the development of policies that address the specific needs and concerns of the younger generation, further perpetuating their disengagement.

The Role of Education in Addressing Apathy: Addressing political apathy requires a multifaceted approach, with education playing a crucial role. Civic education in Indonesia needs to be reformed to emphasize critical thinking, active participation, and the importance of political engagement. Schools should provide students with opportunities to engage in debates, discussions, and simulations that foster a deeper understanding of political processes and the impact of individual actions.

Leveraging Digital Media for Positive Engagement: While digital media has contributed to the superficiality of political engagement, it also presents an opportunity to re-engage young people in the political process. Efforts should be made to create digital platforms that promote informed and meaningful political discussions, counteract misinformation, and encourage offline political participation. Social media campaigns highlighting the importance of voting, activism, and civic duty could help shift the narrative from passive to active engagement.

Addressing Socio-Economic and Cultural Barriers: Addressing socio-economic and cultural barriers to political engagement is essential. Initiatives that provide young people with the resources and support needed to balance economic pressures with civic responsibilities could help reduce political apathy. Additionally, community-based programs that challenge cultural norms around political engagement and emphasize the importance of youth participation in democracy could create a more supportive environment for political involvement.

This chapter presents the results of a phenomenological review of political apathy among Indonesia's young generation and discusses the implications of these findings. The themes identified provide valuable insights into the factors contributing to political apathy, including disillusionment with the political system, the influence of digital media, socio-economic pressures, cultural and familial expectations, and educational shortcomings. Addressing these issues is critical for re-engaging young people in the political process and ensuring the future vitality of Indonesia's democracy.

V. Conclusion

The phenomenological review of political apathy among Indonesia's young generation has revealed a complex and multifaceted issue deeply rooted in various socio-political, economic, cultural, and educational factors. This study has illuminated how young Indonesians perceive and engage with the political landscape, shedding light on the underlying reasons for their disengagement.

A profound disillusionment with the political system is at the core of this political apathy. Young people in Indonesia express a pervasive lack of trust in political leaders and institutions, mainly due to the widespread perception of corruption and inefficacy within the government. This disillusionment is compounded by the belief that political participation is unlikely to lead to meaningful change, further reinforcing their disengagement.

Digital media, while offering new avenues for political discourse, has also contributed to the superficiality of political engagement among the youth. The prevalence of slacktivism, exposure to misinformation, and the fragmentation of political discourse have created an environment where meaningful political participation is increasingly rare.

Socio-economic pressures play a significant role in shaping the political attitudes of Indonesia's youth. The focus on economic survival, the prioritization of education and career over politics, and the lack of time for political engagement reflect the practical concerns that often take precedence over civic involvement.

Cultural and familial expectations further exacerbate political apathy. In many communities, political engagement is viewed as secondary to economic and social success, and family norms often discourage active political participation. These cultural factors contribute to normalising political apathy among the younger generation.

Finally, the study highlights significant shortcomings in the Indonesian education system, particularly in teaching civic education. The lack of emphasis on critical thinking, the prevalence of rote learning, and the inadequate focus on political participation have left many young people ill-equipped to engage with political issues meaningfully.

The implications of this widespread political apathy are profound. As a substantial portion of the electorate, young people's disengagement poses a serious threat to the vitality and inclusivity of Indonesia's democratic processes. If left unaddressed, this apathy could lead to a democratic deficit, where the voices and concerns of the younger generation are marginalized.

Addressing political apathy among Indonesia's youth requires a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach involving education reforms, the use of digital media, socio-economic support, and cultural change. The following recommendations are proposed to help re-engage young Indonesians in the political process and ensure the future vitality of the country's democracy.

4.1 Reforming Civic Education:

Education is a crucial tool in combating political apathy. It is essential to reform the civic education curriculum in Indonesia to emphasize critical thinking, active participation, and the importance of political engagement. Schools should move away from rote learning and instead focus on developing students' ability to analyze, question, and engage with political issues. Practical exercises, such as debates, simulations, and participatory projects, should be incorporated into the curriculum to give students hands-on experience in political processes.

4.2 Leveraging Digital Media for Positive Engagement:

Digital media can potentially transform politics by re-engaging young people. Creating digital platforms that promote informed and meaningful political discussions, counteract misinformation, and encourage offline political participation is vital. Social media campaigns highlighting the importance of voting, civic duty, and political activism could help shift the narrative from passive to active engagement. Collaboration with influencers and digital content creators who resonate with young audiences could amplify these messages and reach a broader demographic.

4.3 Addressing Socio-Economic Barriers:

It is necessary to address the socio-economic barriers that hinder political engagement to reduce political apathy. Initiatives that provide young people with the resources and support needed to balance economic pressures with civic responsibilities are crucial. This could include programs that offer financial literacy, career counselling, and time management skills, enabling young people to manage their economic concerns while still participating in political activities. Additionally, creating more accessible and flexible opportunities for political engagement, such as online forums and community-based initiatives, could help young people integrate political participation into their busy lives.

4.4 Promoting a Culture of Political Engagement:

Cultural change is needed to reframe political engagement as a valuable and respected activity. Community leaders, educators, and public figures should actively promote the importance of political participation and challenge the norms that discourage it. Public awareness campaigns emphasising the youth's role in shaping the country's future could help shift societal attitudes. Fostering a sense of collective responsibility and national pride among young people could also motivate them to take a more active role in politics.

4.5 Strengthening Political Institutions and Transparency:

Restoring trust in political institutions is essential for re-engaging young people in politics. Efforts should be made to increase government transparency, accountability, and responsiveness. This could involve implementing stricter anti-corruption measures, improving

communication between political leaders and the public, and creating more opportunities for youth to participate in decision-making processes. By demonstrating that political participation can lead to tangible outcomes, young people may be more inclined to engage with the political system.

4.6 Encouraging Youth Leadership and Representation:

Finally, it is important to encourage youth leadership and representation within political institutions. Programs that mentor and support young leaders can help cultivate a new generation of politicians who are more in tune with their peers' needs and concerns. Additionally, political parties and organizations should actively recruit and promote young candidates, ensuring that the voices of the younger generation are represented in the political arena.

The issue of political apathy among Indonesia's young generation is a significant challenge, but it is not insurmountable. By implementing these recommendations, Indonesia can work towards re-engaging its youth in the political process, ensuring that their voices are heard and their concerns addressed. The future of Indonesia's democracy depends on the active participation of its younger citizens, and steps must be taken to foster a more politically engaged and informed generation. Through education, digital media, socio-economic support, cultural change, institutional reform, and youth leadership, Indonesia can build a more vibrant and inclusive democracy for the future.

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