

Mapping the 2024 Indonesian Election Process: An Analysis of the Existence of Monitoring Strategies in Online News Coverage

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ABSTRACT

Online news media has played a crucial role in providing information that can influence public opinion during elections. This study aims to investigate the themes of election monitoring strategies for the 2024 election and gain a deeper understanding of the related techniques. The research employs a qualitative approach with content analysis to identify themes and aspects within election monitoring strategies. Data analysis in this article is supported by the adoption of NVivo 12 software. The findings reveal that election monitoring involves cooperation between the Election Management Bodies (EMB), law enforcement, civil society elements, and youth participation. Furthermore, the use of digital technologies, such as applications and closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems, has become a key tool in the process. A clear legal framework also plays a role in ensuring the integrity of the election. The reporting system for monitoring, which includes public complaint posts, is identified as a critical element in preventing violations and intimidation. Additionally, the role of the media in communicating information to the public is also recognized as a strategic factor. Therefore, understanding the role of online news media in election monitoring for the 2024 elections is essential to ensure transparency, fairness, and the integrity of the democratic process in Indonesia.

Keywords: *Digital technology, election monitoring strategy, media press, regulation, 2024 election.*

INTRODUCTION

The 2024 Indonesian General Election (Pemilu) will be a significant event with a profound impact on the development of democracy in the country. The complex electoral process involves several aspects, such as the management of simultaneous elections, voter participation, legal compliance, and security issues (Díaz, 2024; James, 2019). This election reflects the sovereignty of the people and serves as a mechanism to ensure active participation and accountability within the political system. As stipulated in the 1945 Constitution, elections in Indonesia are held every five years, emphasizing democratic principles such as openness, universality, freedom, confidentiality, honesty, and fairness. These principles serve as the foundation for conducting transparent and fair elections (Mutawalli et al., 2023).

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In this context, the public can easily access information from online news media (Yuliarti, 2018). Online news media plays a crucial role in providing information that can influence public opinion during elections. Online news media can enhance political knowledge among the public, where reading online news is positively associated with factual political knowledge, while sharing online news is linked to structural knowledge (Beam et al., 2016). This is further emphasized by a deeper understanding and the ability to select relevant issues (Dalrymple & Scheufele, 2007). The hyperlink structure in online newspapers, for example, can help readers gain a deeper understanding of political issues compared to traditional news media.

Greater attention to news coverage also helps voters form opinions on campaign issues and understand candidates' positions, which undoubtedly influences issue-based voting. Additionally, the media plays an important role in shaping public opinion. The media's emphasis on certain news can influence the public's perception of the significance of a story, which in turn affects voters' views on candidates and political issues (Adanlawo & Reddy, 2021). The media's influence is even stronger in shaping a candidate's image (de las Heras Pedrosa et al., 2017). For instance, during the 2016 United States Presidential Election, many newspapers in Spain portrayed Donald Trump negatively, which contributed to the formation of a similar public opinion.

However, the Indonesian General Election faces various challenges that impact the integrity and quality of the country's democracy. These challenges are generally related to issues of identity politics, administrative complexity, legal frameworks, and political dynamics. Identity politics has become a dominant factor in Indonesian elections, where political actors often exploit religious, ethnic, and regional identities to gain electoral advantage. This practice has led to growing polarization among voters, weakening the democratic process itself (Saputra et al., 2021). The lack of clear regulations regarding identity manipulation allows political actors to exploit divisions within society, further strengthening identity politics during the election (Ibrahim et al., 2024). On the other hand, challenges related to administrative complexity significantly impact the election's execution. The large-scale elections in Indonesia, involving millions of voters and thousands of polling stations, present significant logistical challenges. Administrative errors and vote counting mistakes often occur, leading to disputes and casting doubt on the legitimacy of the election results (Butt & Siregar, 2021). As explained by Fuadi (2021), the simultaneous elections held in 2019, which combined various types of elections in one period, created technical complications. The workload for organizers increased, the election budget grew larger, and voters were confused by the complex ballots.

In terms of legal and institutional aspects, the lack of clear constitutional provisions and frequent legislative changes create instability, which poses a challenge for election organizers, candidates, and voters (Aman & Tomsa, 2023). The electoral dispute resolution mechanism, while aimed at increasing transparency and accountability, still faces significant issues such as political interference, limited resources, and procedural complexities. These issues can undermine the legitimacy of election results (Sistiyawan et al., 2024; Taufiqurrohman & Efendi, 2021). Challenges in political dynamics are equally important. One emerging trend is the increasing number of elections without competitors at the local level, often caused by the power and influence of incumbents, which hampers competition and weakens democratic principles. Baker (2023) emphasizes that the narrowing of political contestation, criminalization of political opponents, and significant presidential interference in coalition-building have reduced the strength of the opposition, diminishing the spirit of the

democratic process. Therefore, the use of digital platforms to monitor the electoral process is growing, driven by the need for transparency, efficiency, and greater participation in the election (Dad & Khan, 2023; Gonzales & Bragatto, 2024).

Given the various challenges faced in organizing the Indonesian election, there is an urgent need for more effective monitoring strategies. In this regard, online news media plays a crucial role in supporting the transparency and accountability of the electoral process. Although there is much research on election monitoring strategies involving various stakeholders and technologies, studies focusing on content analysis of online news media as a tool to investigate these strategies remain limited. Most studies emphasize the legal framework, real-time reporting technologies, and the roles of civil society and international organizations. However, the use of online news media to analyze the framing of political and electoral issues remains underexplored, with existing research focusing more on the impact of media on public opinion and political agendas in general, without linking it to content analysis. Understanding patterns and trends in media coverage of election monitoring strategies is crucial to ensure transparency, fairness, and the integrity of the democratic process.

This study will investigate how the 2024 election monitoring strategies are reported in Indonesian online news media during the election period and the techniques used. The focus of this research is on content analysis of online news media that report on the 2024 election monitoring strategies in Indonesia. This study aims to fill the gap by identifying emerging themes related to the 2024 election monitoring strategies reported by online news media in Indonesia and explaining the relevance of theory in understanding these techniques. As explained by Mahéo (2017), online news media significantly enhances political engagement, political knowledge, as well as political mobilization and participation, with a broader reach (Koc-Michalska et al., 2021).

Through this article, it is hoped that it will provide deeper insights for policymakers, civil society organizations, and academics in understanding how election monitoring strategies can strengthen the integrity and transparency of elections in Indonesia. Additionally, this article is expected to contribute to the academic literature on content analysis and political communication studies. By exploring how online media presents information related to election monitoring strategies, this research aims to provide a deeper understanding of how transparency in elections can be enhanced through technology and media.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Role of Online News Media in Political Discourse: A Study of Content

Several studies have used content analysis of online news media, particularly those related to politics. Alghamdi and Gregg (2020) stated that visual content has a significant impact on increasing public engagement in political discussions, being more effective than text-based content. On the other hand, Maurer et al. (2016) noted that the dynamic, transient, and multidimensional nature of online media presents unique challenges in content analysis. The integration of traditional media into web-based platforms and the use of hyperlinks creates a more complex structure for analysis.

Additionally, Dubois (2024) identified media bias and ideological framing in news coverage. Online news media often exhibit noticeable biases, with significant differences in reporting about political parties and specific issues. Ideological polarization, according to

them, influences how news agencies report politically sensitive topics, which, in turn, reflects broader societal divisions.

Gurr and Metag (2023) argued that excessive coverage of emerging political issues could lead to audience fatigue, which ultimately reduces engagement and interest in political news. On the other hand, the emergence of visual representation in news coverage, as found by Kim and Bas (2023), shows a partisan tendency. Kim found that visual representations of political movements-such as the Black Lives Matter movement-varied according to the political leanings of each media outlet, which in turn affected public perception.

Election Monitoring Strategies

Election monitoring strategies play a crucial role in maintaining the integrity and transparency of the electoral process. Various approaches are applied in this monitoring, including collaboration and involvement of relevant stakeholders, such as the public, the use of technology, legal and regulatory aspects, reporting services, and the role of the media. Each approach has its own advantages and challenges. The effectiveness of these strategies often depends on the specific context of the election being held and the extent to which the monitoring objectives align with the existing needs and circumstances.

Multi-Stakeholder Approach and Community Involvement

Effective election monitoring involves a variety of stakeholders, including election management bodies, the government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities, and political parties. Agus (2023) states that this multi-stakeholder approach is essential to ensure comprehensive oversight, while also enhancing the credibility and integrity of the electoral process. Grömping (2017) emphasizes the vital role of domestic election monitors, particularly in areas with a history of electoral fraud. His research suggests that the effectiveness of monitoring is often influenced by the political environment, as well as the freedom to access and address election-related issues.

Additionally, community involvement is a key component of election monitoring. Hale and Slaton (2008) explains that public participation can strengthen the legitimacy and transparency of elections. In his study, he found that local election administrators were able to build networks and collaborate with community interests to improve election management. Community-based initiatives, such as task forces for redistricting, have also been shown to have a positive impact on fairer representation and social equity. This underscores the importance of public participation in the election process.

The Role of Technology in Election Monitoring: Its Impact on Efficiency, Participation, and Security

The use of technology in election monitoring plays a crucial role in transforming the way elections are monitored, significantly enhancing transparency, participation, efficiency, and security. Sharma et al. (2022) explain that technologies such as blockchain and social media platforms provide transparent and secure records of the electoral process, facilitating accountability for political actors. Meanwhile, Moreno et al. (2017) highlight that real-time reporting through mobile platforms allows for swift responses to incidents, which in turn enhances the integrity of the election process as a whole.

The adoption of technology can also encourage greater citizen participation in election monitoring. Garbiras-Díaz and Montenegro (2022) state that crowdsourcing platforms provide opportunities for citizens to actively engage in monitoring elections, potentially increasing voter participation and the accuracy of reporting election violations. Additionally, the use of technology in electoral systems can improve efficiency and security. Williamson et al. (2020) note that electronic systems streamline the voting process and enhance the security of election data. However, despite the numerous benefits of technology, there are challenges that need to be addressed, such as cybersecurity risks, dependency on technology, and the need to update existing regulatory frameworks (Loeber, 2020).

Legal Aspects in Election Monitoring: International and Domestic Regulatory Frameworks

Election monitoring also involves various legal frameworks and regulations designed to ensure integrity, transparency, and fairness in the electoral process. These legal frameworks can be divided into several areas. One of them is international election monitoring, where international organizations and NGOs often deploy Election Observation Missions (EOMs) to assess the quality of elections. These missions are governed by legal rules aimed at ensuring independence, impartiality, and accountability. However, Luo and Rozenas (2018) cautions that the effectiveness of these monitoring missions is often influenced by the alignment of goals, particularly in efforts to prevent violence and fraud during elections.

Furthermore, these issues highlight the need to update legal regulations to improve public control over the electoral process (Chebotarev, 2022). Thus, the legal and regulatory aspects of election monitoring are highly complex and varied, requiring the involvement of both international and domestic frameworks to ensure the effectiveness and fairness of the election process.

Reporting Systems: Optimizing Rapid Response and Transparency in the Electoral Process

Election monitoring involves the use of various reporting services to ensure transparency, integrity, and rapid responses to potential irregularities during elections. One example of a reporting system used is eDamocs, which enables fast and reliable information flow from the observation locations to analysts via SMS. This system is particularly beneficial in areas with limited internet connectivity. Osborn et al. (2010) explains that eDamocs ensures the integrity of the reporting process and its effective implementation, especially in developing countries.

Additionally, there is the use of applications like WhatsApp, which has been employed by the KwaZulu Natal Civil Society Coalition (KZNCSOC) for real-time communication and incident reporting between monitors and the control center. Ofusori and Kariuki (2017) notes that this tool allows for a quick response to violence that occurs during the election, involving security forces. However, despite the many benefits of these technologies, there are challenges related to the differing standards used in monitoring. Arceneaux and Leithner (2015) reveals that discrepancies in standards among monitoring missions can result in variations in the reports published, influenced by the different political interests and values within each monitoring mission.

The Press and News Framing: Its Impact on Public Perception and Voter Decisions

The press plays a complex role in election monitoring, including providing information to the public, shaping public opinion, and ensuring transparency and accountability. The media serves as a crucial information source for voters, helping them make informed decisions by

offering coverage on candidates, parties, and relevant issues in the election (Adanlawo & Reddy, 2021; Walulya & Nassanga, 2020). Although media coverage at the local level may be limited, its role remains essential in informing constituents about local candidates and issues.

Media coverage can have a significant influence on public perception and political agendas. Duche-Pérez et al. (2023) highlight that the strategic framing of news can impact how voters view the urgency of various issues. Moreover, the press also acts as a watchdog, monitoring the actions of candidates and political parties to ensure they are held accountable. This includes reporting on policy decisions and their consequences (Baumann et al., 2018). However, in countries with weak democratic systems, the media faces various challenges such as harassment and censorship from the state, which can hinder its ability to effectively monitor elections (Mkandawire, 2016).

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach with a case study method to examine the role of content related to the monitoring of the 2024 Indonesian presidential election in online news media, particularly focusing on the concepts of integrity and transparency. A case study approach is chosen because it allows for an in-depth analysis of specific phenomena or events within a focused context, such as online media coverage of election monitoring for 2024. This approach provides deeper insights that may not be attainable through broader quantitative methods. As noted by Hamilton (2024), case studies allow for detailed examination of specific examples, producing rich and detailed data, and offering a more comprehensive understanding of the topic under investigation. Moreover, Horner et al. (2019) argue that case studies can significantly contribute to the development of theory by providing empirical evidence that refines existing theories.

This research utilizes secondary data gathered from online news coverage related to the monitoring of the 2024 election. Data is collected from four major online news sources: detik.com, Kompas.com, kumparan.com, and liputan6.com, with a total of thirty articles compiled since April 2022. The authors argue that secondary data from online news media plays a crucial role in the research, particularly due to its wide coverage, geographical relevance, and practical application. Hunter et al. (2024) emphasizes that online news media provides extensive coverage of various events and topics, making it a rich source of data for fields like political science. Secondary data from online sources also offers the advantage of providing current information and covering a broader geographical area, making it especially useful for tracking trends and patterns over time. The selection of online news outlets for this study is based on national circulation, credibility, readership volume, and their significant impact on the public in Indonesia. Du (2014) further adds that the trust in news content is influenced by the credibility of the media source.

This research consists of four distinct stages. The first stage is the identification and formulation of the research problem, which involves a literature review to determine the relevant theories and concepts. The second stage focuses on the exploration and collection of data sources. In the third stage, analysis is conducted using the NVivo 12 platform with the Crosstab feature to delve deeper into the information. The final stage involves drawing conclusions based on the results of the analysis and discussion (see Figure 1).

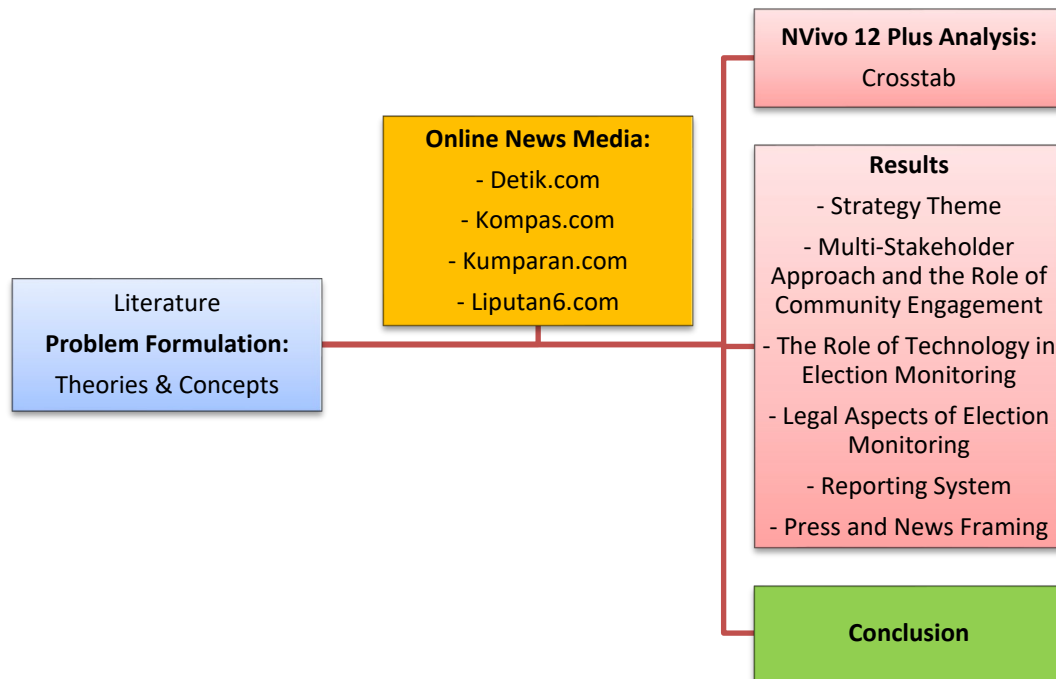


Figure 1: Research Roadmap

This article uses NVivo 12 Plus software for analysis, aiming to identify and quantify results related to monitoring strategies in Indonesia's elections. NVivo supports content analysis methodology, enabling efficient text data processing. According to Bukhari et al. (2019), NVivo is an effective tool for qualitative text analysis. This software provides a user-friendly and tailored application, assisting researchers in managing the primary data sources in their research projects (Sinkovics et al., 2005). NVivo has been used in various election-related studies, such as those by De Luca (2022), with Matos and Miller (2023). In the analysis process, data is coded by organizing codes, coding text, and creating new codes. This process is followed by the application of coding lines and text highlighting. The Crosstab query function is then used to explore further analysis objectives. The codes executed in the query will produce results that can be illustrated through tables and graphs. Finally, the themes emerging from this analysis are further developed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis of the content delivered through online news media, several themes related to the monitoring of the 2024 elections were identified. These themes, which can be seen in Table 1, indicate that online news media focus on the election monitoring strategies for the 2024 elections in Indonesia. Among the media analyzed, Detik.com highlights the election monitoring strategy with a theme of collaboration between the Election Management Body (EMB) and law enforcement, legal organizations, civil society elements, the use of digital technology, the press, and public complaint channels. Meanwhile, Kompas.com places more emphasis on the collaboration between the Election Management Body (EMB) and law enforcement, civil society elements, and the role of youth participation in election monitoring.

Table 1: Themes of the 2024 election monitoring strategy

Media	Techniques	Percentage (%)
Detik.com		100
	Collaboration between the Election Management Body (EMB) and Law Enforcement	30,77
	Community Elements	15,38
	Digital Technology	7,69
	Legally Established Organizations	23,08
	Youth Participation	-
	The Media	7,69
	Regulations	-
	Surveillance Cameras (CCTV)	-
	Public Complaint Posts	7,69
Kompas.com		100
	Collaboration between the Election Management Body (EMB) and Law Enforcement	33,33
	Community Elements	33,33
	Digital Technology	-
	Legally Established Organizations	-
	Youth Participation	33,33
	The Media	-
	Regulations	-
	Surveillance Cameras (CCTV)	-
	Public Complaint Posts	-
Kumparan.com		100
	Collaboration between the Election Management Body (EMB) and Law Enforcement	28,57
	Community Elements	9,52
	Digital Technology	19,05
	Legally Established Organizations	9,52
	Youth Participation	9,52
	The Media	9,52
	Regulations	-
	Surveillance Cameras (CCTV)	4,76
	Public Complaint Posts	-
Liputan6.com		100
	Collaboration between the Election Management Body (EMB) and Law Enforcement	11,11
	Community Elements	22,22
	Digital Technology	22,22
	Legally Established Organizations	11,11
	Youth Participation	11,11
	The Media	-
	Regulations	11,11
	Surveillance Cameras (CCTV)	-
	Public Complaint Posts	-

Kumparan.com presents the election monitoring strategy for the 2024 elections with the theme of collaboration between the Election Management Body (EMB) and law enforcement, the use of digital technology, civil society elements, legal organizations, youth participation, the press, and the use of surveillance cameras (CCTV). On the other hand, Liputan6.com highlights a theme that focuses more on civil society elements, digital technology, collaboration between the Election Management Body (EMB) and law enforcement, legal organizations, youth participation, and regulation.

The discussion in this article is divided into two main sections according to the research focus: election monitoring strategies and a deeper understanding of the techniques used. The discussion on election monitoring strategies covers key themes that are essential in maintaining integrity and transparency throughout the election process.

1. Election Monitoring Strategies Play a Crucial Role

a) Analysing the Role of Online News Media in Monitoring the 2024 Elections: Collaboration, Technology, and Agenda Influence

Based on the content analysis of the 2024 election monitoring, several key aspects conveyed by online news media have been identified. One of these aspects is the importance of collaboration among various stakeholders, such as the Election Management Body (EMB) and law enforcement, as well as the active role of civil society elements and youth participation in supporting monitoring initiatives. This cross-sector collaboration is considered vital for achieving effective monitoring goals. Another aspect is the utilization of technology in monitoring activities, where the use of digital technologies such as the “*Sigap Lapor*” application, the “*Jarimu Awasi Pemilu*” program, the “*Dispute Resolution Information System*,” and surveillance cameras (CCTV) significantly support operational and election oversight. These technologies not only enhance efficiency but also strengthen oversight in the electoral process.

Additionally, the legal and regulatory framework underpinning monitoring activities is another critical aspect. The presence of legally established organizations and clear regulations provides a legitimate legal foundation for conducting oversight, ultimately supporting the success of election monitoring initiatives. The reporting systems for monitoring also play a crucial role, where complaints from the public to the election organizers, such as the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), serve as an important tool to ensure elections are conducted transparently and fairly. Finally, the use of media as a communication channel plays a central role in disseminating relevant information to the public. The media functions not only as a vehicle for delivering messages but also in raising public awareness on key issues in the elections, supporting transparency and participation.

The analysis of online news media content during the election shows how media frames news with strategies that have a significant influence on setting the agenda. This was evident in the coverage of the 2012 presidential election in Mexico and the 2015 gubernatorial election in Nuevo Leon, which demonstrated the media’s important role in shaping the public agenda (Muñiz et al., 2018). The influence of media was further emphasized by Vonbun-Feldbauer and Matthes (2018) in their coverage of the 2015 gubernatorial election in Nuevo Leon.

b) Collaboration Among Stakeholders and Community Involvement

Collaboration among all involved parties is crucial for the smooth execution of elections. One example is the plan to establish cooperation with law enforcement’s cyber units to address and control activities that could harm the election process. Furthermore, the involvement of various community elements, such as the One Million Election Volunteers, plays a significant role in supporting the election process. This aligns with Hryhorova’s (2020) view that the exchange of information, collaboration in action, and joint verification are crucial forms of cooperation during elections. Sjögren (2022) further adds that the presence of civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and faith-based

organizations, can effectively encourage political mobilization and significant protest alliances. Additionally, youth participation in the election process contributes to creating a healthy election and a strong democratic climate. Kuzio (2006) suggests that youth-led groups play an essential role in election monitoring and mobilizing support for democratic change, as seen in countries such as Serbia, Georgia, and Ukraine. However, challenges arise in ethnically divided societies. In heterogeneous societies, elections often fail to strengthen cooperation between groups. Chang and Peisakhin (2023) highlights that fostering cooperation requires a shared call and democratic values that can unite society. Furthermore, existing political inequalities can undermine this cooperation potential. Chang et al. (2018) also emphasizes that, to maintain public trust and cooperation, it is essential to ensure equal participation and address existing disparities.

c) The Use of Technology in Election Implementation

The use of technology in the conduct of elections has brought significant changes to various aspects of the election process. One example is the use of digital technology, such as the “*Sigap Lapor*” app, which allows for the digital recording and documentation of incidents during elections. Additionally, programs such as “*Jarimu Awasi Pemilu*” and the “*Dispute Resolution Information System*” serve as tools to encourage participation in election monitoring and engage the public in the process. These programs reflect technological advancements that align with contemporary needs. According to Antonyan et al. (2009), the implementation of electronic systems can enhance the integrity of elections. Other technologies, such as biometric voter identification, help reduce the risk of fraud and errors (Murray & Albert, 2025). Furthermore, blockchain technology has been applied to ensure transparency and build trust in the election process (Sharma et al., 2022). However, there are challenges in utilizing this technology. Williamson et al. (2020) note that if not carefully managed, these technologies are vulnerable to security threats that could undermine election integrity. Nonetheless, overall, the integration of technology in election monitoring shows promising results in enhancing transparency and integrity.

In addition, the use of surveillance cameras (CCTV) has also become part of the election monitoring strategy. The installation of CCTV, such as by the Blitar City Police to monitor election activities, and by Bawaslu South Jakarta at polling stations, demonstrates how this technology is used to support oversight (Nugraheny & Meiliana, 2023; Izan, 2024). Joseph et al. (2023) with Welsh and Farrington (2006) state that CCTV is widely used for security and surveillance purposes. However, Senior et al. (2005) and Zurawski (2012) caution that the use of CCTV in elections can raise controversies, particularly related to privacy and state control. Clavell (2011) also warns that such systems could be influenced by political interests, meaning their use must be strictly regulated to avoid potential abuse.

d) Legal Framework and Regulations

Election monitoring involves various legal frameworks and regulations designed to ensure integrity, transparency, and fairness in the electoral process. This is reflected in the rules and guidelines established to guarantee the conduct of free and fair elections. Some relevant regulations include the basic principles of elections, which must be free, fair, capable, and effective. Additionally, there are regulations that emphasize the importance of elections being conducted with integrity and based on democratic values, as stipulated in the Regulation of the General Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia No. 1 of 2023 on Election

Monitoring. The legal frameworks related to elections vary significantly across countries. In the UK, for example, there are regulations governing the activities of third parties in the electoral process (Rowbottom, 2020). On the other hand, countries like Albania and North Macedonia have specific regulations governing transparency in campaign financing. However, despite the existence of these legal frameworks, their implementation remains a significant challenge for various countries, as also highlighted by Kume and Lirëza (2023).

2. Election Monitoring Reporting Systems

This aspect highlights the multifaceted nature of the election monitoring reporting system, emphasizing the importance of communication, technology, and citizen involvement. In this context, in the event of significant voter intimidation, election monitors can utilize social media to disseminate related information. Furthermore, citizens can report violations to election monitoring services to file complaints regarding infractions. For example, in Zambia, Mkandawire (2016) noted that civil society organizations used SMS and Facebook to enhance transparency in elections. In Tanzania, Tseguy (2016) explained that citizen monitoring could leverage digital tools to report activities related to voter education and mobilization, contributing more comprehensively to election oversight.

On the other hand, manual monitoring systems continue to play a crucial role in preventing fraud and manipulation. Osborn et al. (2010) and Antonyan et al. (2009) revealed that manual monitoring, which records and reports observations, allows for data analysis to detect discrepancies. While this manual system can be labour-intensive and prone to errors, Kimura (2015) emphasized that it is often considered more transparent and trustworthy compared to fully automated systems. However, manual systems also present challenges, such as the potential for human error, the need for greater human resources, and difficulties in ensuring comprehensive coverage across polling stations (Buzin et al., 2016).

3. The Role of Media as a Communication Channel

The media plays a crucial role in election monitoring by serving as a communication channel that ensures transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making among voters. This role is clearly evident in the collaboration between the media and the Election Supervisory Board (Bawaslu), reflecting a joint effort to oversee the conduct of elections. As part of its function, the media is responsible for providing accurate and relevant information regarding the electoral process, candidates, and related issues. Muñiz (2015) and Oboh (2016) highlighted that this information helps voters make informed decisions.

Furthermore, the media plays an essential role in promoting transparency and accountability. Tseguy (2016) suggested that by reporting electoral activities objectively, the media can expose discrepancies, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability. Additionally, the media has the power to shape public opinion. Mancosu et al. (2021) emphasized that well-framed election coverage can influence voters' perceptions and behaviour. However, more recently, Prawira et al. (2024) stressed that as government agencies and authorities become the media's clients, the media's independence as an observer may diminish, as it may have its own agenda and interests (Elareshi et al., 2020). Challenges arise from the varying ways media reports on elections. Gaber and Lora-Kayambazinthu (2014) noted that state-controlled or politically influenced media can present biased reports, pro-government narratives, or support for particular candidates. Despite this,

the media remains a vital component in election monitoring by providing necessary information, ensuring transparency, and shaping objective public opinion.

CONCLUSION

This article concludes that the coverage of the 2024 elections in Indonesia highlights several key themes related to monitoring strategies essential for maintaining the integrity and transparency of the electoral process. Key themes identified include collaboration between the Election Management Body (EMB) and law enforcement, community involvement, digital technology, legal organizations, youth participation, the media, regulations, surveillance cameras (CCTV), and public complaint stations.

There are five main aspects in understanding the techniques used in monitoring these elections. First, collaboration between relevant parties and community involvement, which reflects the importance of joint efforts in controlling activities that could harm the election process, including the role of youth participation in ensuring a more transparent election. Second, the use of technology in the electoral process, clearly demonstrated by the use of applications such as *"Sigap Lapor," "Jarimu Awasi Pemilu," "Election Dispute Resolution Information System,"* and surveillance cameras (CCTV), which support monitoring and transparency. Third, the existing legal and regulatory frameworks that underpin the implementation of fair and transparent elections. This aspect is reflected in regulations designed to ensure the integrity of the electoral process. Fourth, the election monitoring reporting system, which includes the establishment of public complaint stations to report violations and prevent voter intimidation. Lastly, the role of the media as a communication channel, where the press plays a strategic role in disseminating relevant information and raising public awareness of the electoral process, through collaboration with Bawaslu and joint efforts in monitoring and supervision. Overall, the monitoring strategies implemented during the 2024 elections demonstrate the importance of various techniques and cross-sector collaboration in supporting the continuation of free, fair, and transparent elections.

This article relies on data from several major online news platforms, which could introduce bias in the selection of information sources. Certain media outlets often have their own agendas or perspectives, which may influence how they present news and analysis related to election monitoring. Therefore, using a more diverse range of data sources, such as social media or interviews with individuals directly involved in the monitoring process, could provide a more comprehensive and objective perspective. Additionally, this article is limited to monitoring the 2024 elections in Indonesia, using data from selected online news platforms within a specific time frame. However, it is important to recognize that election monitoring strategies can evolve and change over time and in different contexts. Therefore, further research is recommended to include a broader range of data sources - such as social media or official reports from agencies involved in monitoring - to provide a more holistic view of election monitoring strategies. Future research could also expand its temporal and spatial scope, such as comparing the monitoring of the 2024 election with previous elections or analyzing the implementation of similar strategies in other countries. This approach would provide deeper context and allow for a more comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of monitoring strategies under various conditions and situations.

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