

The relationship between perceived justice and political apathy at the level of behavior (Case study: Postgraduate students of Tehran, Tarbiat Modares and Allameh Tabatabai universities in 2023)

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Article Info	Abstract
<p>Original Article Main Object: Interdisciplinary Scope: Iran</p> <p>Received: 17 April 2024 Revised: 03 June 2024 Accepted: 15 June 2024 Published online: 7 July 2024</p> <p>Keywords: distribution, graduate students, Islamic Republic of Iran, political apathy, redistribution.</p>	<p>In the field of policy making, one of the most important functions of the political system is the distribution of resources. After the revolution, the government tried to reduce the class gap by implementing distribution and redistribution policies with the aim of ensuring justice in the society. Examining the statistical data shows that these policies have not been very successful and the class gap has increased especially in recent years. This research seeks to answer the question of what the graduate students of Tehran, Tarbiat Modares and Allameh Tabatabai universities have about the results of these policies and what is the relationship between their perception and political indifference. Therefore, a sample size of 383 people was selected from the statistical population of students of the mentioned universities. A questionnaire tool was used to collect data. The hypothesis of the research is based on the claim that graduate students' sense of injustice from distribution and redistribution policies has caused passivity and political indifference at the level of behavior. The results show that the students' perception of the distribution and redistribution situation after the revolution is unfair and they consider the distribution and redistribution policies ineffective. Therefore, a large part of the students has suffered political apathy in terms of behavior that includes participating in elections, supporting political factions, marching, protesting, etc.</p>

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Extended Abstract

Background

One of the functional goals of distribution and redistribution policies is to establish justice and increase citizens' satisfaction. That is, every political system is based on two columns; one is the ideology of the political system and the second is efficient. Proper economic performance as one of the most important symbols of the efficiency of a political system is one of the economic areas to establish economic justice in society, which is achieved through distribution and redistribution policies. Based on the system's approach in the votes of al -Monde and Paul, if the distribution process is well done, we are in the process of supporting the system, but if the distribution process is not well done, we see a decline in symbolic support for the political system or political events. We are like protest, rebellion or criticism. In general, if we consider the impact or failure of these policies on the political action of individuals in a continuum, but a spectrum is a serious and obvious support for the political system, and at the end of the spectrum, protest and revolution. In the middle of these two spectrums, support or non -support for the system occurs in a moderate way, either in the form of voting or criticizing the system and social and political apathy. Although the output of distribution and redistribution policies in the objective dimension can be observed based on statistics and indicators, it is very important to perceive the mental perceptions and perceptions that individuals have from these policies. Sometimes policies have not been very successful in practice, but there are fair and satisfying perceptions of the process and the results, but sometimes based on objective indicators and statistics of a political system from the point of view of distribution and distribution of facilities. But people in that country feel extremely injustice. Of course, it should be said that the feeling of justice or injustice is not generally absolute but relative and differs from one domain to other areas. Therefore, in order to understand whether policies have had good results and how the political action of individuals in that society, it should be noted that in addition to the statistical data and perceptions that individuals have. This can be explained and described by the mediated variable of perceived justice.

Aims

Although a limited research in Iran on the issue of the relationship between the economy and political participation has merely concluded that the economic variable was effective on political participation and political apathy and did not discuss much of it, but they did not discuss much. According to its observations in society, the researcher believes that injustice in society and the inefficiency of the system in resolving this problem have led to the deepening of the political apathy of this generation, and this generation, in addition to peaceful

and legal partnerships, is indifferent. It loses its willingness to be in the political arena. Therefore, the author in this study seeks to answer the question: What is the relationship between the perceived justice of students of Tehran universities born in the 1970s from the results of their distribution and redistribution policies and their political apathy?

Methods

Statistical population and sampling method were used in this research. The questionnaire is used as a data collection tool, which includes two perceived and political apathy questionnaires.

Results

In general, there is a relationship between the perceived state of distribution and redistribution policies and the political apathy of people in the society. Sometimes this perception may be consistent with the real situation of the society and not much different from it; and sometimes there can be a big gap between the perception of the situation and the reality. Despite this, considering that in terms of statistics and economic indicators, the distribution of resources and facilities in Iran is not very suitable and there is a gap and inequality in the center and the periphery, this issue increases political apathy. In the relationship between the dimensions of perceived justice and political apathy in the dimension of behavior, the results show that in the first place, the students' perception of justice in the dimension of proportionality, equality, comparative and perception of distributive and redistributive policies have an unfair perception and from that point of view. These policies have not achieved the desired goals that the Islamic Republic of Iran has had from their formulation and implementation in reducing inequality and realizing justice, hence they feel injustice. According to the descriptive statistics of this study, 50% of the students said that they prefer to stay away from any political activity, whether peaceful or protest. Thus, 64% of students are not interested in joining a party and supporting a political faction. Regarding election boycott and participation, 40% of people were in favor of election boycott and only 33% were against election boycott. 57% of students do not want to participate in the movement and riots and only 13.9% want to participate in this field. 50% said that they don't want to participate in trade union protests and only 13.8% want to participate in trade union protests. According to the results of empirical data analysis, there is generally a significant relationship between the perception of justice and political apathy at the level of behavior. These results show that as much as people feel injustice towards the distribution situation in the society, they become indifferent towards participating in party and factional activities, elections, movement and protest. The first part of behavior, which is related to party and factional activities and participation in elections,

confirms the significant relationship between injustice and political apathy in the dimension of behavior. According to Robert Merton (1938), if the means of achieving the goals set in the society are proportionate and aligned and people can reach their goals based on their ability, they have a more cooperative and active behavior, but if people differ between the goals and the means of access. If they don't see them as appropriate and feel unequal compared to other social groups, they will suffer political and social apathy. Rahimi Khah (2012) has proved that there is an effect between the unfavorable economic situation and apathy, and unfavorable economic conditions have led to the apathy of CIA. Here too, it was found that there is a relationship between the perception of injustice and political apathy. The research of Rezaei et al. (2021) has shown that there is a significant relationship between the sense of social justice and political apathy. The results of the research with the results of the research of Mohseni Tabrizi and Sedaghati Fard (2007) revealed that there is a significant relationship between relative deprivation and political apathy. Also, the results of the research are consistent with the opinion of Inglehart (1994), which states that the lack of political influence has a significant effect on the degree of people's willingness to participate in political affairs. It is also consistent with the research results of Grasso et al. (2019), which revealed that in times of economic crisis, people feel more relative deprivation, and this feeling causes them to become depressed instead of positively motivated.

Conclusion

What led to this research is adverse economic conditions and political consequences in society. As Almond and Powell states in their systematic theory and their design and presented model, political participation is one of the factors that in the systematic process supports both the political system and the conveyance of individuals' demands and demands in the feedback process. Therefore, if political participation is reduced due to lack of conditions or a lack of a desire for participation, the system will face inefficiency, which may sometimes lead to the collapse of the system in the long run. The author believes that reducing political participation and increasing political apathy in the short term will face problems and crises in the short term, and in the long run, it may lead to the collapse of the political structure.

Conflict of interest

The author declared no conflicts of interest.

Ethical considerations

The author has completely considered ethical issues, including informed consent, plagiarism, data fabrication, misconduct, and/or

falsification, double publication and/or redundancy, submission, etc.

Data availability

The dataset generated and analyzed during the current study is available from the author on reasonable request.

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