



## Political Participation of Indonesian Citizens in the 2024 Presidential Election in India

Raegen Harahap; Devi Desmiwar

Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau, Indonesia

E-mail: [raegen.harahap@uin-suska.ac.id](mailto:raegen.harahap@uin-suska.ac.id)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.47814/ijssrr.v8i4.2575>

---

### **Abstract**

Voter participation in the 2024 Presidential Election shows an interesting phenomenon, especially in the involvement of female voters who are higher than men, both domestically and abroad. Voter data at India's Overseas Election Committee, particularly in New Delhi and Mumbai, show that the postal ballot delivery method (POS) is more widely used than Overseas Polling Stations (TPSLN). Women's participation in the POS method was much higher, with 320 women voting through POS at PPLN Mumbai, compared to 60 women through TPSLN. A similar trend is also seen in New Delhi's PPLN, showing that flexible voting methods are more widely used by women. Domestically, although the number of male voters on the Permanent Voter List (DPT) is larger, the participation rate of women remains higher. Of the total voters present at the polling station, 580 were women, while only 120 were men. This phenomenon indicates an increase in women's political awareness, as well as supporting factors such as ease of accessibility, social change, and the active role of women in democracy. The results of this study underscore the importance of inclusive policies in elections to continue to increase voter involvement. By understanding gender-based participation trends, future election strategies can further tailor their approach to increase participation rates and strengthen the quality of democracy in Indonesia.

**Keywords:** *Voter Participation; 2024 Election; Women Voters; Overseas Voters*

### **Introduction**

General elections are one of the main pillars in a democratic system that guarantees the political right of every citizen to participate in determining the leader and direction of state policy (Rosanvallon, 2018). In the context of the 2024 Presidential Election, the euphoria of Indonesia's democratic party in the 2024 Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections is not only widely enjoyed by Indonesian citizens domestically, but also Indonesian citizens abroad, one of which is in India. For them, the joy of this democratic celebration cannot be experienced directly; They can only observe and follow it through the

screens of their gadgets, relying on social media platforms rather than televisions. The long distance means that Indonesian citizens in India do not have access to Indian television channels that specifically broadcast news about the Indonesian presidential election. However, the vote count for three pairs of presidential and vice-presidential candidates in the 2024 election shows positive results for the high participation of the Indonesian people in India. According to the Overseas Voting Committee (PPLN) in India, the votes obtained by presidential and vice-presidential candidates are quite significant. For example, the Anis-Muhaimin pair received 40,971,906 votes (24.9 percent), the Prabowo-Gibran pair received 96,214,691 votes (58.6 percent), and the Ganjar-Mahmud pair received 27,040,878 votes (16.5 percent) (KPU, 2024).

In the 2024 Presidential Election, voter participation is a crucial aspect that reflects the level of political awareness of the public, both domestically and abroad. The Government of Indonesia, through the Overseas Election Committee (PPLN), implements various voting mechanisms to ensure that citizens' voting rights remain guaranteed, including for Indonesian Citizens in India. On that basis, the high percentage of votes obtained by Indonesian presidential and vice-presidential candidates in India is quite an interesting study, at least in 2 important aspects. First, the participation of Indonesian voters in India is not solely influenced by the political content of social media, but there are other factors that play a role, hidden in the midst of an extraordinary digital landscape. This fact presents an interesting debate about what factors affect the political preferences of Indonesian citizens in India in electing the president and vice president in India; and the extent to which social media works in influencing Indonesian voters in India in the 2024 presidential election contest.

We found that the participation rate of Indonesian citizens in India is quite significant. From the number of Permanent Voter Lists collected by the election organizing committee and data from the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in India the number of voters reached 779 people. First, in voting abroad, the two main methods used are Overseas Polling Stations (TPSLN) and POS methods (mailing ballots). Voter participation data shows that the POS method is more in demand, especially by female voters, who tend to be more active than men in exercising their voting rights. In PPLN Mumbai, for example, 320 female voters used the POS method, much higher than only 60 women who voted through TPSLN. A similar trend was also seen in New Delhi's PPLN, where 117 women voted through the POS, while 75 voted directly at the polling station. In addition, domestically, female voter participation also shows a higher number than men. Of the total voters present at the polling station, 580 were women, while only 120 were men. In fact, in terms of percentage, female voters reached 50.2%, larger than 40% of male voters, although the number of male voters in the Permanent Voter List was larger than women. Second, women have higher political awareness and are more active in exercising their voting rights than men. Factors such as ease of access through POS methods, increased political awareness, and social and economic changes that encourage women's participation in politics, are some of the possible reasons behind the high participation of women voters. Seeing this trend, it is important for the government and election organizers to continue to strengthen strategies in increasing voter participation in an inclusive manner. Efforts such as wider socialization, increased access to flexible voting methods, and encouraging women's participation in politics can be strategic steps to ensure that the political rights of every citizen, both men and women, can be optimized more equally in the future. Therefore, this study aims to contribute to the literature by investigating two key questions. First, what is the voting method in India in the political contestation for the 2024 Presidential/Vice Presidential candidate election in India? Second, this study seeks to reveal the extent of the level of participation of Indonesian voters in India in determining their preferred candidates. This study qualitatively describes the background of Indonesian citizens in India regarding voter participation in the 2024 Presidential Election which will be held at two polling stations in India.

Research that examines elections abroad has not been much in decorating the academic world in Indonesia. In that case, this research is divided into important parts. First, the method of selecting voters.

We used KPU data and interview results from election organizing committees in India. Second, the level of participation of Indonesian citizens. The success of the presidential election in Indonesia, one of which is marked by high participation. Of the number of Indonesian voters in India, there are 779 people.

## ***Research Method***

Elections are the main foundation in a democratic system, which allows every citizen to participate in determining the leader and direction of the country's policies. In the 2024 Presidential Election, the phenomenon of voter participation, especially abroad, shows an interesting trend. One of the main findings in this study is the high level of female voter participation compared to men, both in the Overseas Polling Station (TPSLN) method and postal ballot delivery (POS). Why does this happen, and how can this phenomenon be explained in the context of Indonesia's electoral democracy? To understand this trend, this study uses a qualitative-descriptive approach with case studies as a data collection and analysis method (Cresswell, 2013). Case studies were selected to obtain a variety of relevant sources and ensure that the data collected can provide a comprehensive picture of voter participation patterns. The interview was conducted with the Foreign Election Committee (PPLN) in India, which covers two main locations, namely the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia (KBRI) in New Delhi and the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia (KJRI) in Mumbai. This interview was conducted directly on the day of the election to obtain information about the voting mechanism, voter participation rate, and technical challenges faced in holding elections abroad. In addition to interviews, this study also uses secondary data from PPLN official reports, academic publications, books, journals, as well as sources from mainstream media and social media. The data obtained was then analyzed through several stages, namely data collection, reduction, presentation, and verification, in order to compile findings that can be associated with democracy theory and political participation (Danial & Wasriah, 2009).

One of the key findings of the study is voters' preferences for certain voting methods. The POS method shows a higher participation rate than TPSLN, especially among female voters. In PPLN Mumbai, for example, 320 women voted through the POS, compared to only 60 women who voted directly at the polling station. A similar trend was also seen in New Delhi's PPLN, where 117 women voted through the POS, while 75 voted directly at the polling station. This data indicates that the POS method provides greater flexibility for voters, especially those who have limitations in accessing TPSLN. In addition to abroad, data from within the country also shows that female voter participation is higher than that of men. Of the total voters present at the polling station, 580 were women, while only 120 were men. The percentage of female participation reached 50.2%, higher than the 40% male participation, although the number of male voters in the Permanent Voter List (DPT) was larger than that of women. This phenomenon indicates a higher political awareness of women, as well as the existence of social and economic factors that encourage women's participation in politics.

The participation of female voters in the 2024 Presidential Election, both domestically and abroad, shows a higher number than men. The POS method is the main choice for overseas voters, providing flexibility for those who cannot attend the polling station in person. These findings confirm that in an effort to increase overall voter participation, flexible method selection is very important. By understanding voter participation patterns, especially abroad, election organizers can design more inclusive and effective strategies for the next election. Increasing socialization, ease of access to the voting process, and attention to gender needs in elections are important steps in strengthening Indonesia's electoral democracy.

## ***Results and Discussion***

In the 2024 Presidential Election, not only the political battlefield in the country, but also involves voters from abroad. Although the number of votes from abroad is relatively small compared to domestic votes, the contribution of overseas voters can have a significant impact on the overall vote count in Indonesia. According to data from the General Election Commission (KPU), the number of overseas voters reached 1,750,474 people spread across 128 Overseas General Election Committees (PPLN) (Opendata.kpu.go.id, 2024).

India presents an interesting case in examining the dynamics of overseas voters. In this country, the number of Permanent Voter Lists (DPT) is relatively small, with a total of only 779 people. These voters are divided into two work areas: PPLN New Delhi with 300 voters and PPLN Mumbai with 479 voters. Those who are registered are voters who have registered with PPLN before the establishment of the National DPT at the end of June 2023. In addition, the 2024 Presidential Election in India has two significant differences compared to Indonesia. Although, the implementation of voting in India will be held on February 10, 2024, four days earlier than in Indonesia which will be held on February 14, 2024. However, it does not reduce the enthusiasm of the Indonesian people in determining who will be the president in Indonesia in the next five years.

### **a. Voting Methods**

In order to respect citizens' right to vote as a form of political participation, the Indonesian government implements a voting mechanism that is tailored to the conditions and needs of voters abroad. One example of this implementation can be seen in the implementation of voting for Indonesian citizens in India in the 2024 Presidential Election. The voting system abroad has significant differences compared to the domestic election method. This is due to geographical challenges, voter demographics, and the infrastructure available in the destination country.

In India, voters are given two main methods to channel their voting rights, namely the POS method (mailing ballots) and the TPSLN (Overseas Polling Station) method. The POS method provides flexibility for voters who are far away from polling stations, allowing them to still cast their ballots without having to make a long trip to the nearest polling station. The use of this method aims to increase the participation rate by ensuring that Indonesian citizens who are in remote areas or have limited mobility can still contribute to the election. Thus, this system is expected to be able to reach more voters and minimize the potential for golput due to geographical constraints or personal busyness. On the other hand, for those who live in areas with easier access to polling locations, the TPSLN method is the first choice. In this method, voters can come directly to the place that has been determined by the Overseas Election Committee (PPLN) to vote directly, just like voting in the country. Voters who use TPSLN are generally those who live in major cities such as New Delhi, Mumbai, or Chennai, where there are Indonesian representatives such as embassies or consulates general that serve as voting coordination centers.

From the data of the Permanent Voter List (DPT) of Indonesian citizens in India, the voter population is spread across various states with diverse professional backgrounds. Most of the voters are students studying at various universities in India, stay-at-home mothers with their families, and social workers who are active in various international and local organizations. This diversity reflects how Indonesian citizens abroad remain attached to the homeland and actively contribute to the democratic process. Although quantitatively the number of overseas voters is relatively small compared to the number of voters in the country, the votes they give still have a strategic role in determining the final results of the 2024 Presidential Election. The active participation of Indonesian citizens in India emphasizes that overseas voters are not only part of the diaspora, but also an important element in shaping the future direction of the nation. The success in accommodating overseas voters underscores the

government's commitment to maintaining the inclusiveness and accessibility of the democratic process for all citizens, wherever they are. In addition, the enthusiasm of Indonesian citizens in India in participating in the election also reflects the high political awareness among the diaspora. This not only shows their loyalty to Indonesia's democratic system, but also shows how political involvement is part of the civic identity that they still uphold even though they are far from home. The Government of Indonesia, through PPLN and various communication channels, continues to strive to increase socialization regarding voting procedures so that all registered Indonesian citizens can make the most of their voting rights. With this adaptive and accessible voting mechanism, the participation of Indonesian citizens abroad in every election can continue to increase, and further strengthen the legitimacy of Indonesian democracy as a country that upholds the political rights of all its citizens.

In New Delhi's PPLN, the TPSLN method recorded the participation of 54 male voters and 75 female voters. In contrast, in PPLN Mumbai, the TPSLN method recorded 30 male voters and 60 female voters. Interestingly, the POS voting method shows a higher participation rate. In PPLN New Delhi, 54 male voters and 117 female voters voted through POS, while in PPLN Mumbai, there were 69 male voters and 320 female voters using this method. Overall, the total number of registered voters in both PPLNs is 779 people. Specifically, New Delhi's PPLN has 108 male voters and 192 female voters, while Mumbai's PPLN has 99 male voters and 380 female voters. This data reflects the enthusiasm of Indonesian citizens in India in exercising their voting rights.

## **b. Political Participation by Profession**

One of the studies that has developed in the discourse of voter participation is the map of political participation. Election organizers, election participants, election monitors, academics and residents pay attention to the voter participation map. Especially for election organizers such as the KPU and Bawaslu. The voter participation map helps with data related to the ups and downs of voter participation rates, comparative studies between regions, comparative analysis of voter participation subjects such as men and women, millennial voters, first-time voters, voters with disabilities, voters based on religion, ethnicity, region, political support, and even the age of voters. The KPU, in my opinion, needs to develop a digital-based voter participation information system to read voter participation maps on a national, provincial, or regency scale or even villages/sub-districts.

From the data of the Permanent Voter List (DPT) of Indonesian citizens in India, the voter population is spread across various states with diverse professional backgrounds. Most of the voters are students studying at various universities in India, stay-at-home mothers with their families, and social workers who are active in various international and local organizations. This diversity reflects how Indonesian citizens abroad remain attached to the homeland and actively contribute to the democratic process. Although quantitatively the number of overseas voters is relatively small compared to the number of voters in the country, the votes they give still have a strategic role in determining the final results of the 2024 Presidential Election. The active participation of Indonesian citizens in India emphasizes that overseas voters are not only part of the diaspora, but also an important element in shaping the future direction of the nation. The success in accommodating overseas voters underscores the government's commitment to maintaining the inclusiveness and accessibility of the democratic process for all citizens, wherever they are. In addition, the enthusiasm of Indonesian citizens in India in participating in the election also reflects the high political awareness among the diaspora. This not only shows their loyalty to Indonesia's democratic system, but also shows how political involvement is part of the civic identity that they still uphold even though they are far from home. The Government of Indonesia, through PPLN and various communication channels, continues to strive to increase socialization regarding voting procedures so that all registered Indonesian citizens can make the most of their voting rights. With this adaptive and accessible voting mechanism, the participation of Indonesian citizens abroad in every election can continue to increase, and further strengthen the legitimacy of Indonesian democracy as a country that upholds the political rights of all its citizens.

Table 1. Number of Voters by Work Area

Voting Methods	Number of Voters				Number of Voters
	PPLN New Delhi		PPLN Mumbai		
	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	
TSPLN	54	75	30	60	219
POST	54	117	69	320	560
Entire	108	192	99	380	779

Source: PPLN New Delhi and PPLN Mumbai, 2024

In the context of the implementation of voting for Indonesian citizens in India in the 2024 Presidential Election, the voting method applied by the Foreign Election Committee (PPLN) in New Delhi and Mumbai provides an interesting picture of the level of voter participation. The two main methods used, namely the TPSLN (Overseas Polling Station) method and the POS method (mailing ballots), show different participation patterns between male and female voters.

In PPLN New Delhi, the TPSLN method recorded the participation of 54 male voters and 75 female voters, while in PPLN Mumbai, this method recorded 30 male voters and 60 female voters. This shows that female voters tend to be more active than male voters in voting directly at polling stations. However, a different trend is seen in the POS method, which shows a higher participation rate than TPSLN in both PPLNs. In PPLN New Delhi, as many as 54 male voters and 117 female voters used the POS method, while in PPLN Mumbai, the participation rate through POS reached 69 male voters and 320 female voters. This data confirms that the majority of voters, especially women, prefer the POS method to channel their voting rights. Overall, the total number of registered voters in the two PPLNs reached 779 people, consisting of PPLN New Delhi: 108 male voters and 192 female voters and PPLN Mumbai: 99 male voters and 380 female voters.

Even more interesting is the voter participation data in the 2024 Presidential Election, which shows that female voters have a higher participation rate than male voters, both in terms of number and percentage. Although the number of female voters on the Permanent Voter List (DPT) is lower than that of male voters, their attendance at the Polling Station (TPS) is more dominant. A total of 580 female voters attended the polling station, much higher than 120 male voters. When viewed from the percentage of voter participation present, women occupy 50.2%, while men only 40%. This confirms that female voters are more active in exercising their voting rights than male voters. This phenomenon is also in line with the trend of participation through the POS method in PPLN New Delhi and Mumbai, where female voters are more dominant in choosing a more flexible method than male voters.

This data reflects the high enthusiasm of Indonesian citizens in India in participating in the democratic process, especially through the POS method which provides greater flexibility for voters who live far from polling stations or have limited mobility. The dominance of women's participation in the POS method is also interesting to observe, as it indicates that women prefer a more practical approach and do not require a trip to TPSLN. Factors such as geographical distance, time constraints, and the domestic and professional roles played by overseas voters are likely to be the main reasons why POS methods are more in demand. In this case, the Indonesian government through PPLN has succeeded in providing a mechanism that is adaptive to the needs of the diaspora, thus ensuring that the political rights of all Indonesian citizens can still be accommodated effectively. The successful implementation of this voting method also emphasizes the importance of socialization carried out by PPLN, both in terms of election procedures and political education for citizens abroad. With the increasing awareness and participation of voters, it is hoped that in the future the involvement of Indonesian citizens in the democratic process will continue to grow, strengthening the legitimacy and political representation of citizens abroad.

## Conclusion

In the context of the implementation of voting for Indonesian citizens in India in the 2024 Presidential Election, the voting method applied by the Foreign Election Committee (PPLN) in New Delhi and Mumbai provides an interesting picture of the level of voter participation. The two main methods used, namely the TPSLN (Overseas Polling Station) method and the POS method (mailing ballots), show different participation patterns between male and female voters. In PPLN New Delhi, the TPSLN method recorded the participation of 54 male voters and 75 female voters, while in PPLN Mumbai, this method recorded 30 male voters and 60 female voters. This shows that female voters tend to be more active than male voters in voting directly at polling stations. However, a different trend is seen in the POS method, which shows a higher participation rate than TPSLN in both PPLNs. In PPLN New Delhi, as many as 54 male voters and 117 female voters used the POS method, while in PPLN Mumbai, the participation rate through POS reached 69 male voters and 320 female voters. This data confirms that the majority of voters, especially women, prefer the POS method to channel their voting rights. Overall, the total number of registered voters in the two PPLNs reached 779 people, consisting of PPLN New Delhi: 108 male voters and 192 female voters and PPLN Mumbai: 99 male voters and 380 female voters.

This data reflects the high enthusiasm of Indonesian citizens in India in participating in the democratic process, especially through the POS method which provides greater flexibility for voters who live far from polling stations or have limited mobility. The dominance of women's participation in the POS method is also interesting to observe, as it indicates that women prefer a more practical approach and do not require a trip to TPSLN. Factors such as geographical distance, time constraints, and the domestic and professional roles played by overseas voters are likely to be the main reasons why POS methods are more in demand. In this case, the Indonesian government through PPLN has succeeded in providing a mechanism that is adaptive to the needs of the diaspora, thus ensuring that the political rights of all Indonesian citizens can still be accommodated effectively. The successful implementation of this voting method also emphasizes the importance of socialization carried out by PPLN, both in terms of election procedures and political education for citizens abroad. With the increasing awareness and participation of voters, it is hoped that in the future the involvement of Indonesian citizens in the democratic process will continue to grow, strengthening the legitimacy and political representation of citizens abroad.

## Reference

- Cresswell, J. (2013). *Qualitative inquiry & research design: Choosing among five approaches*.
- Danial, E., & Wasriah, N. (2009). *Method of Writing Scientific Papers. Bandung: Citizenship Education Laboratory, University of Education*.
- Komisi Pemilihan Umum (KPU), (2024). *KPU Tetapkan Hasil Pemilu Tahun 2024*. Retrieved 10/01/2025. <https://www.kpu.go.id/berita/baca/12300/kpu-tetapkan-hasil-pemilu-tahun-2024>.
- Opendata.go.id. (2024, September 12). *Rakapitulasi Daftar Pemilih Tetap Luar Negeri (DPTLN) Pemilu Tahun 2024*. Opendata.Kpu.Go.Id.
- Rosanvallon, P. (2018). *Good government: Democracy beyond elections*. Harvard University Press.

## Copyrights

Copyright for this article is retained by the author(s), with first publication rights granted to the journal.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).