

# Students' Political Disappointment Led to the Positive Online Movement for the Republic of Indonesia : A Study of Padang Students Regarding Their Cultural Attachment

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**Abstract.** Dissatisfaction with the Government emerged as protests against corruption from lower to upper levels, which the Government could not handle properly. In addition, most respondents were disappointed with government decisions, especially the passing of laws that caused demand to increase. The Government's failure to create jobs is something that students in Padang are calling for so that the Government can make changes and work better. Based on previous research, this dissatisfaction weakens the level of trust in the Indonesian Government, which has served two terms continuously, but dissatisfaction was found with the Government's performance. This dissatisfaction was also expressed by students, a driving generation that pays attention and cares about the political situation and the Indonesian Government. Meanwhile, online radicalism is one of the dark sides of online life that can damage and threaten the harmony of national and state life. Dissatisfaction with the Government can trigger the younger generation to move even through negative things. Therefore, the younger generation is very vulnerable to exposure to online radicalism in the hope of improving the situation. This qualitative research aims to find out a picture of student dissatisfaction with the Government and the risk of exposure to online radicalism as a result. Results of descriptive data theme analysis with NVIVO coding assistance for 217 respondents with 12 cultural backgrounds, namely Banjar, Batak, Bugis, Chinese-Chinese, Indian, Jambi, Javanese, Kerinci, Malay-Riau, Minang, Nias, and Sasak. Then, the causes of dissatisfaction with the Government were found, namely acts of corruption, the problem of underdeveloped and unequal education, prices of necessities that continued to rise, the existence of individuals in the Government who created feelings of distrust, corruption, not listening to the aspirations of the people, nepotism, lack of availability of fields. Work, injustice in law enforcement, and poor management of state facilities. It was found that students in Padang will be attached to culture as their cultural background, moving them towards positive social movements.

**Keywords:** Government Dissapointment, Cultural Attachment, Online Radicalism, Social Movement, Local Wisdom..

## 1 Introduction

The election period will soon begin. The old government had almost finished running the wheels of government. Indonesia is on the verge of starting a period that marks the end of a government running continuously for an entire decade. As the government faced the end of the leadership period, various assessments and criticisms began to emerge through a series of satisfaction surveys of the government's performance conducted by various research and polling institutions. One interesting report comes from a survey conducted in the West Sumatra region, which is known as an area with a history of opposition to the government..

Data collected from the people of West Sumatra highlights a relatively high level of dissatisfaction with the government, which is ending its term of office. Various aspects such as policies, public services, and effectiveness in handling crucial issues are the main focus in evaluating government performance. This high level of dissatisfaction creates a dynamic picture of the public's perception of the direction and policies pursued over the last decade. This also shows that West Sumatra, as a region that consistently has an oppositional stance, has a vital role in shaping the political and social landscape at the national level. At the end of the term of office, surveys were published regarding government satisfaction. Data was also collected from the people of West Sumatra, known as an area of opposition to the government, who expressed high levels of dissatisfaction with the government. This was also reflected in a 2019 survey in the city of Padang, the capital of West Sumatra, which showed dissatisfaction with Jokowi's performance as president at 65% [1]. This dissatisfaction is reflected in the actions of students who demand that their aspirations be heard. As a demonstration, this resounding action regarding dissatisfaction with the government's performance was carried out in October 2021 by the West Sumatra Student Executive Board (BEM) alliance [2]. Through this action, it can be seen that the young generation of Padang pays attention to the government's performance and cares about the politics that occur in the Indonesian nation.

Observing the phenomenon of increasing dissatisfaction with the government, concerns arise about the possibility of students falling into negative currents, which could ultimately give rise to acts of radicalism. Dissatisfaction with the government is a potential trigger that can shape students' perceptions of the need for social change. In this context, students may feel that more drastic change methods are necessary to achieve the desired transformation, opening up opportunities to cultivate radical ideologies or ideas. If not handled wisely, dissatisfaction with the government's performance can open the door for students to more extreme ideas and views, even entering the gates of exposure to radicalism. According to research conducted by Asrori (2019), the initial seed of radicalism is dissatisfaction with the government. It is highly feared that extremist ideas that could threaten the nation's stability will emerge as a further impact on dissatisfaction with the government. Apart from that, it was also explained that the emergence of fundamentalism, radicalism, and terrorism was a reaction to the dissatisfaction of some groups with the economic, social, and political conditions in the country [3].

Radicalism itself is often identified with terrorism in Indonesia [4]. There is a perception and even a stigma from the government and society that there is a correlation between radicalism and acts of violence that threaten national security. The process leading to acts of terrorism begins with the spread and acceptance of extremist ideas, which can then lead to more profound radicalization. This phenomenon provides an illustration of the evolution of a movement from its initial stages to escalation to a higher level, namely acts of violence and even terrorism. It is essential to understand that the spread of extremist ideas is often the starting point that triggers

the radicalization process. Individuals exposed to these extreme ideologies may experience a transformation in their views and beliefs, thereby becoming involved in increasingly radical movements.

The role of social media and the Internet in spreading these ideas is also an aspect that needs to be considered. In this digital era, the spread of radicalism is no longer limited by geographical boundaries. The Internet allows extreme ideologies and narratives to cross national boundaries, creating global circles of influence that can strengthen and unite radical groups in various places. With the rapid spread of information via social media platforms, individuals who may not have been initially exposed to extreme ideology can easily be influenced and involved in discussions or activities that support radicalism. Modern technology provides easy and fast access to information, including radical ones. Now, the spread of radicalism is done efficiently, cheaply, quickly, and globally with the Internet [5]. The low cost and ease of access offered by the Internet are two crucial factors that help promote and expand the reach of the spread of radicalism. The younger generation cannot separate their daily activities from social media activities on the Internet. This connection allows individuals, including teenagers, to be involved in discussions, information exchange, and online interactions. The probability of the younger generation being exposed to online radicalism on the Internet is increasingly high. This is a supporting factor in expanding the reach and spread of radical ideas. This situation indeed threatens Indonesia's young generation.

Most of the young generation in this region are disappointed with the government. They also feel discomfort in daily life indirectly affected by political life (such as high prices of essential goods, widespread corruption, high educational costs, or difficulty finding employment). A situation like this is very vulnerable to being influenced by radicalism because they hope to change the situation, making their lives better by embracing this ideology.

In fact, Indonesia is a country that is vulnerable to the complexities of radicalism and terrorism. Starting from the introduction of exposure to this extreme ideology, how this ideology infiltrates the younger generation, and how it prevents actions related to it. It has been proven that Indonesia is a country with a high level of exposure to radicalism. This fact was conveyed by the director BNPT [6]. Exposure to radicalism is now increasingly massive and widespread, intensive use of internet facilities which are fast and easy to use by various groups of society. The speed and ease of internet access provide additional encouragement for radical groups to spread their narratives and propaganda, attract potential new followers, and strengthen their networks globally.

As is known, the daily life of the younger generation must be connected to the use of gadgets. Convenient applications on smartphones can help all aspects of life. Internet search engines can answer difficulties and questions. Online life has become very important because, with social media, young people can communicate more quickly and more excitingly, socialize, work, study, and even look for answers to problems in everyday life. This situation opens up a gap in the spread of radicalism, which moves from conservative methods through books, leaflets, and meetings to online media with the help of the internet.

Previous research states that the millennial generation is easily exposed to radicalism because they are in the process of searching for their identity, so they will be very easily influenced by what millennials read, with social media being the majority of the spreaders, namely Twitter, Facebook and Telegram [7]. What they read is not examined further and is accepted at face value. The younger generation also tends to take actions and actions without further thought, of

course, without considering the risks they will face next. Various things from social media, friends, role models, or influencers influence daily life. This adoption process sometimes occurs without involving adequate critical or reflective processes, thereby providing a gap in the acceptance of radical or extreme values among teenagers. Without the involvement of critical thinking, the younger generation can be exposed to shallow or distorted understanding of complex issues, including the potential for the spread of radicalism. Radicalism itself is the process of depluralization of an individual from political concepts and values such as justice, freedom, honor, violence and democracy, in accordance with a certain ideology that is triggered by feelings of disappointment with the government, which underlies the attitude to form a movement that opposes the political regime in power [8].

In the past, radicalism was generally spread through traditional media such as books or through preaching at certain meetings. However, with the development of technology and shifts in communication behavior, the spread of radicalism has now shifted massively to the online world. This change does not only include the form of message delivery but also involves a larger scale, considering that internet access has become easier and more equal at various levels of society. Perpetrators of the spread of online radicalism say the Internet provides a cheap and effective way to communicate, as well as ties and networks that connect them with people with the same movement thoughts. The Internet also provides a barrier-free space and anonymity for them. Apart from that, through this online radical behavior, they get support for affirmation and confidence in the values of their movement [9].

BNPT itself has attempted to minimize radical behavior with preventive programs carried out by means of counter-propaganda and counter-narrative through the dissemination of digital content via social media platforms. The five preventive efforts that are still being worked on are the transformation of the national spirit, revitalization of Pancasila values, religious moderation, strengthening traditional and cultural values, and overcoming terrorism based on welfare development. Apart from that, BNPT also focuses on strengthening traditional and cultural values, recognizing the important role of local culture in building a strong and diverse national identity. Finally, countering terrorism is based on welfare development, integrating development aspects to address the root of the problem and encourage social inclusion. Through these steps, BNPT hopes to create a social climate that not only inhibits the spread of radicalism but also provides a strong foundation for preventing terrorism more broadly. There are cultural elements that are a way out in minimizing behavior related to extremism and separatism in the face of dissatisfaction with the performance of the government [10].

This research aims to describe student dissatisfaction with the government and the risk of exposure to online radicalism as a result. The targeted subjects are students as part of the academic community. Students represent the younger generation who can become agents of change for the nation. A nation can implement optimal and planned development with the role of the younger generation. Starting with students, a preventive program for the threat of exposure to online radicalism can be implemented. The data obtained will enrich studies in the field of preventing radicalism, which has spread to the online realm so that it can become a reference for further exploring the cultural values inherent in students, which can act as a protector against the threat of online radicalism.

## **2 Research Method**

This type of research is qualitative research, which uses open-ended questionnaires that are distributed. The descriptive approach used is a method whose main function is to provide an overview of the object under study through data or samples that have been collected as they are, without carrying out analysis and making generally accepted conclusions [11].

The population of this research is students who represent the young generation of change agents, especially students in the city of Padang. The sampling technique in this research was purposive sampling. The characteristics of the sample in this study are students who feel dissatisfied with the government and actively use the internet and social media.

The variables to be studied are dissatisfaction with the government and online radicalism. Both of which use computer-assisted data collection with the help of internet-based questionnaires. Then, the collected data was analyzed for themes using NVIVO. This application is also used for data visualization.

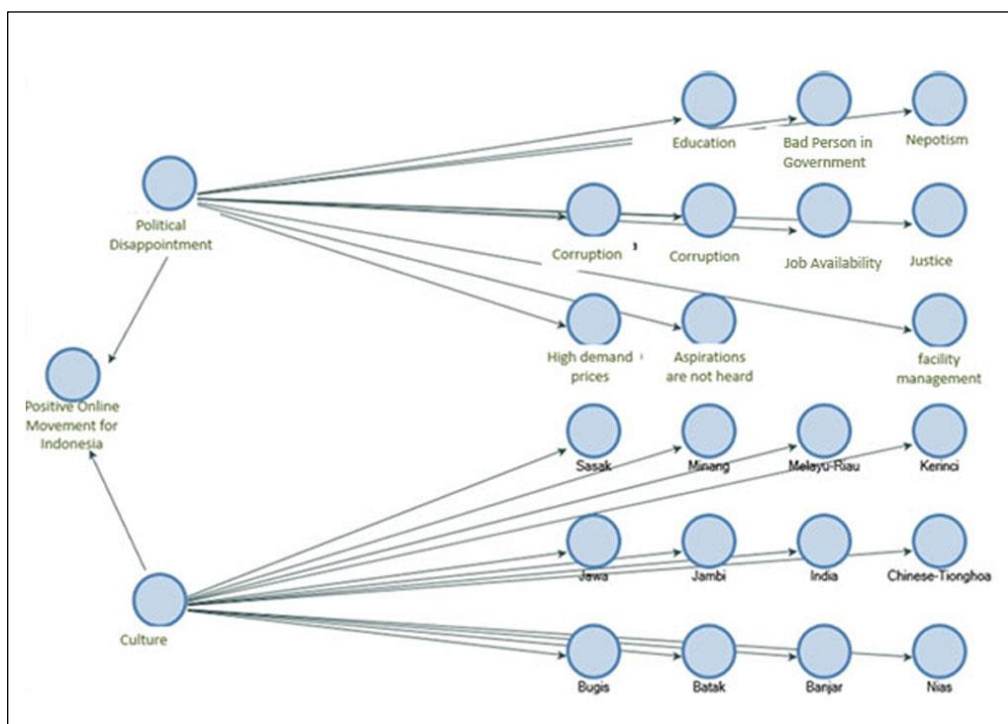
Even though this research uses a lot of data regarding student experiences related to blended learning, it has not been able to obtain data that is representative of all students. The questionnaire used in this research may not necessarily be able to fully explore experiences, but by using open-ended questions, it is hoped that students will be able to maximize and detail their experiences related to the blended learning that they have gone through so far, so that researchers can also obtain useful data. richer and more detailed, and makes it possible to obtain unique data.

## **3 Result and Discussion**

This research began by formulating open-ended questions. This research began by formulating open-ended questions as the main basis for exploring and collecting data. The process of formulating these questions is carried out carefully to ensure completeness and relevance in exploring the theme or research topic at hand. Open-ended questions were chosen with the aim of providing freedom and flexibility for respondents in providing their responses, avoiding limiting answers to only certain options. This step was taken in the belief that an open question approach can open up a wider space for discussion, allow deeper understanding, and provide a richer view regarding the phenomenon or concept being researched. Thus, the use of open-ended questions can provide a wealth of information and in-depth perspectives in responding to the research goals and objectives that have been set.

These questions were formulated to measure two aspects, namely student dissatisfaction with government performance and online radicalism. After the researchers decided to use the fillout.com website as a medium to help collect internet-based questionnaire data, the data collection team distributed open-ended questionnaires to students in Padang. The data collected is a description of long answers from 217 respondents consisting of 52 students and 165 women. It is known that there are 12 cultures belonging to the entire subject, namely Banjar, Batak, Bugis, Chinese-Chinese, Indian, Jambi, Javanese, Kerinci, Malay-Riau, Minang, Nias, and Sasak.

Theme analysis is carried out to explore it more thoroughly and detail aspects related to the research topic. This process involves identifying, understanding, and further exploring key elements that appear in the data or material being researched. Theme analysis aims to reveal patterns, relationships, and meaning behind the information contained, as well as facilitate a deeper understanding of the research conceptual framework. By applying these analysis techniques, researchers can organize data systematically, map main concepts, and detail the elements that are the focus of the research. These thematic analysis steps are directed at in-depth investigation of details or variants that enrich the interpretation of the findings, resulting in a richer and more comprehensive picture related to the research topic being explored. Theme analysis of the data collected shows that Padang students are dissatisfied with the government's performance due to acts of corruption, the problem of underdeveloped and unequal education, continuously rising prices for necessities, the presence of individuals in the government who create feelings of distrust, corruption, and not being heard. People's aspirations, nepotism, lack of job opportunities, injustice in law enforcement, and poor management of state facilities.



**Graphic.1. students' disappointment with the government from cultural backgrounds**

Online radicalism mainly targets the younger generation, who are more accessible to direct cognitively. Online radicalism, as an increasingly rampant phenomenon, mainly targets the younger generation, who are considered more vulnerable to the influence of extreme ideologies. The younger generation, with cognitive characteristics that are still developing, is often the main target of online radicalism campaigns. They are more open to various forms of information and new ideas presented through online platforms. Extensive exposure to diverse views and ideologies via the internet may increase the risk of exposure to radical doctrines. This condition

is further exacerbated by the ability of technology to present content quickly and interestingly, creating an atmosphere that has more potential to influence the mindset of the younger generation. The younger generation is exposed to online radicalism through social media, namely Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other video-based social media platforms.

Dissatisfaction with the government has manifested itself in various forms, prominently through protests denouncing corruption that permeates from the grassroots to the upper echelons of power. The government's inability to address these concerns adequately has only exacerbated the situation, fueling a sense of discontent among the populace. Additionally, a significant portion of the respondents expresses dismay over governmental decisions, particularly the enactment of laws that have led to a surge in the cost of living. The rising prices of basic necessities have further intensified the sentiments of disappointment and frustration felt by many individuals.

One critical aspect contributing to this dissatisfaction is the perceived failure of the government to generate employment opportunities, a concern vehemently voiced by students in Padang. The call for the government to initiate substantive changes and enhance its performance in creating job opportunities is resonant among the youth. Their aspirations for better employment prospects and a more robust economy are pivotal elements in the broader context of addressing societal grievances. This clamor for change is not just an isolated sentiment but reflects a deeper yearning for effective governance that prioritizes the welfare and aspirations of the citizens.

Research conducted in the past underlines the interconnectedness of this dissatisfaction with a decline in the level of trust in the government. As people witness perceived shortcomings and ineffectiveness in governmental actions, their trust in the authorities diminishes. The erosion of trust can have far-reaching consequences, influencing not only public perception but also the willingness of the populace to actively engage with government initiatives. Therefore, understanding the multifaceted nature of dissatisfaction and its ramifications on public trust is crucial for formulating comprehensive strategies that address the root causes and foster a more constructive relationship between the government and its citizens. Political trust is society's hope (public expectation) for a leader to respond, aggregate, and articulate society's demands and aspirations [12].

The roots that become the starting point for the seeds of radicalism are divided into two: namely, macro factors, which include political, social, and cultural conditions in a country that are considered not suitable for individuals, and micro factors, which are specific individual things ((Veldhuis & Staun, 2009). These things can be the root of a negative movement that tends to lead to radicalism fighting for political power.

Students' dissatisfaction with the government in Padang should be a potential trigger for the development of the current movement towards online radicalism. However, this research reveals the existence of solid cultural attachments in each tribe, which forms the basis for local wisdom in the form of tolerance and tolerance. In understanding the ethnic and cultural background, respondents come from various ethnicities such as Banjar, Batak, Bugis, Chinese-Chinese, Indian, Jambi, Javanese, Kerinci, Malay-Riau, Minang, Nias, and Sasak, all of whom have a deep attachment to their heritage. Its culture.

Local wisdom reflected in the culture of each tribe highlights noble values and tolerance, creating a solid foundation for building Indonesian unity. This fact reflects that, despite dissatisfaction with the government, students in Padang chose a more constructive path through strengthening local wisdom as the basis for forming a shared vision of the Unitary State of the

Republic of Indonesia (NKRI). From this understanding, they direct online movements with positive goals, seeking to create progressive change to improve the condition of the Republic of Indonesia to make it better and more sustainable.

This finding is in line with evidence from research in four Islamic boarding schools in Java, namely in the Yogyakarta, Cirebon, Rembang, and Jombang areas, which implement multicultural education that is closely related to the culture of developing tolerance and limiting the growth of radicalism [13].

The results of this research found that dissatisfaction with the government has encouraged the young generation in Padang to be actively involved in positive activities to improve the conditions of their country. This phenomenon can be understood through the firm foundation of attachment between students and their respective cultures, where the value of tolerance is an aspect that is highly emphasized and applied in various aspects of their daily lives. Not only as an objection to a government that is considered inadequate, this dissatisfaction is a positive driving force for the younger generation to contribute to improving the quality and direction of their country's development.

Students' attachment to their respective cultures proves that noble values and local traditions provide a solid basis for motivating the younger generation to improve the country. Tolerance, which permeates their daily lives, is a strong foundation that enables the creation of inter-ethnic cooperation, forming an inclusive society, and strengthening the spirit of unity. Therefore, when faced with dissatisfaction with the government, the young generation in Padang took positive initiatives to move towards improvement, proving that their love of local culture and values has a positive impact in efforts to bring about positive change at the national level. Previous research conducted in the city of Kudus, Central Java, revealed that the cultural approach is believed to be an alternative for preventing and stemming radicalism and terrorism because it touches directly at the root of the problem, namely relating to local issues, such as; policy, alienation, and poverty [14]. Meanwhile, in 2019, in Banyuwangi, East Java, research was initiated offering cultural wisdom to develop strategies for radicalism prevention programs. This program is still ongoing and monitored to this day[15].



## 4 Conclusion

Students in Padang are dissatisfied with the government; this situation should be the root of the movement leading to online radicalism today. However, because of cultural attachment and tolerance, they formed a vision of the Republic of Indonesia and carried out positive online movements for a better Republic of Indonesia. This research will be useful for developers of learning related to culture to create character learning models related to culture to realize a golden Indonesia 2045. Future research can choose a theme about how culture can actively minimize online radicalism to create appropriate methods to apply to learning.

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