

FAKE NEWS AND ELECTION: THROUGH THE LENS OF MILLENNIALS AND GEN Z

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Introduction

Indonesia's General Election in 2019 was the first election that combines legislative and presidential election. Around this political year, some concerns appeared in the Indonesian community, especially when the youth population has increased. The increasing population of millennials and Gen Z play a vital role in Indonesian political future since these people need to cast their vote wisely while being surrounded by a lot of misinformation such as fake news in social media about election and its candidate which can affect people's opinion, perception, or outlook to each candidate. This research aims to answer the researchers' inquiries which are:

1. Millennials' and Gen Z's response towards fake news and election.
2. The influence of fake news on considering presidential candidate.
3. The role of fake news and election on millennials' and Gen Z's personal or social relationship.

Methodology

This research used quantitative methodology and data collection method of survey and interview to collect its data. The researchers distributed two different questionnaires with the following details: in the first questionnaire, there were 9 close-ended questions including the demographical data and 5 open-ended questions, meanwhile the second questionnaire had 5 close-ended questions and 5 open-ended questions. The first questionnaire was distributed online with 169 respondents and the second questionnaire was distributed online with 73 respondents. Additionally, the researchers had the first questionnaire distributed offline to Senior High Schools within Yogyakarta Province as well with the number of 8 respondents.

Result

Given 3 choices when asked about what people did when seeing information or news that were suspected as fake news, the majority of respondents prefer to check information

rather than ignoring or directly spread it. The reasons behind the action were mostly to ensure the truth and not be fooled.

Based on the data the researchers have analyzed, 22% out of 73 respondents acknowledge themselves to be influenced by the fake news in considering the president candidate. Though, some admitted that it only made them uncertain, not to change their choice.

According to the answer, 84% out of 177 respondents' relationship either with family, friends, or partner was not affected by election, since their surroundings respect each other and because elections are supposed to be confidential. As for the minority of 73 respondents said that their relationship was affected by fake news.

Conclusion

It can be concluded from the discussion above that millennials, Gen Z, fake news, and election affect each other. Each point is proven to have their important role such as fake news in influencing people's perception and election in affecting millennials' or Gen Z's relationship. As for the responses, most millennials and Gen Z tend to care about fake news and elections. However, all questions related to whether their relationship were affected or not are mostly answered with a no. From the result, the researchers could state that the majority of millennials and Gen Z care about political issues, but not interfere their social and personal relationship.

Reference

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