

# Youth Tsunami: University Students' Political Participation

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## Abstract

Several studies have cast the political participation of young people in general, which resulted in the existence of a political tsunami in Malaysia. In this article, we examine how university students (young people) participated in campus politics, which contributed to Malaysia's political tsunami. Protest is one type of political participation that has transformed into a new form of political action that includes petitions, demonstrations, rallies and boycotts. It arose as a result of the growth of political expression and mobilisation. Taking Fox, J and Gurr's perspective on the conflict model, this study assumes that cultural, religious, economic, and political discrimination thus creates group discontent (minorities) and contributes to protests and demonstrations. The purpose of this study is to identify the significant factors that contribute to political protest among students, particularly at Malaysian public institutions, by placing young people as a minority group in society. A collection of data responders from 60 students from a national university, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, in campus elections was used to get answers to the factors of university students' political participation. The findings highlight the fact that protests among young people will be facilitated by a group of provocateurs formed as a result of shared pressure. Apart from that, political mobilisation is also the root cause of demonstrations. This study implies that a university policy and a policymaker must consider the demands of minority groups for rights and justice, as well as the rights and efforts to defend race and religion.

**Keywords:** Protest, Youth, University Students, Political Participation

## Introduction

Young people or youth are often seen as a minority group in political society. This includes a group of young people, both male and female students, who are enrolled in higher education institutions (public and private universities). Given their role in making a difference, their political involvement frequently has a significant impact on the political landscape of a

country. Aside from their determination and high spirits, there are a few of them who hold certain political ideologies. Political involvement can be divided into two categories: passive involvement and active involvement. Individuals who act passively to express support and obedience to the government are classified as passive participants. The majority of them are loyal taxpayers who follow the laws enacted by the ruling government. If their rights and position are threatened, their political commitment will be turned from passive to active. Forms of protest that occur either explicitly (by stating the protest on the ballot paper) or inadvertently (not going out to vote) (Milbrath, 1965). Students who protest or demonstrate are frequently among those who are dissatisfied or frustrated with the university's administration or management. They will continue to participate in national politics to protest government policy or action. When the act of expressing frustration is translated into their participation in national politics, there will be a current form of protest as a result of the continuation of a previous internal form of protest that carries a message representing certain parties on a national and global scale. However, their participation in politics, whether on campus or nationally, will be able to aid in their political maturation while also serving as a tool for the democratisation process. Political participation of young minorities, particularly university students, is an intriguing issue that can aid in the development of their political maturity and contribute to a country's democratisation process (Hashish & Kamel, 2014). Indeed, ensuring the continuity of their active participation in politics will be possible if they are given the space and opportunity to discuss and interact with one another (Schulz, 2005).

In the context of Malaysian politics, the term protest is not commonly used by young people because it is often associated with the active political participation of young people in the modern era. While it is true that radical young people have been directly involved in protests since before independence. This is because some studies, particularly among scholars from developed countries, believe that the evolution of political culture has something to do with the development or progress of a country's economy and politics (Jackman & Miller, 1996). Meanwhile, in the context of developing countries, economic issues are, of course, not an exception to the protests. In fact, dissatisfaction and frustration with the slow pace of political and economic development are frequently expressed by young people, particularly students. As a result, the factor will incite them to protest. According to (Lipset & Altbach, 1970).

“In developing countries there is an intrinsic conflict between the university and the society, thereby creating fertile ground for student political awareness and participation”. also addresses the issue of student involvement, which can be a significant factor in transforming a country's political, economic, and social systems. He claimed that,

“The hostile social and political climate which universities may encounter on being transplanted from one society to another”.

The evolutionary process occurred when discussing the involvement of young people in Malaysia, which was more focused on the demand for independence in the early stages of student involvement in politics. Then it evolved into a political struggle with a racial underpinning, and changes continue to occur where the political struggle of young people is more geared toward democratisation. On-campus, there are typically two parties that dominate and involve two types of student groups, namely pro-aspiration (pro-establishment) and pro-student (anti-establishment) (Jali et al., 2012). Protests on campus are common before, during, and after campus elections. The situation deteriorates further if a national election is held that year. But, to what extent do university students protest in the context of real politics, given that their protests are focused on internal issues such as neglect of student welfare and rights? This includes water issues, wi-fi, tuition fees, loans, or scholarships, as well as any other issues that may arise. When several unsavoury incidents occur, students who are dissatisfied with the campus election rules have elicited a variety of reactions.

Although many studies on the political involvement of young people have been discussed, studies that emphasise the causes and reasons why young people protest, especially in the early stages of their political involvement, especially at the university level, are still less discussed. In fact, determining the level of seriousness of young people's protests also needs to be identified so that the policy can take appropriate steps in dealing with this issue. This is because this issue raises an important concern and points toward a gap in research that shows that this problem has not been addressed. The findings will be able to identify the dilemma faced by the university administration and the government in identifying the true causes of their protests, and will then be used as a guideline by certain parties in identifying programmes that meet the needs of students. This is appropriate to ensure that the issue is successfully resolved at an early stage. Before any programme or action is designed and implemented, the parties involved must first determine what these minority groups in this political society want. This article will attempt to highlight the perspectives of students, particularly those on the side of student leadership because they are the ones who represent the voice of students as a whole. Young people want their voices to be heard by certain political parties because they are often perceived as a minority group that is often marginalised from political society. The role of social media can be regarded as one of the most significant factors for students to become a protestor.

### **Protests by Young People and Social Movements After the Election**

The political tsunami of 2008 caused a significant shift in young people's voting patterns, which has become more apparent. This is due to a vote split among young people who have been more oriented towards BN, which includes not only young Malays but also Chinese and Indians. Young people's high awareness of their role in determining the direction of the country's political system means that their involvement, whether direct or indirect, can have a significant impact on the overall outcome of an election or the country's democratic political landscape. A political tsunami is characterised by a type of election that crosses ethnic boundaries because elections are no longer purely racially oriented.

The 2007 Bersih Assembly, which was followed by Bersih 2.0 in 2011, was also one of the media-driven social movements that were attended not only by various NGOs but also by a youth organisation called the Malaysia Youth and Students Democratic Movement (DEMA). The BERSIH 2.0 and 3.0 rallies attended by young people in 2012, including the

Malaysia Youth and Students Democratic Movement (DEMA) were another example of young people demanding the implementation of eight demands during the 13<sup>th</sup> general election (GE13) occurred from the perspective of monitoring the GE itself, witnessing the tsunami wave of young people who are becoming increasingly bold and vocal (Online, 2012). The gathering of these young people has had a significant impact on the country's changing political landscape. Peaceful demonstrations for justice and democratisation reflect the growing involvement of young people (Nor, 2011).

The active participation of young people like Mohd Fahmi Reza and Umar Mohd Azmi in the social movement Occupy Dataran demonstrates the existence of a type of young people's protest. In 2013, a Justice for Umar rally was held in the Kajang prison compound in response to the two's arrest. Following the "Suara Rakyat Suara Keramat" rally in Kelana Jaya in 2013, many social movements with young backgrounds, including rallies, have emerged. The "Solidariti Anak Muda Malaysia" (SAMM) organization's call for peace, the Blackout 505 rally, the #622 rally in Padang Merbok, Kuala Lumpur, and the flashmob finale, which featured young people at the forefront of the rallies. The 2013 "Suara Rakyat Suara Keramat" rally in Kelana Jaya drew approximately 100,000 supporters from all races and ages. Young people can become involved in politics in a variety of ways, including acting alone or in groups. Several non-governmental organisations (NGOs) led by young people, including Solidariti Anak Muda Malaysia (SAMM), have jointly expressed their outrage over the EC's alleged fraud in carrying out its responsibilities during the 2013 General Election. Its main goal is to seek justice for the use of permanent ink, demonstrating that Malaysians are increasingly doubting the integrity of the personnel involved. Young people led by Angkatan Muda KEADILAN (AMK), including young students, have already marched peacefully to express their protest, which was joined by Adam Adli and Safwan Anang, among the rally's front-line participants.

The 2008 Malaysian general election (GE-12) demonstrated how HINDRAF has become one of the catalysts for a significant shift in the country's trajectory. The occurrence of a rally in the city of Kuala Lumpur is linked to ethnic and religious factors. General dissatisfaction with the UMNO regime had been building for some time, and the HINDRAF Rally on November 25, 2007, triggered what has been described as a political tsunami in Malaysian politics at the time, favouring the opposition Pakatan Rakyat (PR) (Moten, 2009). The Hindu Rights Action Force (Hindraf) defends the Hindu community's and their heritage's rights in Malaysia's multi-racial society. A comprehensive strategy based on the desire to create a common identity will eventually provide collective benefits (Rosenstone & Hansen, 1993). In this scenario, it appears physically that social movements and youth protests are a type of action that elevates the value of individual freedom and is subject-participant in nature. During the 2018 General Election, voters' votes demonstrated a political swing, also known as a "political tsunami," when several states considered under BN fell into the hands of the opposition. The states of Johor, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Sabah, and Kedah are among those that have fallen to the opposition, even though all four were once considered BN-owned, particularly during the 12th GE. The previous states, including Perak, Selangor, and the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, were defeated by the opposition (during the GE-12). The table below analyses the seats won by the parties running for Parliament in the state of Selangor in the 2018 general election.

Table 1

*Position of the Party in the Selangor Parliament*

	<b>Pakatan Harapan</b>	<b>BN</b>	<b>PAS</b>	<b>Others</b>
<b>Sabak Bernam</b>	11,188	<b>12,862</b>	9,300	0
<b>Sungai Besar</b>	<b>17,350</b>	16,636	7,220	0
<b>Hulu Selangor</b>	<b>40,783</b>	27,392	16,626	0
<b>Tanjong Karang</b>	15,626	<b>17,596</b>	7,276	0
<b>Kuala Selangor</b>	<b>29,842</b>	21,344	8,535	0
<b>Selayang</b>	<b>60,158</b>	19,501	18,343	0
<b>Gombak</b>	<b>75,113</b>	26,392	17,537	0
<b>Ampang</b>	<b>54,307</b>	12,351	9,598	0
<b>Pandan</b>	<b>64,733</b>	12,190	8,336	515
<b>Hulu Langat</b>	<b>49,004</b>	23,580	15,663	0
<b>Bangi</b>	<b>102,557</b>	19,766	33,789	215
<b>Puchong</b>	<b>60,429</b>	12,794	10,255	0
<b>Subang</b>	<b>104,430</b>	12,077	9,025	173
<b>Petaling Jaya</b>	<b>78,984</b>	21,847	14,448	0
<b>Damansara</b>	<b>121,283</b>	14,380	0	617
<b>Sungai Buloh</b>	<b>43,631</b>	16,681	16,997	642
<b>Shah Alam</b>	<b>55,949</b>	22,100	15,194	0
<b>Kapar</b>	<b>47,731</b>	26,412	31,425	525
<b>Klang</b>	<b>98,279</b>	19,506	9,169	120
<b>Kota Raja</b>	<b>90,697</b>	17,874	19,555	0
<b>Kuala Langat</b>	<b>43,239</b>	26,127	18,731	0
<b>Sepang</b>	<b>46,740</b>	28,035	15,882	0

Source: Adapted from (The Star GE14, 2018)

According to the data in Table 1, the political tsunami that occurred in the state of Selangor during the 14th General Election is not a new phenomenon. This is because the political tsunami for the state of Selangor has already occurred since the 12th GE (2008) when the opposition party (PKR) managed to wrest power from the BN. Even though Malays represent the majority of the population in Selangor, compared to other races, the people of Selangor have demonstrated their loyalty to the opposition coalition for three general election terms. Based on the data available, it is possible to conclude that the political tsunami-affected people of all races, including Malays, Chinese, and Indians. The rise of young people, in particular, has resulted in a new form of political struggle, and it is possible to make an accurate argument when associating Selangor with young people. This is exacerbated by the growth of various types of leading public universities, such as IIUM, UKM, UPM, KUIS, and UiTM, all of which are located in the Selangor state zone.

### Literature Review

Many studies have been conducted to investigate the issue of protest among young people, including university students, particularly in Western countries that practise democratic governance. Several internal and external factors have been identified as contributing to the occurrence of university student protests. The study discovered that education was one of

the factors that caused protests to be seen as one of the ways for young people to express their voices against the current government. They were able to illustrate the presence of a sort of interaction and an element of protest by employing 40 students from two universities as informants (Zeilig & Ansell, 2008). The findings indicate that there is a link between student protests and the country's education system, which allows students to be actively involved in campus and national politics. As people gain more education, their likelihood of engaging in protest increases. This demonstrates that as students enter university, their political development grows.

The study conducted by Dalton and Welzel has further strengthened the argument that elements of a country's education system are one of the factors that drive students' active participation in political protests. Their research shows that the majority of students who are actively involved are those who majored in Social Sciences. This is because the subjects they study are mostly capable of cultivating students' interest in being equally actively involved in politics, either on campus or at the national level. There have also been some suggestions that the old curriculum is replaced with a curriculum that provides university students with broad exposure to politics. Social Science is one of the fields of study that has a comprehensive curriculum aimed at educating young people to think creatively and critically, as well as to be able to cast views based on needs. This field also attracts young people, particularly students, who are interested in protests and politics. At the university level, an appropriate subject or course should be developed so that students can gain exposure to politics through the subject (Dalton & Welzel, 2015).

One of the factors that contribute to the occurrence of protests among university students is dissatisfaction and frustration, particularly with the lack of governance and management aspects of institutions of higher learning or universities. One of the most effective ways for their voices to be heard by management is to take a more drastic approach rather than negotiating and talking peacefully. The protest was primarily used as a strategy (Munson, 2010). The political struggle of young people in the United States is unmistakably different from the political struggle of young people in Malaysia. This is because the American education system, which values openness and freedom, has broadened and globalised the scope of its students' struggles. The evidence, however, comes from a study of 141,189 first-year students conducted by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute, which shows that university students in the United States are more realistic. Most of them are free to participate in politics so that they can plan ahead of time what types of demands they want before returning to university. What they think sometimes extends beyond issues that have yet to occur. While the form of the political struggle of Malaysian students is more limited and restricted due to the existence of some constraints such as the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 (UCCA), which has directly limited students' political freedom to fight for larger and global issues (Besar et al., 2015). Several studies at local institutions have also been conducted, with the education system identified as one of the factors contributing to the prevalence of demonstrations among university students. In a questionnaire research conducted on 300 informants among 21-year-old adolescents at UKM, they found a close relationship between the usage of the internet or social media and students' impressions of politics. The internet or social media has become a prominent platform, particularly among the younger generation or youth,

including university students, because of the freedom of speech and expression via the internet (Besar et al., 2013).

Another study conducted also found an interrelated relationship between the influence of the internet and the political involvement of Malaysian society, particularly young people or youth (Zain et al., 2015). As research methods, qualitative studies have been used. Interviews were conducted with various political parties involved in the general election, demonstrating that the role of the new media has a significant impact on the Malaysian political landscape. The argument made in another study is to see the relationship between the influence of mass media on the perception and political involvement of urban Chinese youth in the state of Selangor, particularly in the 13th GE (Gan & Ahmad, 2017) and it demonstrates the researchers' study's consistency (Zain, Yusoff, & Othman, 2015). This case study was also successful in demonstrating the influence of mass media, whether newspapers, television, or new media such as Facebook, Twitter, blogs, youtube, e-mail, and others, on young people's political involvement.

The political involvement of Sarawak youth in general, as well as the use of social media and its relationship with youth political involvement in Sarawak. Using data obtained from interviews with 500 randomly selected respondents, a group of people aged 21-40 years revealed that youths in Sarawak use social media platforms such as Facebook the most. As a result, social media is the primary platform for young people to communicate and express their opinions. Although it is undeniable that young people use the internet or social media for reasons other than politics, the possibility of using social media for political purposes cannot be denied (Sarok & Azahar, 2017).

With the existence of social networks that are not limited by time and space, globalisation broadens the scope of existing relationships, allowing them to connect with organisations or individuals from other countries. It has also expanded young people's social networks to the global level, making current political developments in other countries more easily and quickly accessible. Studies by (Jaharudin, 2012); (Sulaiman & Bala, 2002), and (Azman et al., 2011) have bolstered the preceding argument that the globalisation process has aided protest actions, particularly among young people. Furthermore, various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) spearheaded by various levels of society, such as the middle class, students, women's organisations, environmental activists, human rights, and various other organisations, all aim to establish participatory democracy. A transformation that encompasses multiple dimensions, whether political, economic, cultural, or social, is more global. This is the effect of globalisation that encourages young people to become involved in politics (Azman et al., 2011).

After the establishment of the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 (UUCA), political movements from various ethnic groups involving young people, particularly students, resurfaced. The early youth movement, which had previously been regarded as static, became the catalyst for a type of political struggle in response to the issue of Anwar Ibrahim's dismissal in the 1990s. The issue of the 1997 financial crisis and the dismissal of Anwar Ibrahim altered the Malaysian political landscape in the 1990s when there were political movements from various backgrounds (Loh & Saravanamuthu, 2003). He also revealed the emergence of a cultural community as a result of the 1998 reforms, namely Universiti Bangsar Utama (UBU),

which is made up of young people, including students, until it is considered the New Social Movement, early exposure to the role of this group in Malaysia's democratisation process.

Gurr introduced a basic model called the "Minorities at Risk Model," which touches on the issue of ethnic conflict but also relates it to religious factors. The model is based on his study of 268 ethnic minority groups, and 105 of them are "ethnoreligious" conflicts as minority groups in a country. The model describes the causes and dynamics of conflict between ethnic groups (Gurr, 1993). The involvement of young people's political protests, particularly public university students, is more of a protest that demands justice and equality in the application of any act, regulation, or action implemented by the authorities (Gurr, 1970). Frustration grows as a result of their desires and rights not being met as desired. As a result, it will contribute to a protest movement. Because of the conflict between people's expectations and the reality accepted by people, for example, demands for obtaining rights and political freedom among students cannot be met in the best way, resulting in decremental deprivation (loss of rights) and feelings of frustration extremely high.

Fox, J. conducted an empirical study that looked at how ethnic and religious factors make a group of people act protesting and radical. Fox has discussed the issue of religious and ethnic conflict based on the conflict model by Ted R. Gurr (Basic Minorities at Risk Model). Fox has also developed a comprehensive theory connected to conflicts rooted in religious concerns in today's globe using quantitative data collected from a range of sources. Fox has illustrated how ethnic or religious disparities have driven ethnic or religious minority groups to participate in political demonstrations as a result of discrimination, oppression, and being influenced by religious institution mobilization (Fox, 2002).

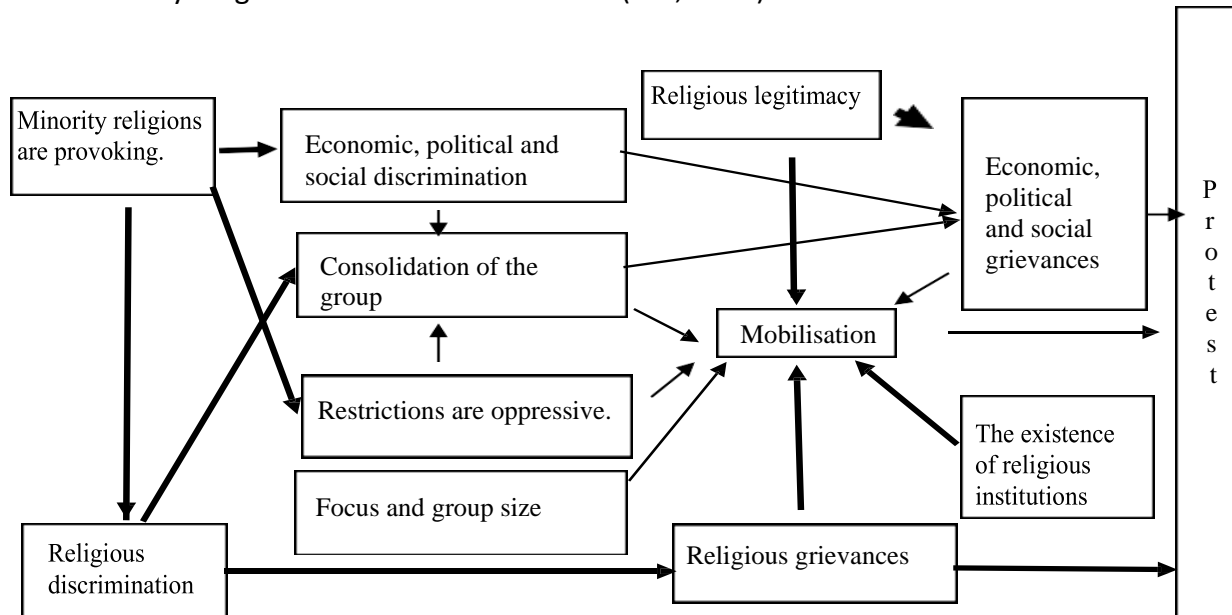


Diagram 1: Framework of religious conflict models among dominant and minority groups (Source: Adapted from Fox, 2002: 153)

Based on the diagram, all of those forms of action are the consequence of pressure that not only involves the religious aspect but also a form of action by the majority group that oppresses or discriminates against the minority group in economic, political, and social



dimensions. As a result of the pressure, a form of group grievance will emerge, initiating a form of protest or rebellion. This is because demonstrations can also occur as a result of pressure that emerges from frustrations and dissatisfaction among groups of people who feel neglected and marginalised (minority).

### Methodology

This study applies a qualitative approach. Document analysis is carried out by referring to and identifying reports, books, and research articles on the factors, trends, and impact of young people's political involvement in the modern era, as well as related statistics. It is critical to use printed materials to explain concepts and theoretical frameworks. Questionnaires were used and distributed to 60 students at the National University of Malaysia (UKM) in 2014 to gather feedback from the community (students) on the issues raised. The respondents were male (28%) and female (72%), university students aged 18–21 years (first to the third year). Numerical data obtained to measure the strength of the linear relationship between two variables are used to strengthen the arguments analyzed so that they are not considered merely perceptions or interpretations.

To acquire data, this study employed descriptive analysis and text analysis as qualitative data, as well as social media reports and a literature review as research tools. This strategy seeks to analyse data by detecting themes in qualitative data gathered through media reports, interviews, news, or library research (Braun & Clarke, 2006). This method is ideal for researchers who want to explain the relationship between specific patterns of a given behaviour and the amount to which a phenomenon may be created (Fereday & Muir-Cochrane, 2006). The data collection process approach is driven by the Fox conceptual framework, but it will be changed to fit the objectives of the research because the Fox model refers to religious conflicts that trigger protests. Thus, based on the score, the majority of respondents were either moderate or less engaged with national politics, because young people's opinions towards politics remain negative.

### Results and Discussion

Respondents from varied backgrounds are needed so that the opinions gathered subsequently represent Malaysian society as a whole. The goal of this questionnaire was to collect answers and information to ensure that research concerns about the extent to which university students were truly participating, notably in protests and campus elections in general, were addressed. Questionnaires were distributed to 60 undergraduates considered acceptable for the aim of acquiring information from the target subjects for 2014 that could not be seen clearly (hidden information). It is important to note that the main measurement is to see the factors of student participation in political protests which is illustrated in Tables 2 and 3. The study's findings will provide answers to questions concerning internal and external factors motivating students to protest.

Table 2

*Internal factors influencing student's involvement in protests*

Item	Mean	Standard Deviation
(A1) Inefficient university administration	3.6333	.88234
(A2) Water supply issue	3.9667	.82270

(A3) Food prices are high	3.7833	.86537
(A4) High costs of tuition fee	3.7500	.89490
(A5) Transportation issue	3.4167	.97931
(A6) Internet and <i>wi-fi</i> issue	3.8667	.98233
(A7) Student responsibilities	3.4833	.94764

Item A2 (the "water supply disruption issue") had the highest mean, 3.9667. The first item, "the problem of inefficient university administration," had a mean score of 3.6333. Item A3 has a mean of 3.7833 for "food prices are high," while item six has a mean of 3.8667 for "internet and *wi-fi* issues." This is followed by the A4 item "high costs of tuition fee," which has a mean of 3.7500. This demonstrates that both of these elements have a significant influence on young people's political participation and their potential to be more engaged if their rights and interests are ignored or jeopardized.

Table 3

*External factors influencing student's involvement in protests*

Item	Mean	Standard Deviation
(B1) External political sway	3.1333	1.03280
(B2) Severe economy and a high unemployment rate	3.5000	1.04962
(B3) Issues of corruption, cronyism	3.6000	.88681
(B4) An unfair governing system	3.5500	.90993
(B5) Social media's influence	3.7333	.86095
(B6) Religious and racial tensions	3.7333	.75614
(B7) Family and friends' influence	3.4333	.78905

Furthermore, the questionnaire findings revealed a minority group of students who are politically engaged and actively involved in campus politics, including candidates and party supporters, who practice participatory culture in their political activities. Several factors motivate them to be more actively involved in politics such as the influence of social media (B5), fighting for religion and race (B6), the issue of corruption, cronyism and nepotism (B3) as well as unjust government (B4). The university becomes a platform for the beginning of young people's struggles inside a local and internal community (student welfare), but their struggles might expand to the national level. The main objective of student political participation in campus politics is to protect the interests, rights or welfare of the student community. After they graduate and participate in national general elections, issues relating

to the students' internal factors will be transformed into their fight for the racial and religious interests of the community they represent.

The findings of this study may imply that some components that were originally focused on minority group demonstrations in a religious context (see Fox, J's model) can be applied to the political participation of young people on campus. Deprivations, electoral inequality, speech limitations, and racial and religious tensions are all key variables that contribute to provocative and mobilising students. The process of redefining the concept described earlier has successfully resulted in a re-evaluation (redefine) of the Fox, J. model framework, as indicated in figure 2 below:

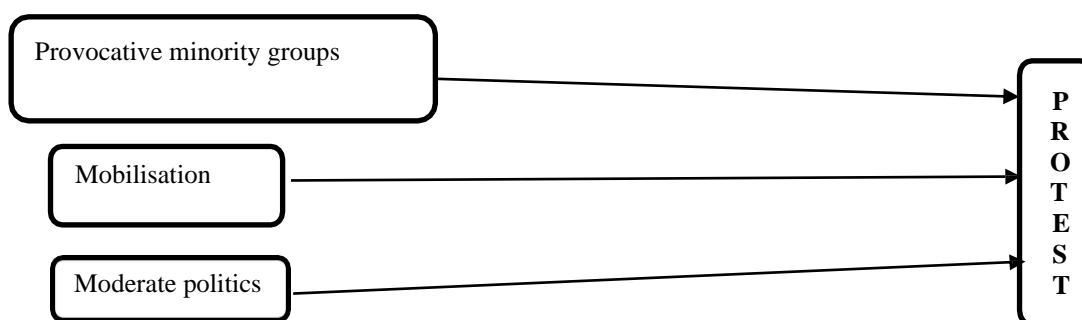


Figure 2: Redefine framework on dominant and minorities' religious conflict.

According to the findings, internal issues such as disregard for rights and welfare, as well as freedom of expression, are particularly dominating in the questionnaire. These are two elements that cannot be ignored and will be used when students are involved in national politics. Similarly, the issue of ethnic and religious tension, as well as the influence of social media as an external element, can be accepted since it is in line with the situation of racial polarisation in Malaysia. Based on the UKM campus election scenario in 2016, a form of silent protest caused by the denial of rights to a group of students has created a shared grievance. It then turned into a protest due to internal factors (Folger, 1986). The UKM campus election results had an impact on the pre-voting group, students aged 18 to 22. Silent protests occur in UKM campus politics, whether students refuse to vote (political abstention) or students refuse to send representatives to contest in campus politics when students are disappointed with the university administration. Active political participation occurred in the 2014 and 2015 campus elections, however, there was no contest for the 2016 elections due to the absence of representatives from the contesting parties.

### Conclusions

The increasing awareness of young people in choosing the country's political direction has resulted in a significant vote split. This scenario began with the 12th General Election in 2008 when previous votes favoured the BN party. This awareness has either directly or indirectly contributed to the existence of a dimension of active political involvement. The tsunami was marked by a type of voting that crosses ethnic lines, a type of election that is no longer based on race but the party. When it comes to the performance of political parties in the contemporary era elections, one of the most significant factors is social media. This is because social media platforms such as *Twitter*, *Facebook*, and *blogs* are more popular than conventional media. Based on the result of the study, it can be concluded that young people's political participation, particularly among university students, is moderate, which is seen as

an internal protest but is not considered too radical. This is because their political culture is a *subject participant* in which the protest is only temporary.

After graduation, the majority of them did not initiate or organise a new protest. As a consequence, young people's political protests will be divided into two groups: those who will vote (contributing to a political tsunami) and those who will abstain from voting, which can occur during voting and elections. Their political struggles are not only reflected on the ballot paper, but efforts toward democratisation and the realisation of new political terms continue even after the 13th GE. Some continue to accuse the 13th GE of an opaque, flawed, and non-transparent voting process. Participation of UKM students in protests and demonstrations at the university level is also temporary. It does not lead to the emergence of political radicalism as it is driven by internal factors rather than external factors that turn grievances and manifest dissatisfaction into radical protests. The ongoing study is required to examine the participation of young people in the Malaysian political tsunami from a broader perspective and not limited to certain age groups of young people. However, if there is an element of suppressing the personal interests of certain groups of society, protests and demonstrations may occur. It is geared primarily towards internal factors, yet there is some provocation in voicing their opinions. It has been noticed that the trends of young people's movement and participation have been marked with clear objectives, notably to express their concerns about issues such as racial and religious tensions. Furthermore, the influence of social media has led to a political tsunami among young people. Based on the UKM campus election scenario in 2016, a form of silent protest resulted from the denial of rights to a group of students, resulting in shared grievances.

### **Limitation**

The sample of university students cannot be generalised to the Malaysian population as a whole. This is because, in reality, university students are constrained by the limitations of campus life. Thus, their perspective is the result of their actions and limitations.

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