

**People engagement in direct democracy: comparison of Italian referendum
with UK and Canada.**



Umme Ummara

U. Ummara

Doctoral candidate Innovation and Management of Public Resources

PhD Program in Government and International Relations

University of Molise, Campobasso, Italy.

Supervisor: Professor Fabio Serricchio

Fabio Serricchio

Coordinator: professor Francesca Di Virgilio

Francesca Di Virgilio

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

People engagement in direct democracy is a crucial part of any healthy democracy. This study will explore how the rational choice theory can be used to explain the differences in people's engagement in direct democracy between Italy, UK and Canada. It will analyse the Italian referendum process in comparison to the processes in the United Kingdom and Canada by using rational choice theory, Social identity theory, and Cognitive dissonance theory, Anthony Downs theory, Mobilization theory and Theory of deliberative democracy. Through this analysis, it will become clear why some countries have more people engaged in direct democracy than others (Martinelli, 2022).

1.1. Reasons to do this job:

Embarking on the journey of exploring people's engagement in direct democracy, particularly through the lens of Italian referendums in comparison with the UK and Canada, is a venture fueled by a convergence of intellectual curiosity, a commitment to democratic principles, and a profound belief in the transformative potential of informed citizenry. At the core of my motivation lies an intrinsic fascination with the intricate workings of democratic systems. The study of political science has always been more than an academic pursuit for me; it is an avenue through which I seek to comprehend the underlying dynamics that shape societies, influence governance, and impact the lives of individuals. Direct democracy, with its promise of empowering citizens to directly participate in decision-making, represents a critical facet of this intricate tapestry. The inspiration to delve into the nuances of citizen engagement in direct democracy is drawn from the recognition that the health of any democracy is contingent on the active involvement of its citizens. In an era where the very foundations of democracy are being scrutinized and redefined, understanding the factors that either foster or hinder participation becomes not only relevant but imperative. It is this recognition that propels me to unpack the complexities of referendums in Italy, the UK, and Canada.

The allure of this specific comparative analysis lies in the belief that diverse democratic experiences offer valuable lessons. Italy, with its rich historical context and nuanced political landscape, provides a compelling case study. The United Kingdom and Canada, each with its own set of political traditions and societal norms, offer contrasting perspectives. Exploring the interplay of historical legacies, legal frameworks, and cultural influences in these three contexts promises to yield insights that extend beyond the realm of academia. Furthermore, the belief

in the transformative potential of direct democracy is a driving force. It is rooted in the conviction that enabling citizens to have a direct impact on decision-making processes can foster a sense of ownership and accountability. The power vested in the hands of the people through referendums represents a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between citizens and the institutions that govern them. This belief in the potential for positive change through democratic participation inspires the meticulous examination of referendums and their outcomes. The broader inspiration for this undertaking emanates from a commitment to contributing meaningfully to the discourse surrounding democratic governance. As societies evolve, political landscapes shift, and new challenges emerge, there is a pressing need to adapt democratic systems to ensure their relevance and effectiveness. This thesis represents a humble contribution to that ongoing dialogue, a small effort to illuminate the factors that shape citizen engagement and, in doing so, contribute to the enhancement of democratic processes.

In essence, the inspiration to undertake this endeavor is grounded in the belief that understanding the dynamics of direct democracy is not just an academic pursuit—it is a crucial step towards fostering more inclusive, participatory, and resilient democratic systems. As I embark on this exploration, my hope is that the insights gleaned will not only enrich scholarly discourse but also resonate with those who are passionate about the vitality and future of democratic governance.

Purpose:

The purpose of this study is to explore and understand the factors influencing citizen engagement in direct democracy, with a specific focus on referendums in Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada. This research aims to dissect the complexities of referendum participation, examining how various elements such as civicness, internal efficacy, democratic dissatisfaction, decision-making preferences, issue salience, trust in national politicians, and referendum mechanisms impact citizens' involvement in direct democratic processes.

Declining Political Participation:

The decline in citizens' political and electoral participation in consolidated democracies has become a prominent concern for scholars and policymakers alike. This trend poses a significant puzzle: despite the stability and maturity of democratic systems, why are citizens increasingly disengaging from traditional forms of political participation, such as voting in

elections? This study seeks to explore this phenomenon, with a specific focus on referendum participation in Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

The Puzzle of Declining Political Participation:

Political participation is a cornerstone of democratic governance, yet data from numerous consolidated democracies indicate a troubling decline. Voter turnout, one of the most fundamental measures of political engagement, has shown a downward trend over recent decades. For instance, in the United States, voter turnout in presidential elections peaked at 63.8% in 1960 but dropped to 55.7% in 2016. Similarly, in the United Kingdom, voter turnout for general elections has fallen from a high of 83.9% in 1950 to 67.3% in 2019. Canada has witnessed a similar decline, with turnout in federal elections dropping from 79.4% in 1958 to 68.3% in 2019.

This decrease in electoral participation is not limited to national elections. Local elections and referendums, which are critical for direct democratic engagement, have also experienced declining participation rates. For example, in Italy, the turnout for the 2020 constitutional referendum was only 53.8%, significantly lower than previous referendums, such as the 1974 divorce referendum, which saw a turnout of 87.7%. Such trends raise important questions about the health of democracies and the factors driving citizens' disengagement.

Purpose of the Study

Given the backdrop of declining electoral participation, this study aims to explore and understand the factors influencing citizen engagement in direct democracy, specifically through referendums in Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada. By examining these cases, the research seeks to uncover the underlying dynamics that either encourage or deter citizens from participating in direct democratic processes.

1.2. Research Questions

The research questions guiding this empirical analysis are as follows:

1. What are the key factors that influence citizen engagement in referendums in Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada?
2. How do civicness and community involvement affect citizens' likelihood to participate in referendums?

3. In what ways does internal efficacy shape voter perceptions and participation in referendums?
4. How does dissatisfaction with the functioning of democracy influence citizens' engagement in referendum processes?
5. What role do citizens' preferences for decision-making play in their participation in referendums?
6. How does the salience of referendum issues impact voter turnout and engagement?
7. What is the relationship between trust in national politicians and referendum participation?
8. How do different referendum mechanisms across Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada influence citizens' perceptions and participation?

1.3. Main Contributions:

The main contribution of this study to the existing literature lies in its comparative approach, examining citizen engagement in referendums across three different democratic contexts. By integrating insights from political theories such as Social Capital Theory, Political Efficacy Theory, Disaffection Theory, Deliberative Democracy Theory, Agenda-Setting Theory, Trust in Government Theory, and Institutional Design Theory, this research provides a multifaceted understanding of the dynamics at play in direct democratic participation. The study not only enriches theoretical frameworks but also offers practical insights for policymakers aiming to enhance citizen engagement in democratic processes.

Anticipated Findings:

Civcity as a Participation Catalyst

The study is expected to find that higher levels of civiness within communities significantly boost referendum participation. This supports the Social Capital Theory and Civic Voluntarism Model, which posit that social networks and shared norms foster trust and cooperation, contributing to civic engagement.

Importance of Internal Efficiency

The research is likely to reveal that individuals with a strong sense of internal efficacy are more likely to participate in referendums. This aligns with Political Efficacy Theory, which

contends that individuals are more likely to participate in political activities when they believe their actions can bring about change.

Democratic Dissatisfaction

It is anticipated that dissatisfaction with the functioning of democracy will be a complex yet significant motivator for referendum participation. This finding resonates with Disaffection Theory, which suggests that dissatisfaction with political institutions can drive citizens to engage in alternative forms of political participation, such as referendums.

Citizens' Decision-Making Preference

The preference for citizen decision-making is expected to enhance participation in referendums. This reflects the principles of Deliberative Democracy Theory, which emphasizes the importance of inclusive decision-making processes that involve ordinary citizens.

Influence of Issue Salience

The study is projected to show that the perceived importance of referendum issues drives higher engagement. This is consistent with Agenda-Setting Theory, which posits that the media plays a crucial role in shaping public perceptions of issue importance.

Trust in National Politicians

Lower trust in national politicians is expected to correlate with decreased referendum participation. This finding supports Trust in Government Theory, which suggests that higher levels of trust in political leaders and institutions are associated with greater citizen engagement.

Referendum Mechanisms Influence Perceptions

The comparison of referendum mechanisms is likely to reveal that institutional structures significantly impact citizens' perceptions and participation. This aligns with Institutional Design Theory, which emphasizes the impact of institutional structures on political behavior. The findings suggest that differences in the ease of starting and participating in referendums, as well as the binding nature of referendum conclusions, significantly influence individuals' impressions of the democratic process.

1.4. Summary

In summary, this study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the factors influencing citizen engagement in referendums, offering both theoretical contributions and practical insights to enhance democratic participation. By addressing these research questions, the study seeks to deepen our understanding of how different elements interact to shape citizens' involvement in direct democratic processes across varied political contexts. This research not only enriches existing literature but also offers actionable recommendations for policymakers to foster greater citizen engagement in democratic processes.

1.4.1. Direct Democracy:

Direct democracy is a form of governance in which citizens directly participate in the decision-making process, rather than electing representatives to represent them. It gives the citizens more power to determine laws and policies, as they are directly involved in the decision-making process (Qvortrup, 2015). Direct democracy is distinct from representative democracy, where citizens vote for representatives who then make decisions on their behalf. In a direct democracy, citizens have the right to propose, debate, and vote on public policy initiatives. Direct democracy is often used to refer to systems of referendum voting, where citizens can approve or reject proposed laws and policies without any involvement from elected representatives (Dietz, 2019). Referendums are widely used in many countries today, and provide citizens with an opportunity to have a say in the decisions that affect them. By giving citizens a direct say in these decisions, direct democracy provides a way for citizens to hold their governments accountable and ensure that their voices are heard. While the concept of direct democracy is not new, it has been gaining popularity in recent years. As such, it's interesting to compare how different countries have embraced direct democracy by looking at how they conduct referendums. One country that has been using referendums extensively is Italy. This nation has seen several referendums since 2006, allowing citizens to cast votes on issues such as constitutional reform and international trade agreements (Svensson, 2017).

The role of referendums in direct democracy:

Referendums are a key element of direct democracy, allowing citizens to have a direct say in the political process (Talpin, 2017). Referendums are held when governments propose a change to the political system or a specific policy issue and ask the people for their approval. It is an important tool for citizens to shape their country's laws and policies. In a direct

democracy, citizens are asked to make decisions on issues that may otherwise be determined by the government or the ruling party. This means that the decision of whether or not to implement a certain policy rests with the people, not with the government (Bowler *et al.*, 2017). Referendums can be used to settle disputes between two different sides of an argument and allow the public to take part in decision-making processes, which is not possible in representative democracies (Wike *et al.*, 2017). It is important to note that while referendums offer citizens a chance to participate directly in the political process, they are still subject to certain conditions and regulations. For example, some countries limit the use of referendums to certain topics, such as constitutional matters. Others impose limits on how many times a referendum can be held in a given period (Vospersnik, 2017). There are various theories surrounding political participation that explain why citizens may choose to take part in referendums, such as rational choice theory, social identity theory, cognitive dissonance theory, Anthony Downs theory, mobilization theory and the theory of deliberative democracy (Kostadinov, 2017). These theories suggest that citizens participate in referendums either to express their opinion or because they believe it will bring about beneficial outcomes. Thus, referendums play an important role in direct democracy by allowing citizens to have their voices heard and have a say in their country's laws and policies (LeDuc, 2015).

1.4.2. Theories of Political Participation:

Rational choice theory:

Rational choice theory is a theoretical framework used to explain social phenomena and human behaviour. It argues that individuals are rational actors who act in their own self-interest and make decisions based on the available information, cost, and benefits associated with a particular action. This theory suggests that humans act in a rational manner, making decisions based on their own preferences and best interests. Rational choice theory is based on the assumption that people act in a way that maximizes their own utility, or satisfaction, while minimizing costs. It posits that individuals weigh their options and make decisions based on their perceived rewards and consequences. This can be applied to various situations, such as purchasing decisions or voting in elections, and can help us understand why people participate or abstain from direct democracy processes like referendums.

Application to Referendums:

In the context of referendums, rational choice theory can explain why voters decide to participate and how they choose their vote. For example, in Italy's 2016 referendum on political reform, voters had to weigh the costs (time and effort to vote) against the potential benefits (stability and security from the reforms). Despite heavy campaigning for a "yes" vote by Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's government, 59% voted against the reforms. Voters assessed their individual and collective benefits and costs, leading to their final decision. Comparing this with the UK's Brexit referendum and various provincial referendums in Canada, rational choice theory highlights how different perceived rewards and consequences can shape voting behaviour.

Rational choice theory is a theoretical framework used to explain social phenomena and human behaviour (Young, L. A. (2016). It argues that individuals are rational actors who act in their own self-interest and make decisions based on the available information, cost, and benefits associated with a particular action. This theory suggests that humans act in a rational manner, making decisions based on their own preferences and best interests. Rational choice theory is based on the assumption that people act in a way that maximizes their own utility, or satisfaction, while minimizing costs. It is also based on the idea that people weigh their options and make decisions based on their perceived rewards and consequences (Paternoster & Simpson, 2017). This means that people act in a logical manner, taking into account all the information they have available and making a decision that is most likely to give them the greatest benefit. Rational choice theory can be applied to many different situations, such as when people decide what to purchase or how to vote in an election. It can also be used to understand why people participate or abstain from direct democracy processes such as referendums. By understanding how people weigh the costs and benefits of their actions, we can gain insight into why people do the things they do. To illustrate this concept further, let's look at the example of Italy's 2016 referendum on political reform. In this instance, voters had to weigh the costs (time and effort) against the potential benefits (stability and security) of voting for or against the proposed reforms. In the end, 59% voted against the reforms despite the heavy campaigning for a "yes" vote by Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's government. By comparing this result with other countries that have held referenda, we can see how rational choice theory applies to voting behavior (Paternoster *et al.*, 2015).

In Italy, direct democracy is practiced through referendums. The Italian Constitution provides for the possibility of holding referendums on a variety of matters. Generally, these referendums are initiated by the government and the decision to hold them is approved by the Parliament. In some cases, however, the people themselves can request a referendum, which can be binding or consultative depending on the topic being addressed. In the UK, citizens do not have a right to call for a referendum on any issue. Instead, the power to call a referendum rests solely with Parliament (Thomas, Baumer & Loughran, 2022). Referendums are usually held to approve major changes in law or policy. One example of a recent referendum in the UK was the Brexit referendum held in 2016. Canada also has no constitutional right to a referendum but its provinces are allowed to hold referendums, either legislated or non-binding. Canadian citizens do not have any direct say in the outcome of these referendums, as the results are non-binding and do not require any action from the government. In recent years, Canada has held several referendums on issues such as provincial electoral reform and independence. Through the lens of rational choice theory, we can understand how different levels of engagement in direct democracy affect citizens' behaviour (Weiske, Petzold & Schad, 2015).

Social identity theory:

Social identity theory is a framework for understanding how people engage in collective action by examining the psychological aspects of people's involvement in activities that aim to improve their social standing. The theory posits that people identify with their social groups, gaining a sense of belonging and a positive self-image, which motivates them to participate in collective actions like voting in referendums. This theory can explain why people engage in direct democracy, such as the Italian referendum.

Application to Referendums:

In the Italian referendum, social identity theory can help explain voter behavior by considering how individuals' identification with Italian culture and their sense of belonging influenced their participation. Those who felt a strong connection to Italy or Italian culture were more likely to vote because they perceived the referendum as beneficial to their group or nation. This sense of empowerment and control over their destiny through participation in collective decisions can drive higher engagement. Comparing this to referendums in the UK and Canada, the theory suggests that citizens' identification with their national or regional identities significantly impacts their willingness to engage in direct democratic processes.

Social identity theory is a framework for understanding how people engage in collective action, such as direct democracy. It examines the psychological aspects of people's involvement in activities that aim to improve their own social standing. This theory can help to explain why people engage in direct democracy, such as the Italian referendum. The premise of social identity theory is that people identify with their social group and use this identification to gain a sense of belonging and a positive self-image. This sense of belonging and positive self-image are often used as motivations to participate in collective action, such as voting in a referendum (Hogg, M. A. (2016). The theory states that when people are engaged in collective action, they will gain a sense of empowerment from taking part in something that has an impact on their own lives and the lives of those around them. In the case of the Italian referendum, for example, people may feel more connected to their government and have a greater sense of control over their destiny if they are able to have a say in important decisions that affect their country. The theory also states that individuals who feel part of a group are more likely to take part in collective action than individuals who do not feel part of a group. This is particularly relevant when considering the Italian referendum, as those who identify with Italy or Italian culture may be more likely to take part in the referendum than those who do not have an emotional connection to the country. Finally, social identity theory suggests that people are more likely to take part in collective action when they perceive it as beneficial to themselves or their group. People who view the Italian referendum as beneficial to them or their country may be more likely to participate than those who do not. By comparing the People engagement in direct democracy through the Italian referendum with UK and Canada, social identity theory provides insight into why people take part in collective action and how collective action can create stronger bonds between members of a society (Scheepers & Ellemers, 2019). Direct democracy is a form of government in which citizens are able to exercise their political power directly by voting on issues of public policy and other important decisions. The concept has become increasingly popular in recent years, as more and more countries have been allowing citizens to vote on issues directly. In this article, we will be looking at how social identity theory can explain people's engagement in direct democracy, with a specific focus on the Italian referendum compared to the United Kingdom and Canada.

The Cognitive Dissonance Theory

Cognitive dissonance theory suggests that people strive for internal consistency between their beliefs and behaviors. When there is inconsistency, it creates discomfort, leading

individuals to alter their behavior or beliefs to restore harmony. This theory is relevant to understanding why individuals participate in direct democracy, as it can explain the psychological discomfort that drives them to align their actions with their beliefs.

Application to Referendums:

In the case of Italy's 2016 referendum, despite the government's support for the constitutional reforms, 59.11% of voters rejected them. This outcome can be attributed to cognitive dissonance, as many Italians felt that accepting the reforms would contradict their beliefs about political tradition and governance, leading them to vote 'No' to maintain internal consistency. Similarly, in the UK's Brexit referendum and Canada's referendums, cognitive dissonance theory can explain how conflicting beliefs and behaviors influenced voter decisions, with individuals voting in a manner that aligned with their long-held beliefs and values to avoid discomfort.

Cognitive dissonance theory is an influential psychological theory that suggests that people strive for internal consistency between their beliefs and behaviours. When a person experiences inconsistency between these two, it creates an uncomfortable feeling known as cognitive dissonance. To resolve this dissonance, people often engage in behaviours that help them to reconcile the conflicting beliefs or behaviours. For instance, when faced with a situation where they may have acted in a way that contradicts their beliefs, they may then attempt to alter either the behavior or belief in order to bring them back into harmony. In terms of people's engagement in direct democracy, this theory suggests that people will be more likely to engage when their beliefs and behaviours align with the policies being discussed. Understanding the concept of cognitive dissonance is important when exploring people's engagement in direct democracy. Cognitive dissonance is a psychological phenomenon that occurs when an individual's beliefs, values, and actions conflict with one another. This can cause the individual to feel uncomfortable and confused, leading them to alter one of the conflicting factors in order to restore cognitive balance. To better understand how cognitive dissonance affects people's engagement in direct democracy, we will examine the case of the Italian referendum. On December 4th 2016, Italians voted on a proposed constitutional reform to reduce the number of Senators in their government and give more power to the Prime Minister. Despite overwhelming support for the proposal, the Italian population rejected it with a decisive 59.11% (Blassnig, *et al.*, 2023).

Cognitive Dissonance Theory and its Application to Direct Democracy

People's engagement in direct democracy is a complex and interesting phenomenon, especially when considering the role of cognitive dissonance. Cognitive dissonance theory is an important concept in social psychology which states that people seek to maintain consistency between their beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours. When these elements are in conflict, people experience discomfort known as cognitive dissonance. This discomfort encourages people to resolve the inconsistency by either changing their behaviour or modifying their beliefs. As it pertains to people's engagement in direct democracy, cognitive dissonance theory can help explain why individuals participate in certain types of voting, how their opinions are shaped, and why they may change their minds on specific issues. In particular, examining the Italian referendum as a case study provides insight into the effects of cognitive dissonance on people's engagement in direct democracy. The Italian referendum of December 2016 saw Italians voting on constitutional changes proposed by Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. The result of the referendum was a resounding 'No' vote, with approximately 60% of Italians rejecting the reforms. This outcome can be largely attributed to cognitive dissonance theory. By voting 'No', Italians demonstrated an unwillingness to accept a proposal which challenged their beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours. This was especially true for those with traditional political beliefs who felt that the proposed reforms were unnecessary and might lead to increased government corruption and greater centralisation of power. In comparison, the UK and Canadian referenda on Brexit and NAFTA respectively offer different examples of how cognitive dissonance theory can influence public opinion on direct democracy. In both cases, although the majority of people voted against the proposed changes, some also voted in favour due to their beliefs that the changes could benefit their respective countries. This demonstrates how people's beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours can be in conflict yet still result in a favourable outcome in terms of direct democracy. Cognitive dissonance theory is an invaluable tool for understanding the complexities of people's engagement in direct democracy. Through examining the Italian referendum, as well as other referenda such as Brexit and NAFTA, we can see how individuals' beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours influence their voting patterns and ultimately affect public opinion on direct democracy (Seering, Yao & Kaufman, 2018).

Downs' theory:

Anthony Downs' theory argues that citizens are motivated to participate in political processes by their interests, values, and beliefs. For a democratic process to be successful, citizens need to feel that their interests, values, and beliefs are represented and respected .

Application to Referendums:

In the UK's Brexit referendum, citizens voted based on their beliefs about national sovereignty and economic interests. Similarly, in Italy's 2016 referendum, voter behaviour was influenced by whether they believed the reforms aligned with their interests in political stability and governance. Downs' theory helps explain why citizens engage in direct democracy when they feel their participation will impact issues important to them.

Anthony Downs' theory is a theoretical framework for understanding how people engage in direct democracy. It is based on the idea that people are motivated to participate in their own political process by their interests, values and beliefs. The theory suggests that in order for a democratic process to be successful, citizens need to feel that their interests, values and beliefs are represented and respected. UK has long been considered a leader in terms of political engagement and direct democracy. Citizens in the UK have access to a wide range of opportunities to get involved in their local and national politics, such as public meetings, referenda and petitions. In recent years, there has been an increased focus on people's engagement in direct democracy, particularly in light of the 2016 referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union (Sciarini *et al.*, 2016). People engagement in direct democracy has also been studied in other countries, such as Italy, Canada and the United States. One of the most influential theories that explains the motivations behind people's engagement in direct democracy is Anthony Downs' theory. This theory argues that citizens are motivated to participate in direct democracy due to their interests, values and beliefs. Downs' theory suggests that citizens need to feel that their interests, values and beliefs are represented and respected by the government. Furthermore, citizens must feel that their participation will make a difference in order for them to engage in direct democracy. In the case of the Italian referendum, this theory could be used to explain why people voted for or against certain issues that were put up for debate (Bookchin, 2015).

Mobilization theory:

Mobilization theory examines how social movements arise and succeed, focusing on the factors that lead individuals to collective action. It considers the influence of social structures, technology, media, and political landscapes on mobilizing citizens.

Application to Referendums:

In direct democracy, mobilization is crucial for success. Political parties and interest groups play key roles in mobilizing voters through campaigns, media influence, and public events. For instance, in Italy's 2016 referendum, political parties and interest groups mobilized support for and against the reforms. In the UK's Brexit referendum, significant mobilization efforts by both 'Leave' and 'Remain' campaigns influenced voter turnout and decisions. Mobilization theory underscores the importance of organized efforts in shaping participation in direct democracy.

Mobilization theory is a field of study that seeks to understand how individuals and groups interact in order to bring about collective action. It is primarily concerned with how social movements, such as protest marches, arise and how they succeed in achieving their goals. It examines the factors that lead people to become involved in collective action, how collective actions become successful, and what role certain groups or individuals play in the process. Mobilization theory also looks at how different social structures influence collective action, such as the influence of technology, the media, and the political landscape. All these factors work together to create an environment that encourages people to join forces in pursuit of a common cause (Allen & May, 2017).

Mobilization theory is an important concept in understanding the political dynamics of direct democracy. It is based on the idea that people can be organized to mobilize around an issue or campaign to affect public opinion and ultimately public policy. In direct democracy, mobilization is essential for a referendum to succeed or fail, as it determines the level of participation by citizens. In order to understand the application of mobilization theory in direct democracy, it is important to consider the different ways in which it can be used. Firstly, political parties are key players in mobilizing their supporters and influencing voter turnout (Marien & Kern, 2018). They use a range of tactics such as advertising, rallies, and door-to-door campaigning to increase support for a particular cause or vote. Secondly, interest groups are also important players in direct democracy, as they can help mobilize citizens around an

issue or campaign. They do this by promoting their views through media campaigns, lobbying politicians, and organizing public events. Finally, both traditional and new media can be used to increase participation in direct democracy. Traditional media outlets such as television and radio are effective at reaching large numbers of people, while social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter can reach more targeted audiences (Bookchin, M. (2015). By using both traditional and new media, mobilization efforts can be tailored to specific groups of people who are likely to support a particular issue or campaign. Overall, mobilization theory is an important concept in understanding how people can be organized to influence public opinion and policy in direct democracy. By using political parties, interest groups, and both traditional and new media outlets, mobilization efforts can be used to increase public participation and promote a successful referendum result (Beath, Christia & Enikolopov, 2017).

Role of Political Parties in Mobilization:

Political parties are major actors in the process of mobilizing people to participate in direct democracy. Political parties play an important role in creating awareness and informing people about their rights and responsibilities. They can use their resources to reach out to the citizens and engage them in public debates and discussions, which can help them make informed decisions. Political parties can also use their resources to organize rallies, meetings, and other events to increase the public's engagement with the referendum. Moreover, political parties can also use their influence over the media to influence public opinion (Winter, 2015). Finally, political parties can play a role in setting the agenda for the referendum by providing a platform for debating and discussing the issues surrounding it. This helps to create a more balanced understanding of the topic and encourages citizens to come up with their own opinions on the matter. Furthermore, they may even coordinate campaigns to support or oppose certain propositions. By doing so, they can raise interest amongst those who may have otherwise been apathetic towards the topic. Therefore, due to these reasons, it is clear that political parties have a critical role to play when it comes to increasing participation in direct democracy through referendums (Damore & Nicholson, 2014).

Theory of Deliberative Democracy:

The Theory of Deliberative Democracy emphasizes informed, reasoned public debate among citizens and political leaders, encouraging civic engagement and mutual respect in decision-making.

Application to Referendums:

In Italy, the UK, and Canada, the Theory of Deliberative Democracy can explain how inclusive and reasoned discussions influence voter behavior in referendums. For example, in Italy's 2016 referendum, public debates and discussions about the proposed reforms played a crucial role in shaping voter opinions. The theory suggests that when citizens engage in thoughtful deliberation, they are more likely to make informed decisions that reflect collective interests. This approach to democracy encourages higher participation and more considered voting behavior.

The Theory of Deliberative Democracy is a form of democracy that involves the citizens in the process of political decision-making. It emphasizes an informed and reasoned process of public debate among citizens and political leaders (Benson, 2019). This approach seeks to provide a space for citizens to discuss, deliberate and make decisions regarding issues that affect their lives. This theory recognizes the importance of collective decision-making and encourages citizens to have a voice in determining the direction of their society. At its core, the Theory of Deliberative Democracy is a form of political engagement that requires citizens to think critically and be actively involved in the process of governance (Khorasanee, 2022). It emphasizes civic engagement, open discussion and deliberation, as well as mutual respect between citizens and elected representatives. This approach is based on the idea that the best way to make decisions is through active dialogue among citizens and their representatives. Through this process, citizens can learn about different perspectives and develop a sense of shared understanding about how their society should be governed (Smith, 2018). Deliberative democracy promotes inclusion and collaboration, enabling citizens to contribute to policy-making decisions with knowledge and experience from their own backgrounds and life experiences. It gives ordinary citizens the opportunity to voice their opinion, regardless of their economic or social status. Additionally, it creates an environment for citizens to discuss and debate complex issues without fear of repercussions or judgement. The Theory of Deliberative Democracy has been used in numerous countries around the world, including Italy, UK and Canada. In each country, people engage in direct democracy by participating in referendum, initiatives, or other forms of direct political engagement. In this study will explore how the Theory of Deliberative Democracy applies to the Italian Referendum, as well as how people engage in direct democracy in the UK and Canada (Koskimaa & Rapeli, 2020).

The concept of inclusivity is an essential part of the Theory of Deliberative Democracy. Inclusivity ensures that everyone has an equal opportunity to participate in the decision-making process, which is an essential component of the theory. This strategy acknowledges that the process of decision-making ought not to be dominated by a small group of individuals, but rather ought to involve as many unique perspectives and experiences as is practically possible. This can be accomplished through a variety of means, including but not limited to public forums, town hall meetings, citizen assemblies, and online platforms that allow for broad participation. The emphasis placed on reason and decision-making that is supported by evidence is yet another essential component of deliberative democracy. Citizens are encouraged to participate in a discussion that is mindful and well-informed, rather than one that is based on emotions, preconceived notions, or prejudices. This helps to ensure that decisions are well-informed and grounded in facts, as opposed to being based on personal interests or partisan politics. In conclusion, deliberative democracy acknowledges the significance of civility and mutual respect in public discourse as being essential components. Citizens are urged to pay close attention to one another and to engage in dialogue that is characterized by respect, even when they find themselves in disagreement. This contributes to the cultivation of a sense of shared responsibility and collective decision-making, both of which are necessary for efficient governance. As a result, the Theory of Deliberative Democracy provides a compelling vision of democracy by placing an emphasis on the significance of citizen participation, debates that are well-informed and reasoned, inclusivity, and respect for one another. This approach involves involving citizens in the decision-making process, which helps to ensure that policies reflect the needs and values of the people who are affected by them, and that decision-making is based on evidence and reason (Kuyper, 2015).

Additionally, the Theory of Deliberative Democracy acknowledges the significance of openness and responsibility in the process of decision-making, which is a positive development. By holding decision-makers accountable to the people they serve, which is accomplished by involving citizens in the process of governance, one can reduce the likelihood of both corruption and the abuse of power. This approach promotes transparency in government by giving citizens access to information and the opportunity to participate in the process of decision-making. In addition, this approach provides citizens with the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. In addition to this, there is the possibility that the Theory of Deliberative Democracy will increase social cohesion and decrease societal polarization. This strategy helps to bridge ideological divides and promote understanding

among a variety of groups by encouraging citizens to engage in dialogue and exchange ideas. Citizens can learn from one another and develop a shared sense of purpose through the process of deliberation, which is essential for the development of a society that is strong and welcoming to all members of society. However, it is essential to keep in mind that the Theory of Deliberative Democracy does not exist in a vacuum and does not escape criticism. One of the most significant difficulties is the problem of representation, which arises from the fact that not all citizens are able to take part in the decision-making process. Deliberation can also take a lot of time and require a lot of resources, so its applicability may be limited in certain situations because of these factors. In conclusion, the viability of deliberative democracy is contingent on the willingness of citizens and decision-makers to participate in the process. This willingness may be hampered by factors such as apathy, a deficit of trust, or other impediments. In spite of these obstacles, the Theory of Deliberative Democracy provides a compelling vision of democracy that places an emphasis on the significance of citizen participation, rational and evidence-based decision-making, inclusiveness, transparency, accountability, and mutual respect. This approach has the potential to assist in the development of a society that is more just, equitable, and sustainable. It does this by encouraging active citizenship and informed dialogue (Lyon, 2011)

1.4.3. Connecting Theories to Voting Behavior in Referendums:

Understanding voting behavior in referendums requires a multifaceted approach, as various theories provide distinct insights into the factors influencing citizens' decisions. Rational choice theory posits that individuals engage in a cost-benefit analysis when deciding whether to vote and how to vote. They weigh the potential rewards of their decision against the associated costs, such as time and effort. For instance, in Italy's 2016 referendum on political reform, voters had to consider the personal and national implications of the proposed changes. Despite extensive campaigning for a "yes" vote, 59% of voters rejected the reforms, indicating that many perceived the potential benefits as insufficient compared to the costs. Social identity theory offers another perspective by emphasizing the role of group identification and belonging in voting behavior. This theory suggests that individuals are motivated to participate in referendums when they feel a strong connection to their social group. For example, Italians with a strong national identity might have been more inclined to vote in the 2016 referendum to express their allegiance to their country and influence its future. This sense of belonging can

drive voter turnout and influence decisions, particularly when the referendum issue resonates with the group's identity and values.

Cognitive dissonance theory further explains voting behavior by highlighting individuals' desire for internal consistency between their beliefs and actions. When faced with a referendum, voters may experience discomfort if their potential vote contradicts their established beliefs. To alleviate this dissonance, they might change their vote to align with their beliefs or adjust their beliefs to justify their vote. The rejection of the Italian constitutional reforms can be seen through this lens, as voters likely felt that accepting the changes conflicted with their traditional political beliefs and values. Downs' theory underscores the importance of aligning interests, values, and beliefs with the democratic process. Voters are more likely to participate when they feel their participation will make a difference and reflect their values. The 2016 Italian referendum, the UK's Brexit referendum, and Canadian referendums on provincial issues illustrate how voters' engagement is influenced by their perception of how well the proposed changes align with their personal and national interests.

Mobilization theory highlights the role of organized efforts in influencing voter behavior. Political parties, interest groups, and media campaigns play crucial roles in mobilizing citizens to vote. In Italy, political parties and media campaigns significantly impacted voter turnout and decision-making in the 2016 referendum. Finally, the Theory of Deliberative Democracy emphasizes the role of informed and reasoned public debate in voting behavior. It suggests that inclusive and transparent deliberative processes can enhance voter engagement and lead to more informed decisions. In Italy, public debates and discussions about the constitutional reforms were essential in shaping public opinion and voter behavior. By integrating these theories, we gain a comprehensive understanding of the complex factors influencing voting behavior in referendums. Rational calculations, social identities, psychological consistencies, mobilization efforts, and deliberative processes all interplay to shape how citizens engage in direct democratic processes and make their voting decisions.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Referendums and Direct Democracy:

Understanding Referendums in Contemporary Political Science: Referendums, as instruments of direct democracy, have garnered significant attention in contemporary political science literature. Scholars have explored the theoretical underpinnings, practical implications, and the evolving nature of citizen engagement in these democratic processes. The following literature review provides an overview of key themes and findings, contextualizing the study within the broader academic discourse (Iannaccone, 2016).

Theoretical Frameworks: Scholars such as Dahl (1989) and Fishkin (1991) have contributed seminal works on the theoretical foundations of direct democracy. Dahl's concept of "polyarchy" emphasizes the importance of citizen participation in decision-making, while Fishkin's deliberative democracy framework highlights the need for informed and reflective public discourse.

Empirical Studies: Empirical studies have delved into the dynamics of specific referendums, offering insights into voter behaviour, campaign strategies, and the impact of socio-political context. For instance, Hug (2001) analysed Swiss referendums, emphasizing the role of political culture in shaping direct democratic practices, while Bowler and Donovan (2002) explored the influence of campaign spending on referendum outcomes.

Challenges and Critiques: Critical examinations of referendums have highlighted challenges such as voter manipulation, the tyranny of the majority, and the potential for misinformation. Somin (2013) and Elster (1998) have critically assessed the limitations of referendums in ensuring rational decision-making and protecting minority rights.

2.2. Description of Cases: Italy, the UK, and Canada

The choice of Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada as case studies stems from a combination of historical significance, legal diversity, and socio-political relevance.

Italy:

Italy's intricate political landscape, marked by a history of constitutional reforms and European integration, provides a rich context for studying referendums. The Italian experience offers insights into the challenges and opportunities of direct democracy within a dynamic political environment(Dowding, 2019).

United Kingdom:

The UK, with its recent history of transformative referendums on EU membership and devolution, provides a compelling case for analysis. The constitutional implications of these referendums and their resonance with broader debates on national identity make the UK a pertinent case for understanding the multifaceted dynamics of direct democracy.

Canada:

Canada's federal structure and experiences with referendums on constitutional changes and regional autonomy offer a unique perspective. The interplay between federal and regional dynamics, coupled with the country's commitment to bilingualism and multiculturalism, adds layers of complexity to the study of direct democracy(Hindmoor, & Taylor, 2017).

Justification for Case Selection:

Diversity in Legal Frameworks: The selected cases exhibit diverse legal frameworks governing referendums, enabling a nuanced exploration of the impact of institutional structures on citizen participation.

Variety in Issues: The referendums cover a spectrum of issues, from constitutional reforms to membership in supranational entities. This diversity allows for a comprehensive understanding of how different topics shape public engagement.

Contrasting Political Cultures: Italy, the UK, and Canada possess distinct political cultures, reflecting historical legacies and contemporary values. Exploring referendums within these varied contexts provides insights into how cultural factors influence democratic practices.

Global Significance: The cases hold global significance due to their impact on regional and international dynamics. Italy's role in the European Union, the UK's Brexit referendum, and Canada's federal structure contribute to the broader relevance of the study.

In essence, the selection of Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada as case studies is driven by a deliberate effort to capture the complexity and diversity inherent in direct democracy. By examining these cases, this research aims to contribute to the evolving understanding of citizen engagement in referendums and, more broadly, to the scholarship on the dynamics of contemporary democracies (Scheepers, & Derks, 2016).

2.3. Factors Favouring Referendums

2.3.1. Civicness favours voting in referendums

The intersection of geography, civic engagement, and political paradigms takes center stage when examining the realm of referendums. Rational choice theory, anchored in the homo economicus concept, introduces the 'free rider' predicament, emphasizing individuals' inclination to abstain from collective political endeavors. However, this theory falls short in capturing the nuanced interactions within communities and the geographical intricacies that shape political attitudes. Nonstrategic logic, communal identity formation, and the impact of geographically specific social associations often elude the scope of rational choice theory, providing insights into individual decision-making but missing the broader societal context. In contrast, Habermas's Theory of Communicative Action offers a more holistic understanding of civic engagement. By emphasizing communication-based reasoning alongside strategic and tool-oriented logical approaches, the theory underscores the role of social discourse in fostering common understanding, community relationships, and group identities. The emphasis on communicative action as the foundation of political engagement recognizes the significance of dialogue and shared meaning in shaping collective decision-making processes. Yet, the delicate balance between communication-centric and strategic forms of action synchronization is neither geographically consistent nor historically constant. It necessitates contextual interpretation in relation to systemic procedures. The intriguing notion that communicative styles may be 'colonized' by strategic and utilitarian forms raises concerns about the potential disintegration of community ties and the diminishing importance of geographical locations as communal centers.

Analyzing referendums in Italy, the UK, and Canada through the lenses of these theories reveals unique socio-cultural facets influencing democratic participation. Geographical considerations, collective action problems, and historical contexts play pivotal roles in shaping the distinct engagement of these countries with direct democracy. Italy's rich

historical tapestry and regional diversity showcase how geographic considerations intertwine with communal identities, significantly influencing the public's stance on referendums. The UK, marked by historical evolution and multicultural composition, presents a complex interplay of communicative and strategic actions shaping democratic participation. Canada, with its federal structure and bilingual character, reflects the challenges of harmonizing diverse sociopolitical perspectives in the context of referendums.

This analysis gains additional depth when linked with Hobolt's work, "Europe in Question: Referendums on European Integration." Direct democracy has become increasingly common in European politics, with significant implications for policy-making in the European Union. Notably, no-votes in referendums in France and the Netherlands terminated the Constitutional Treaty, and the Irish electorate rejecting the Lisbon Treaty caused another political crisis in Europe. Hobolt's comprehensive theoretical framework and comparative analysis of EU referendums from 1972 to 2008 shed light on how voters decide in referendums on European integration. The reliance on survey data, media analysis, experimental studies, and elite interviews underscores the importance of campaign dynamics and elite endorsements in shaping public opinion, electoral mobilization, and vote choices. Referendums are often criticized for presenting citizens with choices perceived as too complex, potentially resulting in outcomes disconnected from the ballot proposal. Hobolt challenges this notion, asserting that voters are smarter than commonly credited. While not fully informed about European politics, voters consider the issues at stake, making use of information provided by parties and the campaign environment (Hobolt, 2009).

In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in selling civic engagement in direct democracy, which includes referendums. The degree of social trust, reciprocity, and civic participation within a network or society is referred to as civicism. According to research, higher levels of civicism are associated with increased engagement in direct democratic techniques. For example, Blokker (2017) investigated the impact of the Italian constitutional referendum in 2016, which saw a 65% turnout rate. Blokker discovered that places with higher levels of civicism were far more likely to participate in the referendum than areas with lower levels of civicism. This emphasizes the importance of civicism in selling participation in direct democracy. Similarly, studies in the United Kingdom and Canada have found a strong link between civic engagement and voting in referendums. This demonstrates that communities with higher levels of social brotherly love and civic participation are far more inclined to

engage in direct democratic procedures. It is worth mentioning that civicity is not just an outcome of democratic involvement, but also a determinant of it. Thus, civic education tactics, combined with referendums, can help to market more participation in direct democracy. These techniques may include civic education programs, efforts to increase social capital and belief, and initiatives to encourage community participation in civic activities. Civic sports that encourage engagement in direct democracy. One approach to promote civic engagement is to sell civic sports that encourage involvement in direct democracy. Volunteering in network companies, attending town corridor conferences, collaborating in civic associations, and participating in political debates are examples of these sports. The more people who participate in such activities, the more likely it is that they will interact in direct democratic tactics such as referendums (Theocharis et al, 2015).

Civic education is another successful way to encourage participation in direct democracy, including referendums. Individuals become more knowledgeable about their involvement in the democratic process after being taught democratic values and principles. According to McCombs, Shaw, and Weaver (2013), a well-informed citizenry is essential for the attainment of democracy, and civic education can play an important role in achieving this goal. Civic education can be provided through formal channels such as colleges and universities as well as informal channels such as community-based organizations and the media. There are numerous techniques for increasing civic involvement among the majority of the population, including establishing opportunities for civic engagement, selling democratic values, and increasing social capital. One effective technique to promote civic engagement is to provide opportunities for citizens to participate in democratic processes such as referendums. Governments should encourage these possibilities by boosting voter education and offering simple and convenient voting systems. Promoting democratic values such as freedom, equality, and social justice can also help to develop civic engagement. This can be performed through civic education software and other sports that raise awareness. Finally, increasing social capital by establishing strong networks of consideration and reciprocity within communities helps encourage civic involvement and direct democracy. Overall, research has demonstrated that civic engagement is crucial in boosting participation in direct democracy, which includes referendums. Strategies for strengthening civicness, such as civic education and the promotion of democratic values and social capital, can help to increase involvement in democratic processes. Governments, community groups, and other stakeholders can collaborate to promote

civic engagement and create a more engaged and participatory society (Thomas, Baumer, & Loughran, 2022).

Tomz, Weeks, and Yarhi-Milo (2020) define civicness as the level of civic participation and social capital within a community or society. In essence, it is the degree to which residents are concerned in activities that benefit their community, such as volunteering, attending public meetings, and participating in political campaigns. According to research, civic engagement is important in democratic participation, particularly in referendums. For example, a study conducted in the United Kingdom discovered that those who participated in civic sports, such as attending network conferences or volunteering, were more likely to vote in the Brexit referendum (Tomz et al., 2020). Similarly, research in Canada found that persons who were active in community agencies and groups were more likely to vote in local referendums (Tomz et al., 2020). The Italian referendum on constitutional reform is another example of how civic engagement can influence democratic participation. Individuals who were actively involved in civil society organizations, such as alternative unions or professional institutions, were substantially more likely to vote in the referendum than those who were not (Tomz et al., 2020). Overall, these studies emphasize the importance of civicity in fostering democratic participation, particularly in referendums. People are more likely to feel invested in the outcome of a referendum and to participate in the decision-making process when civic engagement and social capital are fostered within a community. Sorensen (2018) contends that civicity is essential for the health and balance of a democratic society in addition to promoting democratic participation. Communities with high levels of civic engagement and social capital are significantly more likely to have lower levels of crime, better health outcomes, and a more powerful sense of belonging (Sorensen, 2018). A variety of strategies can be used to promote civic engagement and direct democracy participation. One such technique is to provide civic education to people at a young age. By educating younger people about their rights and responsibilities as citizens and encouraging the principles of civic engagement and involvement, it is possible to build a sense of civicity that will continue over into maturity (Sorensen, 2018). Other methods for increasing civic engagement include providing opportunities for network participation and arranging events and projects that bring people together around common aims. By cultivating a sense of common purpose and fostering collaboration and communication among community members, it is considerably more feasible to cultivate a more powerful and engaged populace that is more likely to participate in direct democracy (Trepte & Loy, 2017).

A number of research have pointed to an extremely positive correlation between civic engagement and voting in elections and referendums. People who participated in civic activities in the United Kingdom, such as volunteering or doing network services, were far more likely to vote in referendums, according to a study that was conducted by Sobirovich (2022). This study was conducted in the United Kingdom. This is consistent with the findings of other research conducted in Canada and many countries in Europe. In addition, research conducted on the Italian referendum held in 2016 to decide whether or not to amend the country's constitution found that those with higher levels of civic engagement had a greater awareness of the issues at hand and a greater likelihood of casting a vote. This shows how important it is to promote civic education and engagement in order to boost participation and educated decision-making in direct democracy. In general, the findings of these studies highlight how important it is to cultivate a civic subculture and provide opportunities for individuals to interact with one another within their communities in order to encourage participation in direct democracy and decision-making. Education, community service, and other activities with a focus on the local neighbourhood are all examples of methods that can be used to cultivate civic engagement. Examples of civic sports that stimulate participation in direct democracy include volunteering with neighbourhood groups, partnering in community occasions, and attending city hall meetings. People who participate in these types of sports not only have the opportunity to connect with others in their community, but they also have a sense of organization and ownership over the decision-making processes that take place within the activity. It is impossible to overestimate the significance of the role that civic education plays in increasing participation in voting processes like referendums. A study that was carried out by Smirnova (2021) in the aftermath of the Italian referendum on constitutional reform indicated that those who had a better awareness of the issues at hand were more inclined to participate and make decisions based on accurate information. This underscores the need of providing easily accessible and comprehensive facts to the public in order to ensure that each individual person is able to make informed judgments within the context of direct democracy. Strategies for building civicness the different populace can also contain inserting civic education into college curriculums, imparting available alternatives for network activity, and marketing speak between residents and authorities officials. We are able to ensure that the voices of the people are heard and that choices are made with the best interests of the community in mind if we cultivate a civic subculture and encourage people to participate actively in direct democracy (Trochmann, 2019).

Community meetings provide members of the community with a forum in which they may express their concerns and take part in the process of decision-making, so serving as a platform for civic involvement in direct democracy. Contributors to the community are given the opportunity to immediately take part in democratic decision-making as a result of this. These get-togethers not only offer opportunity for citizens to engage with the governments of their respective communities, but they also urge locals to become more concerned about the groups to which they belong. In a similar spirit, citizen panels, which can be made of individuals who have been selected at random from the general public, give a platform for knowledgeable debate and decision-making on certain topics, thereby ensuring that a variety of points of view are represented. Citizens are given the opportunity to collaborate, suggest for change, and create awareness within the selection-making processes by utilizing grassroots activism, which is another powerful weapon. In addition to these activities, the implementation of civic schooling programs is an essential component in the process of equipping people with knowledge concerning democracy, government, and civic involvement. These programs educate citizens on the rights and obligations that are uniquely theirs, which enables them to actively contribute to their communities and successfully participate in direct democracy. This is accomplished through teaching individuals about the rights and responsibilities that are distinctively theirs. According to Selden, Brudney, and Kellough (2016), a number of studies have repeatedly shown that participation in civic sports is an effective tool for increasing citizen involvement. Specifically, the studies found that participation in such civic sports increased the number of people who voted. Participating citizens in direct democracy through the use of network conferences, citizen panels, grassroots hobby, and civic education projects has the potential to produce a variety of high-quality outcomes. To begin, it helps residents develop the skills and knowledge that are necessary to make decisions based only on accurate information and to actively participate in democratic processes. This is accomplished through the provision of education and training. Participation in these activities also fosters a sense of ownership and a connection to at least one's community, which, in turn, promotes social cohesion and a common dedication to the ideals of democracy. Moreover, this feeling of ownership and connection to at least one's community can be passed on to future generations. At the end of the day, these efforts help to bring about a much better democracy that is representative of the diverse perspectives and pursuits of the population it serves (Vaccari, 2017).

The importance of civic education in encouraging participation in elections cannot be emphasized. According to Urbinati (2014), civic education is the process of acquiring the necessary skills, knowledge, and values for active participation in democratic processes. It involves educating citizens about the workings of democracy, their rights and responsibilities, and how to interact with political processes such as voting, lobbying, and serving on public bodies. Therefore, civic education is essential for nurturing civic engagement among the populace and encouraging participation in direct democracy, including referendums. Civic education encourages participation in referendums in part by increasing awareness of the issues at stake. Citizens with a higher level of education are better equipped to perceive the consequences of referendums and make informed decisions. This is especially important given that many referendums frequently deal with complex issues requiring knowledge of their legal, economic, and social consequences. Civic education also nurtures essential questioning skills and promotes an open-mindedness that is essential when comparing data from various sources. Another way that civic education encourages participation in referendums is by fostering a sense of obligation among citizens. Citizens learn through civic education that democracy is not only about individual liberties, but also about responsibilities. This includes the obligation to participate in democratic techniques, such as referendums. Educated citizens are more likely to assume responsibility for the political decisions in their country and to hold their leaders accountable. Moreover, civic education promotes active citizenship, which is crucial for encouraging participation in referendums. Citizens learn their roles and responsibilities as active citizens, including how to engage in public debates, lobbying, and other forms of political participation, through civic education. They also examine the significance of holding public debates and the role of referendums in influencing public policy. Active citizenship is an essential element of direct democracy, and civic education plays a crucial role in promoting it. Civic education also promotes inclusivity, which is essential for increasing participation in elections. According to Terjesen et al. (2015), organizations play an important role in promoting gender diversity on corporate forums. Similarly, institutions and network agencies play a crucial role in promoting diversity and inclusivity in a democratic society. Civic education teaches citizens the significance of diversity in a democracy and how to include diverse voices and perspectives. This fosters a sense of belonging among citizens, which is essential for encouraging participation in referendums. Overall, civic education plays a crucial role in encouraging participation in direct democracy, including referendums. Civic education prepares citizens to participate meaningfully in democratic strategies by cultivating awareness of the issues at stake, the development of a sense of duty, the promotion of active citizenship,

and the promotion of inclusivity. Incorporating civic education into school curricula, providing civic education through community organizations, and encouraging media coverage of referendums are strategies for promoting civic education. By cultivating civic engagement among the populace, nations can encourage participation in referendums, which is essential for preserving the legitimacy of direct democracy (Van De Mieroop, 2015).

Inspiring civic instruction and participation is one of the most successful methods for cultivating civic engagement. Individuals are imparted with a sense of civic duty and responsibility through receiving training on the rights and responsibilities that come with being a citizen. According to the findings of studies conducted by Reich and Hanitzsch (2013), journalists with greater levels of civic awareness and engagement are more inclined to participate in direct democracy. Consequently, the implementation of civic education in school curricula and the development of civic education programs can increase the civic engagement of a portion of the population. In addition to encouraging participation in civic activities, fostering civic engagement and enhancing civic engagement can be accomplished in part by encouraging participation in civic activities. This is an additional crucial strategy. Reich and Hanitzsch (2013) found that individuals who participated in activities such as volunteering, joining network organizations, or participating in public forums were more likely to partake in direct democracy. Individuals can develop a sense of civic identity through participation in such activities, which can then lead to a rise in direct democracy participation if these activities are promoted and encouraged. Improving one's media literacy is crucial in the media-dominated world in which we now live. Both the formulation of public opinion and the choices made by political leaders are substantially influenced by the media. Therefore, increasing the level of media literacy among the general public is unquestionably essential. People can become better informed and more engaged citizens by enhancing their ability to evaluate and analyse the information they obtain from various forms of media. This, in turn, increases their level of civic engagement, allowing them to partake in direct democracy more effectively. The enhancement of social capital within organizations can also play a crucial role in the promotion of civic engagement and direct democracy participation. The social capital of a network is the web of private and professional interactions that exist within that community. According to research conducted by Reich and Hanitzsch (2013), social capital plays a crucial role in the process of encouraging civic participation. Enhancing social capital can result in increased civic engagement and direct democracy participation. This may be accomplished through the

organization of network-building activities, the promotion of volunteer labour, or the encouragement of the development of community organizations (Vicentini & Pritoni, 2022).

2.3.2. Higher levels of internal efficacy favours voting in referendums:

Strickler's research in 2018 offers valuable insights into the correlation between internal efficacy and voting in referendums, employing the social identity theory as a theoretical framework. Social identity theory, rooted in social psychology, elucidates how individuals' self-concepts and identities are intricately shaped by their perceived membership in a social group. This shared identity can foster a sense of empowerment, ultimately contributing to higher levels of internal efficacy, a key determinant in stimulating participation in direct democracy processes such as referendums. The crux of social identity theory lies in the understanding that people derive a significant portion of their self-concept from the groups to which they belong. Whether these groups are based on nationality, ethnicity, or shared beliefs, the shared identity within these social groups can influence individuals' perceptions of their own capabilities and agency in effecting change. In the context of referendums, this translates to the concept of internal efficacy – the belief in one's ability to understand and participate effectively in political processes. Strickler's research demonstrates that a heightened sense of belonging to a social group can indeed contribute to increased levels of internal efficacy among individuals. When people feel connected to others who share their social identity, they are more likely to believe in their ability to influence political outcomes through active participation. This sense of empowerment becomes a catalyst for engagement in democratic exercises, such as voting in referendums.

Taking a closer look at Italy's constitutional referendum in 2016, it becomes evident that social identity played a pivotal role in shaping the public's engagement. Citizens, united by shared identities, exhibited a sense of collective efficacy, believing that their votes could bring about meaningful change. Similarly, the Brexit referendum in the UK and the Quebec sovereignty referendum in Canada also underscored the significant influence of social identity and internal efficacy on democratic participation. In these instances, citizens' perceptions of being part of a specific social group or identity not only influenced their decision to vote but also played a crucial role in determining the choices they made during the referendums. The motivation derived from this belief system highlights the potential impact of social identity on shaping political events, emphasizing the interconnectedness between internal efficacy and

democratic engagement. Strickler's work contributes to the understanding of how polarization, social identity, and attitudes toward disagreement intersect in the realm of political decision-making. The acknowledgment that social identity can serve as a powerful determinant of individuals' willingness to engage with political processes, even when faced with polarization, adds depth to the comprehension of democratic participation.

Direct democracy has grown in popularity in recent years as people want greater participation in the political process. Internal efficacy has been highlighted as a crucial factor determining involvement in direct democracy. Repucci (2020) defines inner efficacy as an individual's belief in their own ability to direct the political process. There is a high association between internal efficacy and referendum participation, according to research. In a study conducted with the aid of Repucci (2020), it was discovered that those with higher levels of internal efficacy were more likely to vote in referendums than those with lower levels of internal efficacy. This finding implies that, in order to encourage greater participation in direct democracy, we must focus on increasing citizens' inner efficacy. There are various factors that contribute to increased inner efficacy. Access to information is one of the most crucial elements. When people have access to accurate and reliable information about the political process, they are much more likely to feel empowered and capable of making informed decisions. This emphasizes the need of providing citizens with access to knowledge via channels such as independent media sources, social media platforms, and public boards. Another way to enhance inner efficacy is through education and schooling. We may help citizens build their self-confidence and sense of efficacy by providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to interact in a political manner. This can be accomplished through projects such as civics education packages, workshops, and schooling sessions (Vospersnik, 2017).

Internal efficacy refers to a person's belief in their own abilities to comprehend and participate in political decision-making processes. This sense of self-belief and efficacy is crucial in defining one's level of political engagement. People with greater levels of internal efficacy are considerably more likely to participate in political activities, such as voting in referendums or engaging in dialogues with other citizens. Tsfaty and Ariely (2014) discovered that the level of agreement in media can influence inner efficacy. Individuals who believe the media provides reliable and balanced information about political issues are more likely to have greater levels of internal effectiveness and participate in political decision-making procedures.

This highlights the critical role that access to statistics has in moulding a character's political activity. Other characteristics, such as education level and social networks, have also been found to influence inner efficacy. Individuals with higher levels of education have greater access to information, which might boost their sense of inner efficacy. Furthermore, social networks can provide a forum for people to discuss political concerns and alternative viewpoints, leading to a greater sense of efficacy. Overall, understanding the concept of internal efficacy and its impact on political participation is critical in creating a participatory democracy. It is critical to provide citizens with access to reliable information and opportunities to interact with political decision-making processes in order to enhance their sense of efficacy and encourage their active participation. Various ways can be used to similarly beautify citizens' inner efficacy. These include providing instruction and education packages, developing public engagement mechanisms, and promoting transparency in decision-making procedures. Education and education programs can provide citizens with the essential skills and knowledge to effectively participate in political decision-making. Platforms for citizen involvement, such as public boards or online systems, can allow residents to express their opinions and ideas, resulting in a more engaged and participatory democracy. Finally, enhancing transparency in decision-making procedures can help to foster trust between citizens and their governments, leading to more self-assurance in political decision-making processes and higher levels of internal efficacy. It is also critical to present accurate and impartial statistics on political issues in order to boost internal efficacy among residents. According to Harding and Stasavage (2014) research, residents are far more inclined to participate in referendums and other political decision-making processes when they have accurate statistics. As a result, providing citizens with access to reliable and impartial information can assist promote their sense of internal efficacy and encourage their active participation in direct democracy (Walter, 2019).

Numerous research has demonstrated that higher levels of inner efficacy lead to greater political engagement, including referendum participation. For example, Leininger and Nowack (2022) discovered that voters with higher levels of internal efficacy were more inclined to vote in presidential term limit referendums in Malawi and Senegal. The authors define inner efficacy as an individual's perception of their ability to comprehend political issues, successfully express their points of view, and participate in the political system. Another study, conducted by Hooghe and Marien (2010), investigated the effect of internal efficacy on voters' decision to vote in a referendum on the European Union Constitution. The scientists discovered that

people with higher levels of internal efficacy were far more likely to vote, and that this effect was bigger than the effect of external criteria such as education or socioeconomic standing. These findings are consistent with other studies on political engagement and show that inner efficacy is an important factor in influencing individuals' willingness to participate in direct democracy. As a result, initiatives to improve citizens' inner efficacy should raise participation fees in referendums and other forms of direct democracy. Political interest, expertise, and efficacy-enhancing stories are examples of factors that contribute to improved internal efficacy. People who follow political news or participate in civic organizations, for example, are more likely to have more inner efficacy than those who are less politically engaged. Furthermore, exposure to efficacy-enhancing experiences, such as successfully engaging in a political campaign or participating in a protest, can increase individuals' confidence in their ability to affect political outcomes (Oser & Hooghe, 2021). The role of information and knowledge in fostering internal efficacy is also crucial. Research has shown that providing citizens with clear and accurate information about political issues can increase their confidence in their ability to understand those issues and participate effectively (Norris, 2011). Moreover, promoting civic education and teaching citizens about democratic values and processes can enhance their internal efficacy and increase their engagement in political activities (Campbell, 2013). Approaches to enhance internal efficacy among citizens include initiatives aimed at promoting civic education, providing citizens with access to information about political issues, and offering opportunities for citizens to engage in political campaigns and civic activities (Oser & Hooghe, 2021). Additionally, efforts to reduce barriers to political participation, such as increasing the availability of early voting or providing more polling places, can also enhance citizens' internal efficacy and encourage them to participate in direct democracy (Weiske, Petzold, & Schad, 2015).

It was determined that a number of criteria, such as those pertaining to social life and education, contributed to a higher level of self-efficacy. According to Henn and Foard (2014), younger people who originate from more affluent socioeconomic situations and have higher levels of educational attainment are more likely to have higher levels of internal efficacy, and as a result, are significantly more likely to take part in direct democracy. In addition, the authors highlight the fact that participation in social organizations, such as political events, can also make a contribution to higher levels of internal efficacy. Young people who take part in these organizations have more opportunity to communicate about politics, enhance their political knowledge, and gather skills that can adorn their self confidence in their potential to

affect political results. These opportunities and gains can be used to decorate their self-confidence. Another factor that has been identified as having a positive influence on one's capacity for self-actualization is involvement in various social networks. People who are helped by those who are politically involved and participate in direct democracy are more likely to increase higher levels of internal effectiveness within themselves. This is because direct democracy is a form of participatory democracy. People can expand their knowledge of political issues and their capacity to discuss politics through the use of these networks, which provide those opportunities. In conclusion, it should be noted that it has been cautioned that exposure to the media can contribute to higher ranges of internal efficacy. Residents can develop a sense of political efficacy with the help of exposure to political realities, which equips them with the knowledge and skills necessary to comprehend and have an impact on political decisions. This helps residents develop a sense of political efficacy. However, it is very important to note that being exposed to biased or sensationalized media coverage may have the opposite impact, which is that it may undermine people's confidence in their power to make a difference through direct democracy. In general, there are a number of factors that, if improved, could lead to higher levels of self-efficacy and a rise in the degree to which citizens participate in direct democracy. These components include social and academic backgrounds, involvement in social agencies and networks, as well as exposure to political data. By gaining an understanding of these components, policymakers and researchers will be better able to comprehend methods that can boost the political efficacy of residents and encourage increased participation in direct democracy. For instance, Henn and Foard (2014) suggest that universities may play a significant role in building political efficacy among young people by providing opportunities for discourse and debate, in addition to civic schooling programs that promote democratic principles and participation. In this way, universities can play a significant role in fostering political efficacy among young people. In addition, organizations for young people, such as youth parliaments or teen councils, can help young people enhance their political capabilities and self-assurance, in addition to providing opportunities for participation in decision-making procedures. In addition to these strategies, new technology and social media systems have been highlighted as potential equipment for increasing residents' political efficacy and engagement in direct democracy. This is the case despite the fact that these strategies are already in place. For instance, online platforms can provide locals with access to political information, encourage conversation and discussion, and make it easier to organize campaigns and projects. In addition, the frameworks of social media can provide citizens with a sense of connection and network, and they can also help citizens to reach out to individuals

who share their romantic interests and organize themselves in response to particular causes or problems. Having said that, it's really essential to mention that those cutting-edge technologies and social media structures aren't devoid of their very own problems. They can also make it easier for false information to propagate and create echo chambers that reinforce already held opinions and evaluations, making it more difficult for citizens to engage in dialogue with people who have a variety of perspectives and opposing points of view. In general, it is possible that there is no one-size-fits-all strategy for enhancing the political efficacy of residents and increasing their engagement in direct democracy. Rather, it is more likely that a combination of strategies will prove to be the most effective, including but not limited to education, youth involvement programs, internet and social media platforms, and attempts to address inequities in political participation. Researchers and policymakers can design more effective strategies for encouraging citizen participation in direct democracy if they collect data on the factors that contribute to improved internal efficacy and the potential methods for improving it (Welbourne, Rolf, & Schlachter, 2017).

It should come as no surprise that people who are well-informed about current political issues may have a greater propensity to participate in direct democracy. When residents have access to facts that are accurate and dependable, they may be better able to form evaluations and make decisions. In point of fact, research have shown that a lack of knowledge and awareness on a political issue might discourage individuals from voting or participating in referendums on that issue. In addition, the public's understanding of politics can be significantly influenced by the media to a significant degree. The coverage of a political topic in the media can, on occasion, include comments that are informed and well-balanced, both of which can contribute to increased levels of internal efficiency and political participation. On the other hand, if the media is biased or primarily focuses on one perspective, this can have a negative impact on the public's awareness and acceptability of the political process. It is also essential to keep in mind the different ways in which citizens can access political documents. There is still a place for more traditional forms of media, such as television and newspapers, in the process of information dissemination. On the other hand, social media has become an increasingly popular venue for people to discuss current events and express their thoughts. Even if social media has the potential to quickly and widely disseminate news, it also has the potential to spread false information and contribute to divisiveness. It is vital to encourage accessible and trustworthy sources of political information in order to build better levels of internal efficacy among the resident population. Making available chances for political

education and conversation can also assist residents in becoming more interested and educated about issues. It is also possible to contribute to a more knowledgeable and inclusive democracy by encouraging citizens to make an effort to get familiar with a wide variety of points of view. In the end, the realization of direct democracy is contingent upon the existence of a public that is both knowledgeable and active. According to the findings of a study that was conducted using Kahne and Bowyer (2017), the authors conclude that teaching students how to navigate biased information sources and analyze claims for truth can improve their ability to participate in political processes. They advise that educators should place more of an emphasis on developing vital thinking skills, such as contrasting different lines of evidence and thinking about opportunities from different points of view. This approach has the potential to assist people in overcoming the challenging circumstances of motivated reasoning and erroneous information, both of which have the potential to impede them from participating in the democratic process. In addition, there is evidence that demonstrating opportunities for civic education that take place in settings other than traditional classrooms can be an efficient method of raising levels of internal efficacy. Residents can find out more about political issues and get involved in activism through community corporations, non-governmental corporations, and social movements, which can provide a forum for such activities. People can have a greater sense of political efficacy and an increased level of self-assurance in their abilities if they take part in the activities of these corporations (Welp, 2016).

As was seen in earlier sections, internal efficacy is an essential component in the process of encouraging public participation in direct democracy. Researchers and practitioners have come up with a variety of strategies that have been offered as ways to help citizens improve their sense of internal effectiveness. One such strategy is making sure that voters have access to information that is both comprehensive and accurate regarding the problems and questions that are being asked in referendums. Public debates, the use of language that is clean and on hand in legitimate materials, the presentation of reality sheets and professional opinions are all potential avenues for accomplishing this goal. Research conducted by Kearton et al. 20221 has shown that citizens who are well-informed on the issues that are being voted on are significantly more likely to feel confident in their abilities to make an informed decision and to participate in referendums. Another strategy is to emphasise the need of political education and civic engagement, particularly among younger generations. By giving younger people the opportunities to learn about democratic procedures and institutions, as well as the role of residents in decision-making, they may be able to cultivate a sense of efficacy and

entrepreneurship that can continue on into adulthood. This can include incorporating civic education into school curricula, encouraging young people's participation in local politics, and providing programmes and opportunities for civic involvement. Enhancing one's sense of internal effectiveness can also be accomplished in an efficient manner by fostering a sense of communal efficacy and shared obligation among members of the organisation. This can be accomplished through the organisation of networks and grassroots movements, as well as by collaborative action centred on common issues and challenges. When citizens work together towards a common goal, they have the potential to have a greater sense of empowerment and have a greater impact on the situation, which may lead to increased participation in direct democracy. In conclusion, strategies that promote openness and accountability inside the public sector have the potential to also contribute to increased levels of internal efficacy. When residents believe that their concerns are being addressed and that their voices are being heard, they are more likely to believe that their participation in democratic processes is significant and has an impact on the community as a whole. Measures such as open government tasks, participatory budgeting, and citizen juries are all examples of what this category can contain. Improving people's perceptions of their own capabilities is essential to increasing participation in direct democracy across the board. We will build an atmosphere that promotes and enables residents to engage in selection-making procedures by presenting full facts, supporting civic education, cultivating an experience of collective effectiveness, and promoting transparency and accountability in authorities. This environment will also foster a feeling of collective efficacy among residents (Weyland, 2020).

2.3.3. Dissatisfaction with democracy favours voting in referendums:

Tobor and Shajkovci's research (2016) presents a compelling perspective on the intricate relationship between dissatisfaction with democracy and voting behaviour in referendums, utilizing the Cognitive Dissonance Theory. This theory, rooted in social psychology, posits that individuals inherently seek consistency among their beliefs, values, and attitudes. When inconsistencies emerge, cognitive dissonance arises, leading to discomfort and a compelling motivation to restore harmony. Tobor and Shajkovci apply this theoretical framework to the realm of referendums, suggesting that dissatisfaction with the functioning of democracy can induce cognitive dissonance in citizens, propelling them to actively participate in referendums as a means to reconcile their discontent and instigate change. The Cognitive

Dissonance Theory offers a valuable lens for understanding the dynamics of democratic engagement, particularly in the face of dissatisfaction. When citizens perceive a misalignment between their democratic ideals and the actual functioning of the system, a discomfort emerges, motivating them to take action. In the context of referendums, this action manifests as heightened participation, as individuals seek to align their beliefs with their behavior, effectively resolving cognitive dissonance by attempting to bring about change through the democratic process.

The comparative studies of Italian, UK, and Canadian referendums conducted by Tobor and Shajkovci underscore the relevance of Cognitive Dissonance Theory in understanding citizen engagement. The observation of dissonance-triggered participation across diverse political landscapes further emphasizes the theory's applicability in different democratic contexts. Dissatisfaction with democracy, when viewed through the lens of Cognitive Dissonance Theory, emerges as a potent motivator for citizens to actively participate in referendums, driven by the desire to modify the existing status quo. In the broader literature, Tobor and Shajkovci's work contributes to a nuanced understanding of cognitive dissonance in the political realm. The intersection of dissatisfaction with democracy and individual engagement with referendums highlights the psychological underpinnings of democratic participation. By applying the principles of Cognitive Dissonance Theory, this research provides insights into the intricate cognitive processes that shape voting behavior, shedding light on the motivations behind citizens' choices in referendums. Linking this discussion with Hobolt's work in 2009, which focuses on understanding voter behavior in referendums on European integration, we see a comprehensive exploration of the complexities surrounding direct democracy. Hobolt's research emphasizes the importance of campaign dynamics and elite endorsements in shaping public opinion, electoral mobilization, and vote choices. This aligns with Tobor and Shajkovci's findings, emphasizing the role of cognitive dissonance in motivating citizens to actively participate in referendums, thereby influencing the outcomes .

Democracy is a widely accepted form of governance around the world, although dissatisfaction with the system is on the rise in many countries. According to Repucci and Slipowitz (2021), various reasons are contributing to the degradation of democracy, including the decline of free expression and press freedom, the rapid polarization of political parties, and the advent of autocratic leaders. These factors have contributed to citizens' feelings of impotence and disillusionment, which frequently results in a loss of faith in the democratic

system. Furthermore, Wang et al. (2021) argue that democracy can have an impact on innovation and economic progress, which can lead to unhappiness. The authors discovered that in countries where democracy is less established, there is less innovation, which can lead to economic stagnation and inequality. This is especially relevant for younger generations who are concerned about their future economic prospects. Political corruption is another factor that might contribute to unhappiness with democracy. When people recognize that the political system is filled with corruption, they will be dissatisfied with the democratic system. This is especially true when politicians utilize their positions for personal gain or to help specific businesses, rather than working for the greater good of society. Overall, these factors contribute to a growing sense of disillusionment and skepticism in the democratic system, which may cause people to seek out alternate methods to express their unhappiness, such as voting in referendums. In the following parts, we will look at the connection between unhappiness with democracy and voting in referendums, as well as the potential benefits and drawbacks of doing so.

According to studies, there may be a strong relationship between residents' unhappiness with democracy and their proclivity to vote in referendums. A comprehensive assessment undertaken with the assistance of Liverani, Hawkins, and Parkhurst (2013) discovered that discontent with government policies and practices can motivate voters to seek alternate forms of political engagement, such as referendums. According to Hess and McAvoy (2014), this is especially appropriate for problems that are visible as high-stakes or have far-reaching consequences for citizens' lives. When voters believe that their voices are not being heard through regular routes of political representation, they will turn to referendums to express their unhappiness and make their opinions known. Furthermore, media coverage plays a significant role in moulding public opinion about democracy and referendums. Negative media coverage of government policies and movements can amplify citizens' dissatisfaction, leading to increased support for referendums as a means of circumventing traditional political tactics. However, utilizing referendums to voice discontent with democracy is not always without difficulty. There are concerns that referendum campaigns could be hijacked with the help of unique hobby organizations, or that voters could be given misleading information. Despite these obstacles, some argue that referendums can be a valuable tool for addressing citizens' dissatisfaction with democracy. Referendums can help to rebuild citizens' trust in political institutions and encourage more participation in the democratic process by providing an instantaneous method of democratic participation. To increase referendum participation and

alleviate people' dissatisfaction with democracy, initiatives such as increasing openness and accountability, improving public education on the issues at hand, and providing clear and independent information to voters may be useful. By addressing the underlying causes of unhappiness, policymakers can help to build a more robust democracy that better serves the desires and interests of all citizens. Furthermore, Hess and McAvoy (2014) contend that the use of referendums can persuade residents to participate in civic education and politics. They argue that referendums provide an opportunity for citizens to engage with critical issues and broaden their knowledge on issues of public concern. This increased involvement and understanding of the issues can lead to increased political efficacy and participation in various areas of democratic life. However, the usage of referendums is fraught with difficulties and controversy. Critics contend that referendums may be managed using powerful pastimes, resulting in outcomes that do not always reflect human desires. There are also concerns about referendum campaigns' tendency to be divisive and polarizing, heightening tensions among communities and damaging social cohesion. Furthermore, there is dispute concerning the precise function of referendums in the democratic process, with some believing that they should be used sparingly and only for issues of major national importance (Wike, Simmons, Stokes, & Fetterolf, 2017).

Coverage in the media has a significant impact on how people feel about voting democratically and in referendums. According to Howard (2019), the media can have a beneficial or negative impact on how people view democracy. The degree to which voters have faith in the democratic system can be affected by media coverage of successes and failures in the democratic process. The public's perception of democracy can be skewed and distrust of the government might grow when news coverage is biased or sensationalized. Media coverage of referendums, as noted by Jacobs, Akkerman, and Zaslove (2018), can affect the degree of support for them. They discovered that public support for referendums increased when the media portrayed them as a means by which ordinary people could make their voices heard and contribute to the making of important policy choices. However, public support for referendums declined as a result of bad media coverage that characterized them as instruments of extremists or divisive forces. Voter turnout in referendums can also be affected by media attention. Media coverage of referendum campaigns has been shown to influence voters' interest in and participation in politics. Voter turnout can be increased if the media portrays a referendum issue as vital to the nation's future. Media coverage is certainly a component in how people feel about democracy and referendums, but it is certainly not the sole one. The economy, social

difficulties, and political events are all examples of external influences that can have a major impact on public opinion. Referendums as a method of expressing discontent with democracy have also been met with controversy and opposition. Referendums have been criticized on the grounds that they can be used by influential interest groups, are easily swayed by false or misleading information, and can cause social division. In addition, there are many who believe referendums are inimical to representative democracy, in which voters' representatives are tasked with making policy decisions on their behalf. However, there are many who believe referendums are an excellent method of calming public anger and increasing voter turnout in a democratic society. Citizens have a greater opportunity to have their voices heard and elected officials held accountable through referendums. However, referendums need to be properly crafted to ensure that voters have access to unbiased information. The research as a whole implies that people are more likely to vote in referendums when they are dissatisfied with democracy. However, the trust in the democratic system, the quality of media coverage, and the design of the referendum process all play a role in determining whether or not a referendum is successful in addressing residents' concerns. In order to foster democratic participation and accountability, it is crucial to increase public faith in the democratic system and promote the responsible use of referendums.

While referendums provide a forum for voters to voice their discontent with democracy, doing so is not without its share of difficulties and debates. The problem of disinterested or uninformed voters is one obstacle. King and Boyatt (2015) point out that many voters in a referendum may not have a thorough grasp of the issues at hand and may lack the motivation to do more than cast a simple yes or no vote. This may cause people to act irrationally or without sufficient information, which is bad for everyone. The potential for referendums to deepen societal divisions is another difficulty. According to Kodiyat, Siagian, and Andryan's (2020) research, using referendums in the context of municipal elections can lead to polarization and conflict, since voters from a variety of groups with divergent interests and opinions may be motivated to participate. This can weaken democracy even further by making it harder for people from diverse backgrounds to come together and work toward a common objective. Concerns have also been raised regarding the potential impact of money and connections in the referendum. It's possible that the outcome of a referendum could be heavily swayed by a few powerful interest groups or organizations that have the resources to mobilize voters and alter public opinion through media campaigns. In addition to casting doubt on the validity of the referendum, this practice can also threaten the democratic concept of one person,

one vote. Finally, referendums pose the danger of being utilized in place of more robust democratic procedures. Protests, while useful for voicing discontent with the democratic process, should not be considered as a substitute for regular two-way communication, cooperation, and compromise between the voting public and their representatives in government. The validity of other democratic institutions and processes may be threatened if referendums become the usual means of addressing citizens' concerns.

Referendums have been used as a tool for citizens to express their dissatisfaction with the current state of democracy. By providing an opportunity for direct participation and decision-making, referendums can empower citizens and give them a sense of control over their political system. In addition, referendums can serve as a mechanism for holding elected officials accountable and ensuring that they are representing the will of the people. Studies have shown that corruption in a democracy can have negative effects on population health outcomes (Factor & Kang, 2015). When citizens perceive their democracy as corrupt, they may feel disillusioned and disengaged from the political process. In such cases, referendums can provide an outlet for citizens to voice their concerns and signal their desire for change. By participating in a referendum, citizens can feel as though their voices are being heard and that they have a stake in the political system. However, referendums can also be a double-edged sword. Some argue that they are not a suitable mechanism for complex policy decisions, and that they can be easily manipulated by special interests or powerful elites. Furthermore, some scholars argue that authoritarian leaders are using referendums to legitimize their actions and suppress opposition (Ginsburg, 2020). These controversies highlight the importance of carefully designing referendums and ensuring that they are used appropriately. To address citizens' dissatisfaction and promote participation in referendums, some strategies have been proposed. These include improving democratic institutions and processes, enhancing political transparency and accountability, and promoting civic education and engagement. By strengthening democratic institutions and processes, citizens can have greater confidence in the political system and feel more empowered to participate in decision-making. Moreover, increasing transparency and accountability can help to prevent corruption and reduce the perception of democratic deficits. Finally, promoting civic education and engagement can help to build a more informed and active citizenry that is better able to participate in the democratic process. By addressing citizens' dissatisfaction and promoting participation in referendums, we can build a more robust and responsive democracy that reflects the needs and aspirations of all citizens. Another challenge in promoting participation in referendums is the impact of media

coverage. The media can shape public opinion towards democracy and referendums by providing biased or misleading information. Negative media coverage of the political system can further fuel citizens' dissatisfaction and reduce their trust in the democratic process. Therefore, it is crucial to ensure that the media provides accurate and unbiased information to citizens about democracy and referendums. Moreover, it is important to engage with the media and work collaboratively to promote informed and objective coverage of political issues. Overall, while dissatisfaction with democracy can contribute to voting in referendums, it is important to carefully design and use referendums as a tool for citizen participation and decision-making. By addressing the root causes of citizens' dissatisfaction with democracy, promoting informed and objective media coverage, and enhancing civic education and engagement, we can create a more responsive and effective democratic system that reflects the needs and aspirations of all citizens(Winter, 2015).

Growing political socialization among adolescents is one strategy for addressing unhappiness and marketing referendum participation. According to Lee et al. (2013), the communication mediation strategy to promote civic engagement may be effective in marketing participation in political procedures. This strategy entails creating a social environment that supports political engagement, as well as providing opportunities for younger people to learn about politics and develop the skills required to participate effectively. Another method is to use social media to engage citizens and promote referendum participation. According to Kruse et al. (2018), social media has the ability to serve as a public space for political discussion and debate, as well as a tool of organizing residents to participate in political processes. Political actors can reach a far larger target population and facilitate more inclusive and democratic forms of decision-making by using the power of social media. However, it is crucial to recognize that referendums can be vulnerable to manipulation and erroneous information campaigns, undermining the democratic legitimacy of the process. To address these issues, it is critical to ensure that residents have access to accurate and fair information on the issues at hand, as well as to provide chances for meaningful public debate and dialogue. Furthermore, protections such as independent monitoring and oversight can help to ensure that the referendum process is honest and transparent. Overall, while referendums can be a useful instrument for expressing unhappiness with democracy, they also present significant obstacles and necessitate careful administration to ensure that they are fair, obvious, and valid. We will help to deal with residents' dissatisfaction with democracy and promote more inclusive and democratic types of decision-making by encouraging political socialization among youth,

leveraging the power of social media, and ensuring that referendums are conducted in an obvious and democratic manner.

2.3.4. The preferences for citizens as decision-makers favours voting in referendums

Exploring the preferences for citizens as decision-makers and their engagement in voting in referendums underscores the enduring relevance of Downs' theory, which emphasizes that individuals' voting behavior is primarily guided by self-interest and the rational weighing of costs and benefits associated with participation. In the context of referendums, this theoretical perspective gains empirical support from Bookchin's study (2015), which underscores the preference for direct democracy, where citizens actively participate in decision-making processes that shape their political environment. Downs' theory posits that individuals are motivated by self-interest and seek to maximize their utility when deciding whether to engage in political activities such as voting. The rational choice framework highlights the importance of individuals assessing the costs and benefits associated with their participation, weighing the potential impact of their vote on policy outcomes. This analytical lens is particularly relevant when applied to the realm of referendums, where citizens are presented with specific policy proposals or decisions and are required to make a direct choice. Bookchin's study, "The Next Revolution: Popular Assemblies and the Promise of Direct Democracy," aligns with Downs' theory by emphasizing the preference for direct democracy as a form of governance. Direct democracy, in this context, refers to a system where citizens actively participate in decision-making processes rather than relying solely on elected representatives. Bookchin's exploration of popular assemblies and the promise of direct democracy suggests that citizens desire a more direct role in shaping their political environment.

Drawing from the referendum contexts in Italy, the UK, and Canada, the appeal of direct decision-making becomes evident. Citizens in these diverse political landscapes resonate with the idea that their individual votes can directly influence policy outcomes. When individuals perceive the potential benefits of their participation, such as having a direct impact on shaping legislation or policy decisions, they are more likely to engage in referendums. In the Italian context, where historical legacies and regional diversity contribute to a complex sociopolitical landscape, citizens' preferences for direct decision-making are reflected in their participation in referendums. The UK, marked by its historical evolution and multicultural

composition, showcases a similar trend, where citizens value the opportunity to directly shape political outcomes through their votes in referendums. Canada, with its federal structure and bilingual character, further highlights the appeal of citizen decision-making in the context of referendums, as individuals seek to actively contribute to the democratic process. This proclivity towards citizen decision-making, as observed in the referendum contexts of Italy, the UK, and Canada, aligns with the fundamental tenets of Downs' theory. The theory's emphasis on self-interest, rational choice, and the weighing of costs and benefits finds resonance in citizens' preferences for direct democracy. The idea that individuals are more likely to participate in referendums when they perceive a direct connection between their votes and policy outcomes reinforces the enduring relevance of Downs' theoretical framework in understanding democratic engagement (Bookchin, M., 2015).

Citizen participation in decision-making processes has become increasingly important in contemporary democracies. According to Kalogeropoulos et al. (2019), citizens' trust in news media and the consumption of news play an important role in their willingness to participate in political processes. Moreover, Kovach and Rosenstiel (2021) argue that a vibrant democracy depends on an informed and engaged citizenry, with a fundamental role for journalism in fostering this engagement. There is a growing recognition that citizens' involvement in decision-making can lead to better outcomes and more legitimate governance (Kahne & Spote, 2008). As a result, there has been a rise in citizen-led initiatives such as public consultations, deliberative polls, and participatory budgeting. However, referendums remain a popular form of citizen-driven decision-making, with several advantages over other forms of public engagement. Referendums allow citizens to directly vote on a specific issue or policy, giving them a more active role in the decision-making process. This can lead to a sense of ownership and empowerment among citizens, who feel that their voices are being heard. Additionally, referendums can help to settle contentious issues or provide a clear mandate for action. However, there are also challenges and limitations associated with referendums. For example, the question being asked may be too complex or abstract for citizens to fully understand, leading to uninformed or misguided decision-making. There may also be issues with turnout or unequal access to information, which can skew the results of the vote. Despite these challenges, there are several reasons why citizens prefer to be decision-makers. First, citizens may feel that their elected representatives do not adequately represent their interests or viewpoints, leading them to seek out alternative avenues for participation. Second, citizens may feel a sense of responsibility to contribute to the decision-making process, especially on issues

that are particularly important or contentious. Finally, citizens may simply enjoy the opportunity to have a direct say in the political process and to exercise their democratic rights.

The role of citizens as decision-makers has been increasingly recognized as essential in ensuring a truly democratic society. Kahne, Crow, and Lee (2013) argue that education plays a crucial role in fostering political engagement and empowering young citizens to participate in decision-making processes. In their study, they found that students who were exposed to more participatory learning experiences were more likely to be politically engaged, with a greater inclination to participate in political discussions and activities. Mainwaring and Pérez-Linán (2013) highlight the importance of citizen participation in decision-making processes as a defining characteristic of democratic societies. They argue that citizens have the power to hold leaders accountable and shape policies that are more representative of their needs and interests. In contrast, dictatorships and authoritarian regimes are characterized by a lack of citizen participation in decision-making, with power concentrated in the hands of a few individuals. Citizens as decision-makers play a crucial role in ensuring that policies and decisions are grounded in the perspectives and interests of the broader public, rather than a small elite group. By participating in referendums and other forms of citizen-driven decision-making, citizens can directly influence policy outcomes and shape the direction of their communities and countries. However, the role of citizens as decision-makers also has its challenges and limitations. Referendums can be susceptible to manipulation and misinformation, and may not always reflect the will of the majority. Furthermore, not all citizens have equal access to decision-making processes, with marginalized groups often being excluded or facing barriers to participation. Despite these challenges, the preference for citizen-driven decision-making through referendums remains strong among citizens. Citizens value the opportunity to directly shape policies and decisions that affect their lives, and see this as an important component of democratic governance. Ultimately, the role of citizens as decision-makers is essential in ensuring a more representative and accountable democracy. Referendums provide a platform for citizens to express their preferences on issues such as constitutional amendments, public policies, and major decisions affecting their communities. According to Carey and Matsusaka (2014), citizen-driven decision-making through referendums is effective in curbing corruption and rent-seeking by politicians. They argue that referendums force politicians to be more accountable to their constituents, and increase transparency in decision-making processes. The preferences for citizen-driven decision-making also stem from the mistrust citizens have towards traditional political elites. Swank and Steinmo (2014) argue that

citizens are increasingly disillusioned with political elites and their capacity to make decisions in the interest of the public. In contrast, citizens view themselves as better equipped to make decisions that align with their interests and those of their communities (Young, 2016).

One of the major advantages of involving citizens in decision-making through referendums is the promotion of democratic principles and values. As Marinescu (2016) notes, democratic education in Romania has been enhanced by the active participation of citizens in decision-making processes. By giving citizens, the opportunity to vote and have their say in important issues, it enhances their sense of ownership and involvement in democratic processes. Moreover, citizen-driven decision-making ensures that the interests of the general public are adequately represented and prioritized. This is especially crucial in a political climate where the power dynamics tend to favour the elite and powerful few. As McChesney (2016) argues, referendums are a means of circumventing the concentration of power in the hands of the political class and allowing ordinary citizens to have their voices heard. Referendums also provide an opportunity for citizens to directly influence and shape the policies and laws that govern them. This is in contrast to representative democracy where the people elect representatives who make decisions on their behalf. As a result, citizens have a sense of control over the decisions made that affect their lives and their community. Finally, referendums have the potential to increase civic engagement and political awareness among citizens. The process of researching and discussing issues in the lead up to a referendum vote can provide opportunities for citizens to learn about the issues at hand and engage in constructive dialogue with fellow community members. In summary, involving citizens in decision-making through referendums has numerous advantages, including promoting democratic values, prioritizing public interests, and increasing civic engagement and political awareness. However, there are also challenges and limitations associated with citizen-driven decision-making through referendums. One of the biggest limitations is the potential for uninformed and irrational decision-making by citizens. This can occur when citizens do not have access to accurate and reliable information or are swayed by emotions rather than logic. As Laver and Hunt (2017) note, referendums can be heavily influenced by campaigns that use emotive and misleading rhetoric, resulting in decisions that may not reflect the best interests of the public. Another limitation is the potential for low turnout rates, which may result in decisions that are not representative of the general public's views. Despite these challenges, citizens continue to prefer to be decision-makers. One of the reasons for this is the desire for greater control over decision-making processes that directly affect their lives and communities. As Budge et al.

(2019) argue, citizens want to feel like their voices are being heard and their opinions matter. Additionally, citizen-driven decision-making through referendums can increase transparency and accountability in the decision-making process, which may improve trust in government institutions and the democratic system as a whole.

While involving citizens in decision-making processes through referendums may seem like an effective way to ensure democratic participation, there are several challenges and limitations to this approach. One of the major challenges is the potential for polarization and division among citizens. As noted by Carothers and O'Donohue (2019), referendums can become a tool for political polarization, where citizens become entrenched in their opinions and unwilling to compromise or collaborate with those who hold different views. This can lead to a breakdown in dialogue and a lack of effective decision-making. Another limitation is the potential for citizens to be influenced by misinformation or incomplete information. Bush (2015) argues that democracy assistance programs that promote referendums can overlook the importance of providing accurate information to citizens. Without access to reliable information, citizens may make uninformed decisions that have negative consequences for society as a whole. In addition, referendums can also be time-consuming and expensive. Holding frequent referendums on various issues can drain resources from governments and distract from other important tasks. It can also lead to citizen fatigue and a decrease in participation over time. Overall, while citizen-driven decision-making through referendums may have some benefits, there are also challenges and limitations that must be considered. To ensure effective and democratic decision-making, it is important to carefully balance the role of citizens with the need for reliable information, collaboration, and responsible resource allocation. Moreover, there are also concerns regarding the representativeness of citizen-driven decision-making. Not all citizens have the same level of knowledge, resources, or interest in participating in referendums, which can result in a biased representation of views. Additionally, some argue that referendums can be used as a tool for populist movements or interests that may not align with the common good or minority rights. As such, it is essential to have a balance between citizen-driven decision-making and representative decision-making. Despite the challenges and limitations, there are reasons why citizens prefer to be decision-makers through referendums. One of the primary reasons is that it allows for direct participation in the democratic process. Referendums provide citizens with a voice in decisions that affect their lives, which can increase engagement and a sense of ownership in the political system.

Moreover, referendums can also provide a check on the power of elected officials and elites, ensuring that decision-making is responsive to the needs and interests of citizens.

Citizens prefer to be decision-makers for a variety of reasons. One of the main reasons is a desire for increased control and agency over the decisions that affect their lives. As noted by Clough (2019), citizens may feel embattled and in competition with other nations or groups for support, and therefore seek greater participation in decision-making processes to ensure their voices are heard and their interests are represented. Another reason citizens may prefer to be decision-makers is a belief in the democratic ideals of equality and fairness. Dryzek et al. (2019) argue that the crisis of democracy can be addressed through the science of deliberation, which involves bringing diverse voices and perspectives together to make decisions that reflect the common good. In this sense, citizen-driven decision-making can be seen as a way of promoting democratic values and fostering a more inclusive and representative political system. Additionally, citizens may prefer referendums as a way of ensuring accountability and transparency in decision-making processes. By allowing citizens to vote directly on issues, there is a greater sense of responsibility among decision-makers to consider and respond to the concerns and preferences of the electorate. Overall, citizens' preference for being decision-makers can be attributed to a desire for greater control and agency, a belief in democratic values, and a desire for accountability and transparency in decision-making processes. However, there are also challenges and limitations to citizen-driven decision-making that must be taken into account. Some of the challenges and limitations of citizen-driven decision-making include issues with representativeness and expertise. Not all citizens may have the same level of knowledge or understanding on complex issues, and there may also be disparities in access to information and resources that can impact decision-making. Additionally, some groups may be marginalized or underrepresented in decision-making processes, which can lead to inequities in outcomes. Another challenge is the potential for decision-making to become overly emotional or influenced by media and other external factors, rather than being based on rational deliberation and evidence. However, despite these challenges, referendums remain a popular method for citizen participation in decision-making, particularly in issues with significant public interest or controversy. In many cases, referendums have been successful in engaging citizens and generating broad-based support for decisions. Ultimately, the preference for citizen participation in decision-making is reflective of a desire for greater engagement and representation in the political process, and the potential benefits of referendums make them a valuable tool for achieving these goals. Despite the challenges and limitations of citizen-driven

decision-making, referendums have several advantages. Firstly, they promote transparency and accountability in decision-making, as citizens can directly participate in decision-making and hold decision-makers responsible for their actions. Secondly, referendums increase public engagement and awareness of political issues, as they allow citizens to actively participate in the decision-making process. Thirdly, referendums promote democratic values by ensuring that decisions reflect the preferences and interests of the electorate, rather than being made by a small group of elites. However, there are also several challenges to the use of referendums as a form of citizen-driven decision-making. One challenge is the potential for misinformation and bias in the campaigning and information dissemination leading up to the vote. Additionally, referendums can be costly, time-consuming, and resource-intensive. There may also be issues with representativeness, as not all citizens may participate in the vote, and certain groups may be over- or under-represented. Finally, referendums can be divisive and lead to polarization within society, particularly when issues are contentious.

2.3.5. Issue salience favours voting in referendums:

Exploration of the intricate relationship between political actors' utilization of the digital landscape and citizen engagement in the special issue brings to the forefront compelling insights into the role of the internet, particularly social media, in influencing electoral and non-electoral political interactions. This evolving landscape, often referred to as "digital politics," necessitates careful study and observation to understand its impact on democratic processes. The scholars contributing to this special issue are recognized for pushing frontiers in the field, collectively aiming to extend understanding, applications, and evolutions of theory, especially in the context of the future of representative democracy. Lilleker and Koc-Michalska (2017) contribute to this discourse by deploying the self-determination theory to devise a model that explicates political participation. Their research underscores extrinsic motivations as the primary catalyst for civic activities, portraying political participation as a rewarding and prosocial experience fostered through interactions. Importantly, their work highlights how messages disseminated by campaign organizations via social media exhibit the most potent mobilizing effect. This underscores the significant impact of digital spaces in galvanizing people to participate in various political activities, including voting in referendums.

The self-determination theory, as applied by Lilleker and Koc-Michalska, focuses on the role of extrinsic motivations in driving political participation. Extrinsic motivations, in this context, refer to external factors that influence individuals' behavior, such as the appeal of

rewards, social approval, or the desire to fulfill certain expectations. The model they present suggests that political engagement is more likely when individuals perceive the experience as rewarding, and this reward can be achieved through interactions facilitated by digital platforms. Issue salience, particularly in the digital sphere, becomes a crucial factor in mobilizing citizens to participate in referendums. As the digital landscape amplifies certain issues and topics, it shapes the salience of these matters in the public consciousness. The visibility and prominence of specific issues in online spaces can capture the attention of individuals, making them more likely to engage with the political process, including casting votes in referendums.

Mobilization theory provides a theoretical lens through which to understand the dynamics of political engagement, especially in the digital age. It posits that political participation is not a random or isolated event but is instead a result of deliberate efforts to mobilize individuals toward specific actions. In the context of digital politics, the mobilization theory helps explain how online platforms, particularly social media, serve as powerful tools for political actors to mobilize citizens, increase issue salience, and influence their participation in democratic processes. The work of Lilleker and Koc-Michalska contributes to this understanding by emphasizing the role of digital technology, particularly social media, in shaping the extrinsic motivations that drive political engagement. Their findings underscore the significance of campaign organizations' messages disseminated through these digital channels in mobilizing individuals and influencing their participation in civic activities, including voting in referendums (Koc-Michalska and Lilleker, 2017).

The perceived importance or relevance of a particular political issue to a person or group is referred to as issue salience. Issue salience is important in determining citizens' views toward politics and their desire to engage in various forms of political activity, such as voting in referendums, in the context of democratic participation. According to Ernst et al. (2019), one of the important elements influencing the success of populist messaging on social media is issue salience. Populists use themes that are important to their supporters, such as immigration, national identity, and social welfare, to rally their supporters and stir public opinion. Similarly, Graham and Svulik (2020) contend that issue salience is important in molding American voters' perceptions toward democracy. They discover that citizens who regard some concerns as more important, such as wealth disparity or corruption, are more inclined to support democracy and oppose authoritarian options. Overall, issue salience is important in democratic involvement because of its power to alter citizens' political choices,

attitudes, and behaviors. Understanding the elements that influence the salience of specific problems, as well as tactics for boosting issue salience, can have significant consequences for promoting political involvement and participation in referendums and other kinds of democratic decision-making. Furthermore, topic salience is highly related to voter turnout in referendums. According to Binder and Spirling (2019), citizens are more inclined to vote in referendums when the issues at stake are perceived to be more salient. They suggest that voters who perceive a higher level of policy disagreement on a particular subject are more inclined to vote since the referendum's conclusion will have a bigger influence on their interests and beliefs. However, problem salience is not a fixed concept that can be altered by a number of things. In the following part, we will look at some of the elements that influence the salience of certain issues, as well as the role of the media and public discourse in shaping issue salience. Understanding these elements is crucial for developing effective tactics for enhancing issue salience and promoting referendum participation (Kahne & Bowyer, 2017).

Numerous researches have highlighted the connection among problem salience and voter participation in referendums. For example, Culp (2019) argues that once electorate understand a problem as vital or salient, they're much more likely to participate in the referendum procedure. Culp's research shows that the greater salient the problem, the more citizens are probably to have interaction in active discussions, change facts, and emerge as politically lively. As such, Culp posits that growing difficulty salience ought to sell democratic participation and, in turn, enhance the legitimacy of democratic tactics. Dahlgren's (2013) work also supports the concept that trouble salience performs a big function in democratic participation. In unique, Dahlgren highlights how the media and public discourse form the salience of particular issues and have an impact on voter behavior. For example, the media's coverage of unique problems and the tone of the discourse can both increase or decrease the salience of the problem in the minds of voters. Research also indicates that problem salience is prompted by means of different factors, which includes the relevance of the issue to electorate' lives and the ability outcomes of the referendum outcome (Culp, 2019). The perceived stakes of a referendum may also have an effect on voter turnout, with better stakes commonly related to better turnout. Overall, these studies exhibit the importance of difficulty salience in promoting voter participation in referendums. Efforts to boom issue salience can inspire lively political engagement, that's important for democratic processes to feature correctly. The media and public discourse also have a crucial function to play in shaping problem salience and fostering a knowledgeable voter. To further illustrate the connection among problem salience

and voter turnout, an examine conducted via Franklin, van der Eijk, and Marsh (2015) examined the 2014 Scottish independence referendum. They located that citizens who perceived the problem as extra salient had been more likely to participate inside the referendum, even if controlling for different elements consisting of age and political ideology. Additionally, the take a look at determined that the perceived stakes of the referendum had a tremendous effect on turnout, with higher stakes main to multiplied participation. These findings have vital implications for the ones looking for to increase voter turnout in referendums. Efforts to boom difficulty salience have to know not best cognizance on elevating focus about the problem however also on highlighting the potential results of the referendum outcome. By emphasizing the significance of the difficulty and the impact of the referendum, citizens may be much more likely to have interaction inside the method and solid their ballots (Zeugner-Roth, Žabkar, & Diamantopoulos, 2015).

Issue salience refers to the importance or relevance of a specific issue to an individual or a group of people. While some issues are universally salient, others may only be important to specific communities or individuals. Several factors contribute to the salience of specific issues, including social and political developments, media coverage, and public opinion. According to De Blasio and Sorice (2018), the rise of populism in democratic societies is closely related to issue salience. Populist movements often focus on specific issues, such as immigration, economic inequality, or corruption, and frame them in a way that appeals to the emotions and fears of the electorate. As a result, these issues become more salient, and people are more likely to engage in democratic processes, such as voting in referendums, to address them. The role of media and public discourse in shaping issue salience is also crucial. Dennison and Geddes (2019) found that media coverage of immigration in Western Europe contributed significantly to the salience of the issue among the general public. Anti-immigration political parties also played a crucial role in shaping public discourse, making immigration a central topic of political debates. Another factor that contributes to the salience of specific issues is their impact on people's daily lives. For example, issues related to health care, education, or employment are likely to be more salient to people than abstract concepts such as democracy or human rights. Therefore, policy debates and political campaigns that focus on these issues are likely to generate more interest and engagement among the electorate. Strategies for increasing issue salience to promote participation in referendums include focusing on the personal consequences of policies and emphasizing the importance of the issue for future generations. As Fiske, Kite, and Burton (2019) argue, campaigns that connect policy issues to

personal stories and experiences can increase the salience of these issues for voters. Similarly, framing policies in terms of their impact on future generations can generate greater interest and concern among younger voters. Overall, research shows that issue salience is a critical factor in promoting participation in referendums and other democratic processes. By understanding the factors that contribute to the salience of specific issues and developing strategies to increase their importance for voters, political campaigns and policymakers can promote greater engagement and informed decision-making in referendums.

Issue salience refers to the significance or relevance of a particular issue to an individual or a set of humans. While some troubles are universally salient, others may be most important to precise communities or people. Several factors contribute to the salience of unique problems, such as social and political trends, media insurance, and public opinion. According to De Blasio and Sorice (2018), the upward push of populism in democratic societies is carefully related to trouble salience. Populist moves regularly awareness on unique issues, such as immigration, monetary inequality, or corruption, and body them in a way that appeals to the feelings and fears of the voters. As a end result, these issues grow to be extra salient, and people are much more likely to engage in democratic approaches, including balloting in referendums, to deal with them. The role of media and public discourse in shaping trouble salience is likewise crucial. Dennison and Geddes (2019) observed that media insurance of immigration in Western Europe contributed extensively to the salience of the issue among the general public. Anti-immigration political parties also played a crucial position in shaping public discourse, making immigration a significant subject matter of political debates. Another issue that contributes to the salience of specific issues is their impact on people's day by day lives. For example, troubles associated with fitness care, schooling, or employment are in all likelihood to be greater salient to humans than summary ideas along with democracy or human rights. Therefore, policy debates and political campaigns that target those troubles are probably to generate greater interest and engagement some of the electorate. Strategies for increasing trouble salience to sell participation in referendums encompass focusing on the personal effects of regulations and emphasizing the significance of the issue for future generations. As Fiske, Kite, and Burton (2019) argue, campaigns that join policy problems to private tales and stories can boom the salience of those troubles for voters. Similarly, framing regulations in terms in their effect on destiny generations can generate extra hobby and difficulty among younger electorate. Overall, research shows that trouble salience is a critical component in promoting participation in referendums and other democratic procedures. By know-how the elements that make a

contribution to the salience of unique troubles and developing techniques to growth their significance for electorate, political campaigns and policymakers can promote greater engagement and knowledgeable decision-making in referendums.

In order to promote higher voter turnout in referendums, it is important to increase the salience of the issues being voted on. According to a study by Bollyky et al. (2019), countries with higher levels of democratic experience have better health outcomes and lower mortality rates. This suggests that promoting democratic participation, including participation in referendums, can have positive impacts on society. One strategy for increasing issue salience is to provide clear and accessible information to the public. This can include public education campaigns, as well as online resources and voter guides. Additionally, it is important to ensure that information is presented in a neutral and unbiased manner, to avoid biasing voters towards a particular outcome. Another strategy is to increase media coverage of the issues being voted on. This can help to increase public awareness and engagement, and can also help to shape public opinion on the issues. However, it is important to ensure that media coverage is fair and balanced, and does not prioritize one viewpoint over another. Finally, it can be helpful to involve citizens and stakeholders in the process of developing and promoting the referendum. This can help to build support for the referendum, and can also ensure that the issues being voted on are relevant and important to the community. Overall, there are a number of strategies that can be used to increase issue salience and promote participation in referendums. By providing clear information, increasing media coverage, and involving citizens and stakeholders in the process, we can help to ensure that referendums are an effective tool for democratic participation and decision-making. It is also important to note that certain issues may naturally have higher salience, such as those that are seen as particularly important or divisive. However, even issues that may initially be seen as less important can be made salient through effective communication and engagement efforts. Furthermore, studies have shown that voters who perceive the issues as highly salient are more likely to turn out to vote in referendums (Pruysers et al., 2018). This highlights the importance of increasing issue salience to ensure that referendums are a true reflection of the will of the people. Overall, promoting issue salience is crucial for effective democratic participation in referendums. Through clear communication, media coverage, and community engagement, we can help to ensure that citizens are informed and motivated to participate in important decision-making processes. By prioritizing issue salience, we can ensure that referendums are a meaningful and impactful tool for democratic decision-making.

The relevance of problems has been seen to have a significant role in marketing referendum participation. In a study conducted by Barrett and Brunton-Smith (2014), issue salience was identified as an important factor in predicting levels of political engagement and participation. When individuals perceive problems as relevant and large, they are considerably more inclined to become actively involved in the democratic process. Similarly, Bellamy (2019) contends that problem salience is necessary for democracy to work properly. He thinks that democratic legitimacy is dependent on citizens actively participating in decision-making processes, and that this necessitates that the issues being voted on be relevant and significant to individuals. When people believe that their participation can make a difference, they may be more likely to vote. According to research, difficulty salience is not permanent and can be influenced by a variety of situations. For example, the media and public debate can influence whether issues are judged relevant and significant to the general population. In other cases, political campaigns or hobby companies may carefully frame concerns in ways that make them more visible to voters. Strategies for boosting problem salience include disseminating accessible and informative materials, engaging in interaction with citizens, and expanding venues for open and positive discourse. These tactics can help voters better understand the issues at hand and their potential influence on their lives, increasing the prominence of these issues and boosting engagement. Overall, the literature supports the assumption that trouble salience is important in determining voter turnout in referendums. Making challenges relevant and substantial to individuals helps stimulate democratic participation, ensuring that decision-making is really representative of the wishes of the people. However, the link between trouble salience and voter turnout isn't always consistent. Citizens may be well aware of the problems but choose not to participate in some cases, potentially due to a sense of disempowerment or disgust with the political process. Furthermore, the prominence of various issues can change according on the demographic institution or geographic location being investigated, which can affect stages of involvement. Despite these difficulties, researchers generally agree that increasing difficulty salience is an effective strategy for increasing referendum participation. By ensuring that problems are relevant and important to citizens, democratic decision-making can become more inclusive and consultative. Future research may wish to investigate the components that contribute to problem salience, as well as the impact of various tactics for increasing salience on voter turnout. Finally, a deeper understanding of these factors may aid in reinforcing democratic engagement and selling a more just and equitable society.

2.3.6. Lower trust in national politicians decreases chance of voting in referendum

Qvortrup's comprehensive exploration of referendums and initiatives on a global scale, as articulated in the book "Direct democracy: A comparative study of the theory and practice of government by the people," provides a nuanced understanding of the intricate dynamics of direct democracy. This extensive work not only offers an updated overview of referendums worldwide but also engages in a thought-provoking debate on the frequency of holding referendums and the potential misuse of direct democracy on a global scale. Grounded in political theory, empirical evidence, and comparative government, the book critically examines the crucial aspect of trust in national politicians and its impact on citizens' likelihood to participate in referendums. The principal-agent theory emerges as a pivotal theoretical framework within Qvortrup's work, substantiating the claim that diminished trust in national politicians can reduce citizens' chances of casting their votes in a referendum. According to this theory, citizens act as principals, while their elected representatives serve as agents. When mistrust permeates the relationship between these principals and agents, citizens may lose faith in the democratic process and opt to abstain from participating in referendums. This theoretical perspective gains particular significance when scrutinizing trends observed in referendums held in Italy, the UK, and Canada.

In these nations, a discernible decline in referendum turnouts has been linked to diminishing trust in political leaders. The erosion of trust in national politicians has tangible consequences for citizens' willingness to engage in direct democracy, emphasizing the interconnectedness of trust and democratic participation. This insight extends beyond individual referendums, portraying a broader picture of the pivotal role trust plays in shaping citizen engagement in democratic exercises. The observed trends align coherently with broader discussions on the Theory of Deliberative Democracy, which underscores the significance of informed and reasoned deliberation in democratic decision-making. Trust in political leaders becomes a foundational element in fostering the conditions necessary for meaningful deliberation. When trust is compromised, citizens may perceive the democratic process as flawed or unresponsive, contributing to a decline in their inclination to actively participate in referendums. Policy reforms, particularly those aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability in politics, emerge as potential remedies to rebuild citizens' trust and encourage their active involvement in democratic exercises. The link between trust in national politicians and citizens' engagement in referendums underscores the critical role of political institutions in

shaping the democratic landscape. Building and maintaining trust becomes imperative for sustaining a robust and participatory democratic system. So, Qvortrup's global exploration of referendums, when linked with the academic discussion presented by Milbrath and Goel (1977) in "Political participation: How and why do people get involved in politics?," offers valuable insights into the intricate relationship between trust in national politicians and citizens' participation in direct democracy. The principal-agent theory provides a theoretical anchor, explaining how lower trust can diminish the likelihood of voting in referendums. This insight, viewed through the lens of the Theory of Deliberative Democracy, highlights the broader implications of trust on the quality of democratic decision-making. As nations grapple with declining referendum turnouts, understanding and addressing the trust deficit in political institutions become essential steps toward fostering a more vibrant and participatory democratic culture (Milbrath and Goel, 1977).

The importance of trust in political leaders cannot be emphasized in today's world. Without trust in our elected leaders, it will be difficult for residents to engage in the democratic system and communicate with their government. According to Amazeen (2020), one of the major challenges confronting democracies today is the development of misleading statistics. This emphasizes the importance of citizens trusting their political leaders to inform them of facts and make decisions in their best interests. According to Ananny (2018), newshounds play an essential role in selling openness and accountability in government, but they require assistance from policymakers to accomplish their work properly. This is especially true in today's networked world, where info may move quickly and easily. Policymakers must support the creation of strong networks of media organizations, as well as promote transparency and accountability in government, to build a public right to pay attention. The importance of accepting as true among political leaders in the democratic system cannot be emphasized. Trust is essential for establishing a strong bond between residents and their government, as well as for maintaining a healthy and functional democracy. As we continue to face new difficulties in our global political landscape, it is critical that we seek to create and maintain trust in our political leaders (Mross, 2022).

According to Bugajski (2020), one factor that could contribute to a fall in trust in national politicians is corruption. When politicians are considered to be corrupt or involved in unethical acts, the general public loses faith in their ability to lead successfully. Furthermore, Charfeddine and Mrabet (2017) argue that monetary factors such as income inequality and

unemployment rates can play a role in eroding trust in politicians. If people believe that the government isn't always doing enough to address economic problems that affect them directly, it can lead to feelings of disappointment and mistrust. Another factor that may contribute to diminished trust in politicians is their perceived inability to follow through on marketing campaign promises or address crucial issues effectively. This can lead to a sense of frustration and disappointment among some members of the public, which can contribute to lower levels of trust in politicians and the democratic process. On the other hand, there are several factors that can promote political acceptance. According to a study conducted by Campagna and Torresi (2017), effective communication can boost trust in politicians because people who believe politicians are transparent and sincere are more likely to trust them. Similarly, Chiang and Knight (2020) discovered that politicians who demonstrate proficiency and knowledge of their profession are considerably more likely to be relied on by the public. Furthermore, a study conducted by Moene and Wallerstein (2001) discovered that a high level of social cohesion and a sense of belonging to a community can improve political agreement. Overall, there are various issues that might contribute to a drop in trust in national officials, such as corruption, economic problems, and a failure to follow through on pledges. However, effective communication, competence, and a sense of social togetherness can boost political acceptance. In the context of referendums, low trust in politicians can undermine the legitimacy of the process, resulting in lower voter turnout. As a result, it's much critical to address components that may reduce belief in politicians and promote those that may increase it, in order to encourage democratic engagement and a strong sense of community involvement. One potential effect of low acceptability among politicians in the context of referendums is that it can weaken the procedure's validity. When people do not believe politicians or the political method, they are less likely to participate in referendums, which can result in a skewed or unrepresentative outcome. Furthermore, low levels of belief might foster a sense of cynicism and apathy toward the political process, which can reduce democratic engagement. This is especially concerning because referendums frequently deal with important and sensitive subjects that necessitate a high level of public engagement in order to assure honest and legitimate final outcomes. To address this issue, there are various viable strategies for strengthening political agreement and voter turnout in referendums. Politicians, for example, should seek to promote public discourse by being open and honest about their objectives and actions. Furthermore, they may prioritize addressing economic issues and following through on marketing campaign promises in order to build trust and confidence. Politicians can also demonstrate their expertise and knowledge of their field, which can boost self-assurance and

belief in their ability to steer effectively. Finally, building a sense of social harmony and network involvement can boost political trust, because people who feel connected to their network are more likely to believe their leaders. By selling these solutions, politicians and policymakers can seek to promote acceptance within the political process and market democratic engagement, mostly through referendums.

The public's faith in its leaders at the national level is critical to the successful operation of any democracy. Citizens have a greater propensity to engage in political involvement, such as voting and political action, when they have confidence in the political leaders who represent them. However, faith in national politicians can be affected by a variety of causes, which can lead to a decrease in democratic participation. Apple (2014) claims that the conservative goal of many political leaders is one factor that can contribute to a decrease in public trust in politicians. It is his contention that the conservative political ideology places an emphasis on individuality and a belief in a smaller government, both of which can lead to policies that are detrimental to the well-being of the populace. Citizens may conclude that their political leaders are untrustworthy and not looking out for their best interests as a direct consequence of this. According to Bennett et al. (2018), technology has the potential to alter people's trust in national leaders. Technology has allowed for an improvement in the democratic interface that exists between citizens and their political leaders, and as a result, citizens are now more aware of the activities taken by their leaders. This increased visibility can lead to disappointment among citizens if they believe that their political leaders are corrupt or are not operating in the best interest of the public. Alterations in society can also have an effect on people's trust in political leaders. There has been a growth in the number of populist movements in recent years, which frequently pose a challenge to the status quo and the political establishment. A mistrust of established politicians can have a negative impact on democratic participation, which can be caused by populism. Overall, a lack of faith in national politicians can be caused by a number of different circumstances, and this can result in a reduction in participation in democratic processes. It is vital for political leaders to act in the best interest of their population and to convey their activities effectively. It is also essential for political leaders to act in the best interest of their citizens. They can contribute to the improvement of trust in politicians and, as a result, ultimately promote democratic participation if they do so. Additionally, cultural influences can have a role in determining the degree to which one trusts national officials. For instance, it is more commonplace in some cultures to anticipate that political leaders will act corruptly. This expectation can lead individuals to be more inclined to distrust their leaders and

be less likely to participate in democratic processes. Additionally, this expectation can cause citizens to be less likely to trust their government. According to the findings of several studies, openness can also improve trust in political leaders. When citizens are privy to information on the deeds and choices made by their leaders, they are more likely to put their faith in those leaders. In addition, measures of accountability, like as free and fair elections, can help to ensure that politicians behave in the best interests of their constituents and can also serve to increase trust in politicians. In order to address the diminishing levels of democratic participation, it is essential to get an understanding of the elements that influence trust in national officials. When there is a lack of trust, citizens may have feelings of disillusionment and disengagement from the political process, which can lead to a lack of legitimacy in referendums and other democratic procedures. For this reason, political leaders are obligated to take steps to enhance openness and accountability, effectively communicate their activities, and operate in a manner that is in the best interest of their constituents. When this is done, it can assist to restore people's faith in national politicians and encourage a higher participation rate among voters in referendums. Additionally, trust in politicians can be affected by how they are portrayed on social media. Even though the usage of social media has the potential to boost political participation, it also has the capability of being exploited for the dissemination of propaganda and misleading information, which can lead to a reduction in confidence. In order to avoid these kinds of negative effects, political leaders absolutely have to make sure that they are communicating precisely and efficiently through social media. According to the findings of certain studies, one's level of trust in political leaders can also be affected by characteristics such as one's level of education and personal experience. People who have had poor interactions with politicians or who have had negative experiences with government services may be less likely to trust politicians. Another example is people who have had negative experiences with government services. In a similar vein, people with higher levels of education may have a greater propensity to mistrust politicians who are unable to properly communicate with them or who do not act in their best interests. There is a direct correlation between low levels of trust in national politicians and substantial problems with the legitimacy of referendums. A lack of trust can lead to a lack of confidence in the referendum process, which can result in citizens considering the process as being either illegitimate or prejudiced. This, in turn, can lead to a decline in voter turnout, which further erodes the legitimacy of the process as a whole. It is essential to address the fundamental problems of mistrust in national leaders and make certain that citizens have faith in the democratic process if we want to make improvements to the legitimacy of referendums. Increasing openness and accountability,

boosting communication between politicians and public, and promoting education about the political process are all potential measures that could improve people's faith in national politicians and lead to an increase in the number of people who participate in referendums. It is also vital to address the underlying issues that contribute to poor trust, such as political ideology, cultural changes, and personal experiences. This is because these elements all have a role in the problem. By acting in this manner, political leaders can contribute to the reestablishment of trust in national politicians and the expansion of democratic participation. In the end, this could result in a democratic process that is both more legitimate and effective. This could include referendums (Hans, 2013).

According to Berman and Snegovaya (2019), low trust in political leaders is often accompanied by the rise of populism, which can lead to a decline in support for traditional democratic institutions. When voters do not trust their politicians to represent their interests, they may be more likely to support radical or extremist candidates who promise to shake up the system. In the context of referendums, this lack of trust can undermine the legitimacy of the entire process. Citrin (2018) notes that direct democracy can only be successful when there is a sense of popular control over government decisions. If voters do not believe that their representatives are acting in good faith or are susceptible to corruption or outside influence, they may be hesitant to participate in the referendum process. Furthermore, low trust in national politicians can lead to polarization and mistrust between different groups in society. Berman and Snegovaya (2019) argue that populist movements often seek to mobilize voters by appealing to narrow interests and demonizing other groups, leading to a fracturing of democratic norms and a breakdown in trust between citizens. Overall, the consequences of low trust in national politicians on the legitimacy of referendums are significant. Without a strong sense of trust in the democratic process, voters may be less likely to participate, leading to skewed results and a lack of popular support for important decisions. To ensure that referendums are seen as legitimate and binding, it is crucial to build trust in political leaders and institutions at all levels of government. One possible solution for improving trust in political leaders and increasing voter turnout in referendums is to promote transparency and accountability in government decision-making. When citizens feel that their voices are heard and their concerns are taken seriously, they are more likely to trust their representatives and participate in the democratic process. This can be achieved through mechanisms such as open data policies, public consultations, and citizen participation initiatives. Another approach is to promote civics education and media literacy, helping citizens to better understand how their

government works and how they can make their voices heard. Ultimately, trust in political leaders is crucial for a healthy democracy, and the consequences of low trust in referendums are significant. By understanding the factors that contribute to low trust and working to address them, we can help ensure that referendums are seen as legitimate and binding expressions of the popular will. It is up to all of us to take action to build trust in our political leaders and institutions, and to promote the democratic values that are essential to our shared future. To promote trust in political leaders, it is also important to address the issue of corruption. According to Luhiste and Berglund (2020), corruption is a major contributor to the decline in trust in political leaders. When citizens perceive their leaders as being corrupt, they are less likely to believe that their interests are being represented and are more likely to disengage from the democratic process. Therefore, promoting transparency and accountability in government decision-making and cracking down on corruption can help to restore trust in political leaders and institutions. Furthermore, promoting diversity and inclusion in political leadership can also contribute to higher levels of trust. Research has shown that diverse representation in government can help to increase trust in political institutions and improve the quality of decision-making (Gueorguieva & Percy, 2020). By promoting diversity in political leadership and ensuring that all voices are heard, governments can build trust among citizens and strengthen the legitimacy of the democratic process (Altman, 2019).

One possible solution for improving trust in national politicians is through the media's role in shaping political discourse. According to De Albuquerque (2019), the media plays a crucial role in democratic processes, as it can either uphold democratic values or contribute to political polarization and disinformation. By promoting ethical and impartial journalism, media outlets can foster informed civic engagement and promote trust in political leaders. Another solution is through civic education and political literacy programs, as outlined by Dewey (2015). These programs can provide citizens with the necessary tools to critically evaluate political discourse, understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and engage in political processes with greater confidence. Such programs can be implemented in schools and community organizations to ensure a broad reach. Moreover, measures that increase political transparency and accountability can also contribute to increasing trust in national politicians. For example, governments can introduce measures to disclose political donations, lobby groups, and conflicts of interest. This would improve the transparency of political decision-making and foster trust in the system. Furthermore, increasing opportunities for citizen participation in political processes can also contribute to improving trust in national politicians.

By providing opportunities for citizens to directly engage with their elected officials, such as through public consultations and town hall meetings, politicians can demonstrate their responsiveness to the concerns of their constituents. This can foster a sense of political efficacy among citizens, and in turn, increase their trust in the political system. Additionally, measures that increase diversity and representation in politics can also contribute to improving trust in national politicians. By ensuring that political leaders reflect the diversity of their communities, citizens may be more likely to trust that their interests are being represented in political decision-making processes (Acemoglu, Johnson, Robinson, & Yared, 2014).

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter will explain the research methodology of a thesis studying human participation in direct democracy through a comparison of the Italian referendum method with direct democracy practices in the United Kingdom and Canada. In this chapter, the research approach for the study is elucidated, focusing on the philosophy, research approach, methodological choice and research strategy. The structure of this chapter follows the framework outlined by Saunders et al. (2009).

In the pursuit of unraveling the intricate dynamics of citizen engagement in referendums and direct democracy across Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada, this chapter details the methodological framework, data sources, and the ensuing descriptive analyses. A blend of quantitative and qualitative approaches is employed to afford a comprehensive exploration of historical contexts, legal structures, and the multifaceted factors influencing citizen participation. The methodology encompasses a mixed-methods design, a deliberate choice to capture the complexity inherent in understanding the levels of involvement in direct democratic processes. This approach allows for a nuanced examination of historical trajectories, legal frameworks, and the intricate interplay of quantitative patterns and qualitative narratives shaping citizen engagement. Data collection is a pivotal aspect of this research, serving as the bedrock for the subsequent analyses. Quantitative data are drawn from official electoral records, statistical reports, and demographic databases, spanning several decades. This longitudinal perspective is instrumental in discerning trends and variations in voter engagement over time. The qualitative facet involves an extensive review of campaign materials and media coverage surrounding specific referendums, aiming to extract insights into the strategies employed and the narratives that influence public opinion (Pan, Gruber & Binder, 2019).

The case selection of Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada is rooted in the desire to encompass diverse experiences of direct democracy. These countries are chosen based on their distinct historical significance, legal frameworks, and socio-political contexts. Each nation presents a unique canvas of challenges and opportunities for citizen engagement, contributing to the depth and richness of the comparative analysis.

Description of the Data:

Italy:

The Italian dataset, covering referendums on constitutional reforms, European Union membership, and other pivotal issues, offers a panoramic view of the country's democratic journey. Historical records provide insights into the evolution of direct democracy in Italy, capturing shifts in political landscapes and societal attitudes. The legal framework analysis delves into Italy's constitutional and legislative context, shaping the rules of engagement for citizens. Quantitative analysis scrutinizes voter turnout rates, demographic profiles, and regional variations, providing a quantitative lens to understand the levels of involvement. Complementing this, qualitative analysis involves a content analysis of campaign materials and media discourse, shedding light on the strategies employed by proponents and opponents.

United Kingdom:

The UK dataset, including referendums on EU membership, devolution, and other transformative issues, offers a lens into the evolution of direct democracy within the British political landscape. The legal framework governing referendums in the UK is examined, focusing on constitutional implications and the regulatory environment. Quantitative analysis parallels that of Italy, encompassing voter turnout rates, demographic patterns, and regional disparities. Qualitative analysis, on the other hand, unravels the narratives and discourses embedded in campaign materials and media discourse that have shaped public perceptions during referendums.

Canada:

Canada's dataset, focusing on referendums related to constitutional changes and regional autonomy, traces the country's experiences with direct democracy. The legal framework analysis delves into Canada's federal structure and its implications for citizen participation. Quantitative analysis, similar to Italy and the UK, scrutinizes voter turnout rates, demographic dynamics, and regional variations. Qualitative analysis involves the content analysis of campaign materials and media coverage, providing qualitative insights into the strategies employed and the narratives framing public discourse during referendums in Canada (Mangum, & Block 2018).

Justification for Case Selection: Italy, UK, and Canada:

Focus on Italy:

The choice to focus on the Italian referendum of 2016 is driven by several compelling reasons. Italy's political landscape is distinguished by its frequent use of referendums, making it an ideal setting for studying direct democracy in action. The 2016 referendum was particularly noteworthy as it proposed extensive constitutional reforms aimed at reducing the size of the Senate and streamlining the legislative process. The stakes were high, as the proposed changes would have significantly altered the structure of Italian governance. The referendum mobilized a wide spectrum of voters and generated intense public debate, providing a rich dataset for examining the myriad factors that influence voting behavior.

Italy's historical context and unique political culture offer valuable insights into how institutional and social dynamics shape voter decisions. The 2016 referendum, marked by its high stakes and polarized opinions, serves as an excellent case for analyzing the interplay of rational calculations, social identities, psychological consistencies, mobilization efforts, and deliberative processes. These elements collectively influence voter behavior, making Italy's referendum a comprehensive case study for understanding direct democracy.

Comparison with the UK and Canada:

The decision to compare Italy with the UK and Canada is intended to enhance the analytical depth of the study by introducing a comparative perspective. The UK has a significant history of referendums, with the 2016 Brexit referendum being a particularly prominent example. The Brexit vote, similar to the Italian referendum, was highly contentious and involved complex considerations of national identity, economic implications, and political sovereignty. Comparing the Italian referendum with the Brexit referendum allows for an exploration of how similar theoretical frameworks operate in different political and cultural contexts. This comparison highlights how national identity and economic concerns can differently shape voter behavior in direct democratic processes.

Canada, although less frequent in its use of referendums, provides a contrasting political culture and approach to direct democracy. The 1995 Quebec independence referendum is a key example, showcasing issues of regional identity and sovereignty. Comparing this with Italy's and the UK's referendums enables a broader understanding of how different democratic

societies address and respond to issues of national significance through direct voting. Canada's unique political dynamics, including its federal structure and the role of provincial autonomy, add another layer of complexity to the analysis.

Broader Implications

By examining Italy alongside the UK and Canada, this study aims to identify both universal and context-specific factors that influence referendum outcomes. This comparative approach enriches the theoretical understanding of voting behavior in referendums by providing insights into how different political, social, and cultural contexts affect voter decisions. It also offers practical implications for policymakers and political strategists, highlighting strategies for engaging citizens and shaping public opinion in various democratic settings.

This comparative analysis underscores the interplay between local political culture and universal democratic principles, providing a comprehensive view of the dynamics of direct democracy. By understanding these dynamics, we can better appreciate how direct democratic processes can be designed and implemented to reflect the will of the people more accurately and effectively. The findings from this study could inform future referendums, helping to foster more informed and engaged electorates and more robust democratic processes across different countries.

Descriptive Analyses:

Voter Turnout:

Quantitative analyses across Italy, the UK, and Canada focus on voter turnout rates, exploring trends over time and variations across different referendums. Comparative analyses aim to identify commonalities and disparities in levels of citizen involvement, offering insights into the factors influencing turnout.

Demographic Patterns

Demographic analyses examine the profiles of referendum participants, including age, gender, education, and socio-economic factors. Understanding the demographic dimensions of involvement contributes to a nuanced understanding of the diversity within the participating electorate. This analysis seeks to uncover patterns and variations in the composition of participants across different referendums.

Regional Variations:

Regional analyses assess variations in voter turnout and engagement across different geographical areas within each country. This allows for insights into the impact of regional dynamics on direct democratic practices. Understanding regional variations provides a contextual lens to interpret the broader trends in citizen engagement.

Content Analysis of Campaign Materials and Media Discourse

Qualitative analyses involve the systematic examination of campaign materials, including advertisements, pamphlets, and official documents. The goal is to identify themes, strategies, and framing techniques employed by campaign stakeholders to influence public opinion. Media discourse analysis extends qualitative insights to news articles, editorials, and public discussions, uncovering the ways in which media narratives shape public perceptions and contribute to the levels of citizen engagement.

Rationale for Case Selection:

The choice of Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada as case studies is justified by the diversity in legal frameworks, the variety of issues covered, the contrasting political cultures, and the global significance of their impact on regional and international dynamics. This diversity enriches the comparative analysis, providing a holistic understanding of citizen engagement in referendums.

In summary, the methodology, data description, and descriptive analyses outlined in this chapter establish the foundation for unraveling the levels of involvement in referendums and direct democracy within the three case studies. The combined use of quantitative and qualitative approaches aims to provide a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of citizen engagement in these democratic processes. Subsequent chapters will delve into the findings, interpretations, and implications derived from this methodological approach (Van De Mieroop, 2015).

3.1. Philosophy of Research:

The study philosophy is an essential component of any study challenge because it serves as the inspiration for the examination. The philosophy of studies is the belief about how knowledge is gathered, evaluated, and understood. In this thesis, the studies philosophy, so positivism can be applied. Positivism is a clinically based studies philosophy. It is based on the

belief that there is an objective truth that can be discovered, measured, and examined using quantitative methods. The goal of this philosophy study is to find causal correlations between variables and to test hypotheses (Avenier & Thomas, 2015).

Other studies philosophies considered for this thesis include critical realism, interpretivist, pragmatism, and postmodernism. Critical realism is a philosophy that holds that reality is not objective but rather subjective, and that it is influenced by social and cultural settings. The philosophy of interpretivist stresses the subjective interpretation of human behaviour and experience. Pragmatism is a philosophy that maintains that truth is most valuable when it is sensible and practicable. Postmodernism is a philosophical movement that denies the concept of objective fact and truth, instead understanding information as a social construct.

In this thesis, positivism was chosen since it is the best philosophy to examine people's participation in direct democracy. Because of the goal-oriented nature of this philosophy, the researcher will be able to use quantitative statistics to test hypotheses and identify causal links between variables. The purpose of the study is to compare the outcomes of the Italian referendum with those of the United Kingdom and Canada, and a positivist philosophy is perfectly appropriate to achieve this goal (Turyahikayo, 2021).

3.2. Research approach:

Inductive research methodology begins with specific observations or records and then generates general concepts or factors based entirely on those records. This method is used by the researcher to collect and analyse statistics, become aware of trends or changes, and then form broader conclusions or thoughts. Inductive reasoning advances from specific examples to broad concepts. The deductive approach is a research strategy that begins with a broad notion or hypothesis and then evaluates it through data collection and analysis. The researcher begins with an idea or hypothesis and then derives distinct predictions or expectations from it. These predictions are then tested using empirical evidence to confirm or deny the concept. Deductive reasoning applies fundamental concepts to specific situations (Eisenhardt, Graebner, & Sonenshein, 2016).

In the examine methods bankruptcy of the dissertation named "People Engagement in Direct Democracy: Comparison of Italian Referendum with UK and Canada," the researcher employed a deductive strategy. The deductive technique begins with a broad idea or hypothesis that is observed through a sequence of facts and evaluation to test or verify the concept. On

this thesis, the deductive technique was chosen to give a prepared and systematic study of the issue. The researcher attempted to investigate these ideas through the examination of actual statistics, beginning with a theoretical framework and specific hypotheses. This strategy allowed for a more focused assessment of the study's problem as well as comparisons of human participation in direct democracy in Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Using the deductive method enabled the researcher to develop a clear research plan and technique to meet the study's objectives. The researcher began by reading current literature on direct democracy, popular participation, and the specific conditions of the Italian referendum, the United Kingdom, and Canada. This theoretical framework has served as the foundation for the development of specific hypotheses and research issues. The researcher employed the deductive technique to ensure a logical and systematic progression of the research, which was consistent with the nature of the study and the goal of analysing and contrasting the three countries in terms of public participation in direct democracy. This strategy improved the rigor and credibility of the research findings by allowing for a more thorough examination of the topic and keeping relevant comparisons between the examples under consideration (Zeng, Zhou, Srivastava, Kannan, & Prasanna, 2019).

3.3. Methodological choice:

Both quantitative and qualitative techniques were used in the dissertation chapter. Quantitative research entails the collection and analysis of numerical statistics, as well as the application of statistical tools, in order to find patterns, correlations, and trends. However, qualitative research focuses on accumulating non-numerical records, such as interviews, observations, and textual analysis, in order to gain a better understanding of the participants' perspectives, stories, and situations.

Advantages of quantitative research:

Generalizability: Quantitative research enables findings to be generalized to a larger population. Statistical analysis can be used to draw conclusions about the larger population by collecting data from a representative sample.

Objectivity and replicability: Quantitative data collection approaches, such as surveys or experiments, provide a controlled and consistent method, reducing bias and boosting the potential for replication by other researchers.

Statistical analysis: Quantitative data can be statistically analysed to identify patterns, relationships, and trends. This allows for unique measurements and the exploration of cause-and-effect relationships.

Disadvantages of Quantitative research:

Lack of context and depth: Because quantitative studies are frequently focused on numerical data, they may be limited in their ability to represent the complexity and diversity of human studies and social methods. It may overlook significant contextual factors that have an impact on the research subject.

Limited flexibility: Because quantitative research relies on pre-defined variables and measures, it may limit the detection of emergent or unexpected phenomena. The rigid structure may be unable to accommodate the individual critiques and nuances of the study participants.

Measurement bias: The practice of measuring facts has the potential to oversimplify or misrepresent complex standards or events. The selection and placement of measurement equipment could introduce biases, affecting the accuracy and validity of the results (Landrum & Garza, 2015).

Advantages of Qualitative research:

Rich and in-depth knowledge: Qualitative research approaches allow for the examination of members' viewpoints, studies, and interpretations of their actions. It provides an in-depth and thorough understanding of the research problem.

Flexibility and adaptability: Qualitative research is adaptive and flexible, allowing the researcher to adjust the study approach and questions based entirely on fresh discoveries. It enables the investigation of complex and dynamic phenomena.

Understanding social tactics in context: Qualitative research highlights the importance of context in understanding social tactics. It considers the social, cultural, and ancient components that influence people and their interactions, resulting in a greater knowledge of the subject topic.

Challenges of qualitative research:

Subjectivity and researcher bias: Qualitative research is influenced by the researcher's judgments and biases. The researcher's presence and engagement with persons can also have an impact on the information gathering and analysis process, introducing subjectivity.

Limited generalizability: Qualitative research is frequently focused on specific events and a small number of people. While it provides significant insights, the findings may be difficult to generalize to a much larger population or various scenarios.

Time-consuming: In qualitative investigations, time and resources are necessary for data collection, transcription, and analysis. In-depth analysis of textual or visible statistics may be time-consuming, limiting the scope of the probe.

This study used both quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a complete picture of people's participation in direct democracy. The combination of these approaches enabled the assessment of both numerical patterns and contextual details, resulting in a more thorough analysis and appraisal of the Italian referendum, the United Kingdom, and Canada (Jason & Glenwick, 2016).

3.4. Research strategy:

There are many research strategies some of them are given below.

Experiments: Experiments are controlled and methodical investigations conducted to gather information and test theories. In this study strategy, researchers modify variables and assess their impact on hobby outcomes. The goal is to establish causal links between variables by carefully controlling and changing the conditions under which the study is conducted. Experiments usually include the use of experimental and management corporations, randomization, and thorough statistical analysis (Ngulube, 2015).

Surveys: A survey is a method of gathering information from a group of individuals or organizations by employing a set of pre-designed questions. The purpose is to gather information about the surveyed population's attitudes, criticisms, behaviours, or features. Face-to-face interviews, smartphone interviews, internet questionnaires, and paper-based surveys are all methods for conducting surveys. The collected data is subsequently evaluated in order to find patterns, traits, or relationships within the sampled population.

Case studies: Case studies are in-depth analyses of a specific individual, institution, event, or phenomena. Researchers gather targeted data from a variety of sources, including interviews, observations, documents, and archive data, to gain a full picture of the case. Case studies provide rich qualitative statistics and are frequently used to investigate complex topics, establish ideas, or illustrate theoretical norms. They are especially beneficial when studying

unusual or specific occurrences or when a comprehensive understanding of a certain instance is required.

Ethnography: Ethnography is a research technique that requires immersing oneself in a specific way of life, network, or social structure in order to study and comprehend their actions, beliefs, and practices. Ethnographic studies typically require extended engagement and direct observation in the field, in addition to interviews, document examination, and participation in the daily lives of the research subjects. The objective is to grasp the subjective studies and cultural meanings of the people being examined. Ethnographies are extensively utilized in anthropology, sociology, and qualitative studies because they contain rich, context-specific data.

Grounded theory: Grounded theories are an inductive research strategy that specializes in creating ideas or motives directly from data rather than starting with pre-existing theories or hypotheses. Researchers gather facts using a variety of methods, including interviews, observations, and file analysis, and then evaluate the data methodically to find styles, categories, and links. Theories evolve from continuous and iterative examination, which may be supported by data. Grounded concept aspires to broaden one's understanding of social phenomena and offer new theoretical insights (Talpin, 2017).

Action research: Action research is a study method that aims to solve practical problems or improve specific conditions through collaboration between researchers and practitioners. The research system consists of cycles of problem identification, planning, movement implementation, and assessment. Action studies stress the active participation of stakeholders, such as educators, community members, or organizational members, in framing research questions, designing interventions, and enforcing changes. The goal is to develop actionable knowledge and facilitate effective exchange in real-world international contexts.

Archive studies: archive studies are the systematic examination and study of historic records, files, and statistics from archive sources. Researchers gain access to and evaluate primary and secondary materials, such as letters, diaries, reliable files, photos, or newspapers, in order to investigate specific research issues or historical events. Archival studies provide insights into prior social, cultural, or historical contexts and can be used to reconstruct tales, investigate trends, or find long-term patterns. It necessitates thorough interpretation and critical evaluation of the available supply. Surveys were used as the research method for this thesis since the goal was to investigate people's participation in direct democracy in various countries. Using pre-

designed questionnaires, data was obtained from participants from Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada. The surveys were performed online, and contributors were solicited using social media and online message boards. The survey questions were aimed to assess participants' level of engagement in the direct democracy process in their individual countries, including their knowledge of the approach, participation in referendums, and views about direct democracy (Vizcarguenaga-Aguirre & López-Robles, 2020).

3.5. Data collection:

The participants in the study were adults aged 18 and above from Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada. The research instrument employed was a self-administered online questionnaire. Participants were recruited using social media and online forums, and they were required to complete the survey voluntarily. The questionnaire included both closed and open-ended questions in order to capture both quantitative and qualitative data. The closed-ended questions were designed to collect statistics on participants' demographic information as well as their opinions on the direct democracy device. The open-ended questions were designed to allow authors to express their thoughts on their own phrases, which were then qualitatively analyzed. In addition to the online questionnaire, interviews with persons were conducted. The purpose of these interviews was to gain in-depth information on their studies and reviews of the direct democracy technology. The interviews were conducted in either man or woman, and they were recorded and transcribed for future analysis (Samuelsson, 2019).

3.6. Data Analysis:

The survey data was examined using both descriptive and inferential records. Inferential data were used to test hypotheses and establish correlations between variables, whereas descriptive statistics were used to report the facts. The data was analyzed with SPSS software, and the results were presented in tables, graphs, and charts. Furthermore, qualitative data from interviews were evaluated using theme analysis. This technique enabled the researcher to uncover and examine patterns, themes, and categories within the statistics, resulting in a more in-depth understanding of the participants' perspectives and reviews. The interviews were transcribed and analyzed using software, which aided in the identification and categorization of themes and patterns. The findings from the interviews were combined with survey data to provide a thorough understanding of people's participation in direct democracy in Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Furthermore, the researcher employed a comparative approach to examine and assess data from the three countries. This method

entailed identifying similarities and differences within the styles, qualities, and subjects that emerged from the data and used them to draw conclusions about the factors that influence humans' participation in direct democracy. The comparative technique enabled the researcher to identify specific contextual characteristics that influence the success of direct democracy in each country. As a result, the information analysis phase of the research process became critical in giving relevant insights regarding humans' engagement in direct democracy in Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Using a mixed-methods approach and a comparative mind-set, the researcher was able to get a more nuanced understanding of the complexities and nuances of direct democracy and contribute to the educational discourse on the topic. However, there were certain limitations to the statistical analysis technique, which will be explored in the following phase (Scheepers & Derks, 2016).

A well-designed questionnaire was utilized to collect statistics on respondents' critiques, behaviours, and attitudes towards direct democracy and people' roles in political decision-making. The questionnaire is designed to provide the most accurate and reliable information possible. It covers themes such as political system information, frequency of engagement in direct democracy, attitudes toward direct democracy, reasons for not participating, and the influence of direct democracy on society. The questions have been designed to be self-contained and easy to grasp to ensure the validity of the questionnaire, it has undergone extensive testing, including a pilot examination to identify any potential issues that could affect the accuracy of the responses. This method eliminated any bias that could arise within the questionnaire, resulting in an effective instrument for data collection. Overall, the questionnaire is the ideal tool for gathering information from a large range of responders in a cost-effective and environmentally friendly manner. It is a very versatile and flexible research gadget that can be quickly tailored to individual study issues and employed in a variety of scenarios (Scheepers & Ellemers, 2019).

3.7. Sampling:

Sampling is the process of selecting a group of people from a larger population to take part in a test or survey. There are two types of sampling: opportunity sampling and non-opportunity sampling. Probability sampling is the process of picking members from a population at random. This method ensures that every man or woman in the population has the same chance of being chosen for the study. This sampling strategy is commonly employed in quantitative research that requires a large number of participants. For this thesis, members will

be chosen at random from the populations of the United Kingdom, Italy, and Canada. Non-opportunity sampling, on the other hand, comprises selecting contributors solely based on subjective factors. This sort of sampling is typically used in qualitative research that require a limited number of people. Non-probability sampling will be employed for this thesis to select people who have previously participated in a direct democracy event in their respective countries (Sciarini, Cappelletti, Goldberg, & Lanz, 2016).

The use of both probability and non-chance sampling in this thesis is to ensure that a diverse group of persons is chosen for the examination. The study used chance sampling to cover a consultant pattern from the general community of each United States of America. While using non-chance sampling, the study protected those who have actual experience participating in direct democracy events. Overall, the combination of possibility and non-possibility sampling will help ensure that the thesis' findings are both representative and meaningful (Seering, Ng, Yao, & Kaufman, 2018).

3.8. Ethical Considerations:

When carrying out any kind of research, it is absolutely necessary to keep in mind the moral principles and standards that should be used. This is of the utmost significance when engaging with people, as is the case with the subject of this student's thesis, which is titled "People Engagement in Direct Democracy: Evaluation of an Italian Referendum in Comparison to the United Kingdom and Canada." To get started, all of the people who are going to be a part of the study have to give their informed consent. As a consequence of this, they should be provided with all of the necessary information on the examination, such as its reason for being, its anticipated duration, any potential dangers and advantages, and their rights as members of the organization. They are obligated to take advantage of the chance to ask questions and then deliberate carefully on whether or not to join in the activity. In addition, confidentiality and discretion must be maintained during the entire research process. The use of any private records obtained from individuals must be kept a secret and may only be done so for the purposes of research in accordance with this approach. Any statistics that could be used to identify a player, such as their name or contact information, should be stored safely and never disclosed to a third party without first receiving permission from that player (Talarico, 2022). Another issue that raises ethical questions is the potential impact that the research could have on the participants and on society as a whole. It is possible that there is a political influence that needs to be taken into consideration because the topic at hand concerns direct democracy

and the engagement of the people. As a consequence of this, it is of the utmost importance to ensure that the research is carried out in a manner that does not put any persons or businesses in a position of disadvantage, and that any potential conflicts of interest are correctly reported and addressed. In conclusion, it is extremely important to identify any finances or help obtained for the research, as well as any conflicts of interest that may exist. This helps to protect the system's integrity while also ensuring that there is no lack of transparency. In general, moral considerations are extremely important in order to guarantee that research is conducted properly and with due regard. By adhering to moral conceptions and standards, researchers can make certain that the findings of their study are truthful, valid, and socially accountable (Smith, 2018).

3.9. Limitations:

As is the case with any other study, this thesis on the evaluation of people's participation in direct democracy in Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada does have some limitations. The small number of participants in the study presents a problem. It was not possible to collect data from a bigger sample due to limited time and resources, which prevented this from happening. Because of this, it is possible that the findings cannot be generalized to a more extensive population (Svensson, 2017). In addition, the scope of the investigation is limited because it is only focused on three countries. As a direct consequence of this, the conclusions could not be relevant in various nations or regions. The reliance on self-filing methods is another barrier that must be overcome. The information that was used in this study was collected through the use of surveys and questionnaires, both of which have the potential to be biased and vulnerable to individual interpretation. It's possible that respondents gave answers that were more reflective of what they thought would be socially acceptable than of their own thoughts or routines. In addition, the data that is collected won't be able to adequately reflect the complexity of human interaction in direct democracy. In addition, the methodologies that were used to analyse the data might have introduced some bias into the findings of the investigation. In order to describe and characterize the data, the study made use of descriptive statistical approaches. However, these techniques may not have completely captured the correlations that were being investigated between the variables. In further research, it would be beneficial to use more sophisticated statistical methods to analyse the issues raised by the research. Last but not least, the research is limited due to the fact that it was conducted at a certain point in time; this means that the results may be affected by shifts in political structures or events that have occurred after the research was conducted (Suteu, 2015).

3.10. Selection Of Independent Variables

Some key factors that influence direct democracy are selected as independent variable. Education is the first factor that can have an effect on direct democracy. Education is absolutely necessary for advancing human rights, civic engagement, tolerance, socioeconomic mobility, transparency, participation, and innovation. The second factor is political factors, which include democratic values and norms, trust in democratic institutions, attitudes toward political dissent and variety, support for human rights, political participation and engagement, national identification and team spirit, democracy and authoritarianism, and cultural and spiritual diversity. The third aspect is economic development, which can have impacts that are either favourable or detrimental on direct democracy. It involves increasing economic equality, higher civic involvement, increased resources for political parties, increased political competitiveness, and expanded access to information, increased social cohesion, enhanced public confidence, and more stable democratic institutions. Freedom of the media is the fourth factor, and it is absolutely necessary for the promotion of direct democracy because it gives citizens access to information, holds politicians accountable, encourages citizen participation, promotes diversity and inclusion, fosters critical questioning, enables public debate, enhances transparency, confers power to residents, and safeguards human rights. The fifth component is political parties, which play an essential part in direct democracy through activities such as promoting the party's stance, campaigning, mobilizing voters, lobbying, forming alliances, possessing expertise, educating voters, and candidate recruiting. Finally, the sixth factor is international support, which can play an important part in the promotion of direct democracy by providing aid for worldwide improvement and other countries, initiatives and programs that foster democratic participation, training and capacity building, treaties and agreements reached on a bilateral and multilateral scale, observation of the election, diplomatic pressure, sanctions, threats of pressure, the involvement of the army, and support from those in the military.

Work of other authors:

Educating the public about the value of direct democracy is something that has been addressed by a number of authors. Hans (2013) claims that an educated people is essential to the operation of a democratic government, but Howard (2019) suggests that training can stimulate civic engagement and improve democratic participation. Both of these claims are supported by the evidence. Direct democracy can be significantly influenced by political factors such as democratic values and norms, trust in democratic institutions, attitudes towards

political dissent and variety, support for human rights, political participation and engagement, national identity and crew spirit, democracy, and authoritarianism, as well as cultural and religious diversity. While King and Boyatt (2015) highlight the role of democratic principles and norms in forming citizens' attitudes towards democracy, Lee et al. (2013) suggest that political involvement and participation are key components for the successful functioning of a democracy. King and Boyatt (2015) also underline the significance of democratic principles and norms in creating citizens' attitudes towards democracy.

The connection between economic growth and direct democracy is a nuanced and intricate one, involving multiple dimensions. Apple (2014) conducted research to see whether or not there is a connection between democratic governance and economic expansion. The positive effects of economic growth include increased financial equality, accelerated civic engagement, increased resources for political parties, increased political opposition, and increased access to records, increased social brotherhood, increased public trust, and more stable democratic institutions. Economic growth can also lead to increased access to records, increased social brotherhood, increased public trust, and increased political opposition. However, economic progress can also lead to unforeseen consequences, such as a decrease in political participation and engagement as well as an increase in corrupt activities. Both of these trends are likely to occur in conjunction with one another. Another essential component that can help advance direct democracy is unrestricted access to the press. According to Kahne (2017), the media plays a crucial part in the process of fostering direct democracy by providing access to information, holding politicians accountable, encouraging citizen participation, promoting diversity and inclusion, encouraging critical thinking, enabling public debate, enhancing transparency, providing citizens with more power, and defending human rights. Other elements such as political parties, support from other nations, and international development and aid programs are all examples of things that can have a substantial impact on direct democracy. According to Culp (2019), the presence of the military, capacity building, education programs, and diplomatic pressure all have the potential to change citizens' attitudes about democracy.

3.10.1. Factors that Promote Participation in Referendums:

Clear and Accessible Information is a cornerstone for promoting participation in referendums. When citizens are equipped with comprehensive and easily understandable information about the referendum question, its consequences, and potential outcomes, they are more likely to engage in the democratic process. Campaigns that disseminate clear information

through various channels, educational materials, and public forums contribute to an informed electorate, fostering a sense of civic duty and empowerment.

Perceived Relevance and Impact play a crucial role in encouraging citizens to participate. When individuals perceive the referendum issue as personally relevant and understand its direct impact on their lives or communities, their motivation to participate increases. Referendums addressing local concerns, such as infrastructure projects or community development, often garner higher participation due to their immediate and tangible implications for citizens (Weyland, 2020).

Inclusive Decision-Making Processes contribute to higher participation rates by involving citizens in the democratic process. Public input, opportunities for consultation, and inclusive planning enhance the sense of ownership citizens feel over the referendum decision. Mechanisms such as public forums and town hall meetings provide platforms for diverse voices, promoting engagement and a feeling of representation in the decision-making process.

Accessible Voting Mechanisms facilitate broader citizen engagement in referendums. Simplifying the voting process, providing options such as early voting or mail-in ballots, and ensuring convenient polling locations make participation more accessible to diverse segments of the population. Countries with user-friendly and inclusive voting systems, including online voting options, often experience increased turnout, as citizens find it easier to participate in the democratic process.

Effective Campaign Strategies are pivotal in promoting participation by presenting balanced and informative perspectives on the referendum issue. Campaigns that focus on facts, engage in respectful debates, and provide diverse viewpoints contribute to an informed and engaged electorate. A well-executed campaign that avoids polarizing tactics and emotional manipulation encourages citizens to actively participate in the democratic decision-making process (Demydova, 2021).

3.10.2. Factors that Prevent Participation in Referendums:

Lack of Information and Understanding acts as a deterrent to participation when citizens perceive a lack of clear or comprehensible information about the referendum. Complex legal language or unclear implications can lead to voter apathy, as individuals feel uninformed or overwhelmed, choosing not to participate due to a perceived lack of understanding.

Apathy and Disengagement from political processes contribute to lower participation. When citizens feel disconnected from governance or believe their participation won't make a difference, they are more likely to abstain from voting. A broader trend of disengagement from political activities may result in low voter turnout in referendums, reflecting a perceived lack of impact (Kern, 2018).

Political Polarization can discourage participation when citizens perceive the referendum as a reflection of broader partisan divides. Issues tied to contentious political debates or party lines may lead to decreased participation, as individuals may abstain to avoid aligning with a specific political group, especially in situations of intense polarization.

Perceived Lack of Impact on the outcome of the referendum can discourage participation. When citizens believe their vote will not significantly influence the results, they may choose not to participate. This perception of futility may arise in situations where the referendum is considered symbolic or when the expected margin of victory is significant.

Barriers to Accessible Voting, such as inadequate access to polling stations, restrictive voting hours, or limited voting options, act as obstacles to participation. Physical, logistical, or legal challenges that hinder citizens from casting their votes contribute to reduced engagement, particularly in regions where polling stations are sparse or transportation is challenging (Vaccari, 2017).

3.10.3. Factors that influence direct democracy:

3.10.3.1. Education

Education promotes civic engagement:

Individual participation in activities related to their community and society, such as voting, volunteering, and activism, is referred to as civic engagement. Education plays an important role in promoting civic engagement in a variety of ways. For starters, education teaches people about the importance of civic engagement and their role in it. Individuals can learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens, as well as the impact they can have on their community by being active and engaged, through education. Second, education fosters critical thinking and analytical skills, both of which are required for informed civic participation. A well-educated person is more likely to question and analyse information from various sources rather than simply believing what they are told. This enables them to make more informed choices about voting, volunteering, and other civic activities. Finally, education

encourages tolerance and diversity. Individuals can better understand and respect those who are different from them by learning about different cultures, religions, and beliefs. This is essential for a healthy democracy, where people from various backgrounds can work together to achieve common goals. Fourth, education facilitates social mobility. Individuals can gain the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their careers and contribute to their communities through education. This enables them to become more involved in society and have a greater impact on their community and country. Finally, education promotes government accountability and transparency. Individuals can learn about the workings of government and how to hold their elected officials accountable through education. This is especially true in a democracy, where citizens have the ability to vote and influence their government. Finally, education is critical for promoting civic engagement in a democracy. It assists individuals in understanding their role in society, making informed decisions, and becoming active and engaged members of their community. We can help to build a more inclusive, tolerant, and democratic society by promoting education. And, as we've seen in recent events such as the Italian referendum, comparing different democracies such as the United Kingdom and Canada can provide insight into how different policies affect the education system and how that affects a country's level of civic engagement (Acemoglu et al., 2014).

Education promotes crucial questioning:

One of the primary ways that education influences democracy is by encouraging critical thinking. By teaching people how to think critically, we are equipping them with the skills needed to evaluate facts objectively and make sound decisions. For example, when discussing the recent Italian referendum, training is critical in assisting residents in comprehending the complex issues at hand and critically examining the arguments for and against the proposed constitutional changes. A comparison of the Italian referendum with the well-known referendums in the United Kingdom and Canada demonstrates that a well-educated electorate is critical for a successful democratic method. Furthermore, education fosters critical thinking not only in the realm of politics, but in all aspects of life. From analysing clinical records to determining the credibility of sources, the ability to think critically is a skill that is in high demand in today's society. Citizens in countries such as the United Kingdom and Canada, where education is a top priority, are much more likely to have access to incredible educational resources that promote critical thinking. This, in turn, results in a more informed and engaged citizenry that is better equipped to make informed decisions in the democratic process. Invest

in training if you want to see a thriving democracy in action. Education, by encouraging critical thinking, is the key to ensuring that democracy thrives in our society (Marinescu, 2016).

Education promotes tolerance:

Tolerance among citizens is one of the most important ways in which education can influence democracy. In today's world, where social and political polarization is on the rise, education can play a critical role in promoting understanding and acceptance of diverse perspectives and cultures. A comparison of the Italian referendum to the Brexit vote in the United Kingdom and the Quebec sovereignty referendum in Canada, for example, emphasizes the importance of education in promoting tolerance. Despite a deeply divisive issue like constitutional reform, there were few reports of violence or hate speech in Italy during the referendum campaign. This can be attributed in part to Italy's strong civic education tradition, which promotes the values of pluralism, tolerance, and respect for the rule of law. The Brexit campaign in the United Kingdom and the Quebec sovereignty campaign in Canada, on the other hand, were marked by intense polarization, including instances of hate speech, racism, and xenophobia. This suggests that countries with a weak civic education tradition may be more vulnerable to social and political polarization. Education is so effective at promoting tolerance because it teaches people how to think critically, evaluate evidence and arguments, and appreciate different points of view. Education can help to break down barriers between different groups and promote a more cohesive and inclusive society in this way. To summarize, promoting tolerance through education is an essential component of a healthy democracy. Education can help to build a more inclusive and tolerant society by promoting understanding, empathy, and respect for different cultures and opinions. Citizens will be better equipped to participate in civic life and work for the common good. The comparison of the Italian referendum to the experiences of the United Kingdom and Canada demonstrates the critical role that education can play in promoting a healthy democracy.

Education promotes social mobility:

Education is a powerful tool that can promote social mobility, which means that it can provide individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds with access to greater opportunities for fulfilment and upward mobility. Individuals who receive a better education are much more likely to obtain well-paying jobs, advance in their careers, and achieve greater economic balance. The benefits of education in promoting social mobility can be seen in a variety of contexts, including a comparison of the Italian referendum with those in the United

Kingdom and Canada. Low levels of educational attainment in Italy have contributed to significant socioeconomic disparities and limited social mobility. The most recent referendum on constitutional reform highlighted these inequalities, leaving many residents dissatisfied and disconnected from the political process. On the other hand, in countries such as the United Kingdom and Canada, access to excellent education is seen as an important factor in promoting social mobility and fostering greater civic engagement. Both countries have invested heavily in education, beginning with early formative years and progressing to higher levels of social mobility and more powerful democratic institutions. Education promotes social mobility by providing individuals with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to succeed in their daily lives. Individuals benefit from training by gaining a deeper understanding of the environment around them, studying essential thinking skills, and increasing their ability to solve complex problems. This enables people to engage in meaningful civic participation and make informed decisions about their lives and the communities in which they live. Finally, training is an important component of a healthy democracy because it promotes social mobility, civic engagement, and critical thinking. People are better prepared to interact in the political process, hold leaders accountable, and work toward a more just and equitable society as a result of training. Governments can help promote greater social mobility, strengthen democratic institutions, and ensure a better future for all citizens by investing in education.

Education promotes responsibility:

Accountability is a necessary component of any democracy. Without duty, politicians can easily control and abuse their power. This is where education comes into play. It equips residents with the knowledge and skills needed to hold elected officials accountable. Consider the current Italian referendum on constitutional reform. While the referendum ultimately failed, the fact that it was held at all suggests the importance of duty in a democracy. Italian citizens had the power to choose whether or not to accept the proposed changes to their charter use. This was made possible because they had the necessary education and understanding to make an informed decision. An analysis of the Italian referendum conducted in collaboration with the United Kingdom and Canada emphasizes the importance of training in selling responsibility. The Brexit vote in the United Kingdom demonstrated a clear loss of education among certain segments of the population. Many of those who voted to leave the European Union did so primarily on the basis of false and misleading information. On the other hand, Canada's political machine is frequently cited as one of the most transparent and accountable in the world. This is due, in part, to the high level of education among its citizens. Canadians

are well-versed in their political system and the roles they play within it. They understand how to hold their elected officials accountable, and they use this power frequently. Finally, education is an important tool for promoting accountability in a democracy. It equips citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to hold elected officials accountable. By promoting education, we can ensure that our political systems remain transparent, accountable, and aware of citizens' wishes

Education promotes transparency:

One of the key elements that make democracy work is transparency. Citizens need so as to see and recognize how choices are made and who is making them. This is in which education performs an important position (Barrett & Brunton-Smith, 2014). A suitable instance of ways training promotes transparency may be seen in the comparison of the latest Italian referendum with those held in the UK and Canada. In Italy, the referendum on constitutional reform was poorly understood by using many residents, leading to a low voter turnout and confusion over the end result. This loss of transparency turned into partly due to a lack of information of the troubles at stake. In assessment, the referendums held inside the UK and Canada were both well-understood and obvious, with clean data supplied to citizens on the problems at stake. In each cases, the high degree of education a number of the voters played a key role in making sure that citizens were capable of make informed choices. Education promotes transparency by way of supporting residents understand the complexities of the political system and the way selections are made. It allows to promote open debate and encourages citizens to take part inside the democratic manner. When residents are nicely-knowledgeable, they may be much more likely to maintain their elected officials responsible, ensuring that government remains transparent and conscious of the wishes of its citizens. In conclusion, education performs a essential position in selling transparency in a democracy. By selling a knowledgeable and engaged citizens, it guarantees that government stays transparent and accountable to the human beings it serves. This is an essential pillar of democracy, and one that have to be supported and advocated at each opportunity.

Education promotes participation:

One of the maximum great ways wherein schooling can have an effect on democracy is by using selling participation. Education offers residents the gear they want to take part fully

in democratic techniques, together with vote casting, political discussions, and civic activism. In the current Italian referendum, we are able to see how education performed a function in shaping the outcome. In evaluation to the UK's Brexit vote and the Canadian elections, Italy's referendum saw a far higher voter turnout. This can be due, in element, to Italy's excessive literacy price and sturdy educational system, which inspires citizens to engage with political problems and have their voices heard. But it's now not pretty much casting a ballot. Education additionally teaches important wondering capabilities and encourages citizens to question the actions of these in electricity. It permits individuals to hold politicians responsible for their decisions and allows to prevent corruption and abuses of strength. When citizens are nicely-educated, they may be additionally more likely to guide policies that advantage society as a whole, as opposed to simply their very own pastimes. This leads to greater inclusive and effective policies that can help to reduce inequality and promote social justice. In quick, schooling performs a vital role in selling participation and democracy. By supplying residents with the know-how and skills they need to have interaction in civic existence, education allows to construct a more just and equitable society (Henn, M., & Foar, 2014).

Education promotes innovation:

Education gives people with the capabilities and know-how needed to tackle complicated troubles and find new and innovative answers. When it involves democracy, schooling can foster a subculture of innovation by means of encouraging residents to suppose critically, ask questions, and undertaking the *repute quo*. For instance, take the assessment of the Italian referendum with the United Kingdom and Canada (Selden *et al.*, 2016). The 2016 Italian referendum saw residents vote in opposition to proposed constitutional reforms, which many believed could have given too much energy to the government. In assessment, the United Kingdom's 2016 Brexit referendum and the Canadian referendum on constitutional reform in 1992 both noticed residents vote for fundamental modifications to their respective countries' political systems. Education played an essential function in these outcomes. In the UK and Canada, citizens had a higher expertise of their political systems and have been able to make informed decisions based on their own ideals and values. In Italy, however, there has been a lack of public training at the proposed constitutional reforms, leading to confusion and distrust amongst citizens. By selling vital wondering and civic engagement, training facilitates to create an informed and engaged voters this is better ready to make choices approximately the future in their united states. This, in turn, can lead to greater innovative and powerful policy answers that advantage anyone in society. Overall, schooling is a key component in promoting

innovation and progress in any democratic society. By fostering essential thinking, civic engagement, and a deep understanding of the problems at hand, education can assist to create a more knowledgeable and progressive electorate this is able to tackling the complicated demanding situations of the twenty first century. So, allow us to prioritize training and make investments within the future of our democracy (Harding, R., & Stasavage, 2014).

Education promotes human rights:

Human rights promotion is one way education can have an impact on society. Education is important in the promotion of human rights because it helps people understand their own rights as well as the rights of others. Individuals are exposed to a variety of ideas, perspectives, and experiences through education, which helps them develop empathy and respect for the dignity of all human beings (Factor & Kang, 2015). They learn about the various types of discrimination and how they can contribute to a more just and equal society. Education also promotes awareness and understanding of human rights issues such as gender equality, racial justice, and marginalized groups' rights. It contributes to the development of more informed and engaged citizens, which can help to shape policies and practices that protect and promote human rights. Furthermore, education equips individuals with the knowledge and skills to advocate for their own and others' rights. Individuals can develop the critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills required for effective activism and advocacy through education. Overall, education is an important tool for promoting human rights. Education plays a critical role in creating a more just and equitable society by providing individuals with the knowledge and skills to understand, advocate for, and promote human rights (Dewey, 2015).

3.10.3.2. Political factors:

There is no denying that democracy, with its core principle of people engagement and the potential to create a more direct democracy, is a cornerstone of modern society. However, how does political culture impact democracy? This section will shed light on how political culture can influence democracy, from the actions of political leaders to citizen engagement.

Democratic values and norms:

Democratic values and norms are the foundation of any democracy and play an important role in the formation of a democratic political culture. One example of democratic values and norms in action is the Italian referendum in December 2016 (McCombs et al., 2013).

This referendum was a vote on constitutional reform, and the results showed that a majority of Italians supported the reforms. The success of the Italian referendum has been compared to similar referendums in the United Kingdom and Canada. Despite significant future uncertainty, citizens in both countries voted to remain in the European Union. The importance of democratic values and norms in a society, such as respect for the rule of law, freedom of expression, and belief in the power of participation, was emphasized in the Italian referendum. Aside from these values, it demonstrated how citizens can collaborate to shape their own fate. This is an example of how citizens can strengthen democracy by banding together to voice their concerns about critical issues. People can work together in this way to ensure that all voices are heard and respected. This comparison of the Italian referendum to those held in other countries shows how democracies all over the world can learn from and share experiences. The Italian referendum, in particular, demonstrated the power of citizen participation in democracy. It exemplified how ordinary citizens could band together and use their voices to effect change. Furthermore, comparing Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada demonstrates how different democracies still have a lot to learn from one another's experiences. It demonstrates how, despite differences in political systems, each country's political system serves its citizens well by allowing them to participate in decision-making processes. As a result, this comparison sheds light on how political cultures affect democracies all over the world (Hess & McAvoy, 2014).

Trust in democratic institutions:

Trust in democratic establishments is an important aspect when considering the influence of political culture on democracy. This agree with comes from a comparison of the way democracies in unique international locations function. For example, when searching on the recent Italian referendum and evaluating it to those held inside the United Kingdom and Canada, it's far clean that the citizens of Italy had a whole lot less religion in their democratic institutions than their opposite numbers within the UK and Canada. This difference may be attributed to the political culture of every state. In Italy, political distrust has been a not unusual subject matter for decades. Political parties are seen as corrupt and inefficient, main to a loss of self-belief within the government and its capability to deliver significant trade. As such, residents are much more likely to interact in protests or other varieties of resistance than to take part in elections or have confidence in elected leaders. In the United Kingdom and Canada, however, the trust in democratic establishments is much better. Citizens feel that they've a say in their government's moves and choices, and that their voices are heard and respected. It is

obvious that political lifestyle has a significant impact on how residents perceive and interact with their democratic institutions. Countries in which residents have more trust inside the device will probably experience greater a success outcomes for democracy than those in which humans do not agree with their government or their elected leaders.

Attitudes toward political dissent and variety:

Political dissent and diversity can be a main aspect in a democracy, as it allows for one-of-a-kind perspectives to be heard, and for individuals to express their perspectives without fear of retribution. Different nations have unique attitudes in the direction of political dissent and variety, and the contrast of the Italian referendum with that of the United Kingdom and Canada is a wonderful example of this. In Italy, the referendum was visible as an opportunity to specific one's opinion on the proposed adjustments to the United States of America's Constitution. This turned into met with both enthusiasm and resistance from various sections of society, with many feeling that their voices would no longer be heard or reputable inside the manner. In contrast, the UK and Canada had an extra tolerant mind-set in the direction of political dissent and variety. In both international locations, citizens had the chance to specific their reviews freely, and people opinions had been taken into consideration while making decisions. Furthermore, the United Kingdom and Canada additionally identified the significance of permitting exceptional voices to be heard, and labroid to ensure that each one viewpoints have been respected. Ultimately, it's far important for democracies to have an open mind-set closer to political dissent and diversity, as it guarantees that all voices are heard and revered. In this way, citizens can sense empowered to have interaction in meaningful talk about problems affecting their society, in the end strengthening the democratic technique (Charfeddine & Mrabet, 2017).

Support for human rights:

Human rights are essential to the functioning of a democracy. The degree to which people in a country support human rights is an important factor in determining the quality of a democracy. A comparison of a recent Italian referendum with those in the United Kingdom and Canada can provide some insight into how different countries view human rights. In Italy, a referendum was held in December 2016 to reduce the number of members of Parliament and simplify voting laws. Despite the fact that many saw this as a step forward toward reducing political gridlock, it had some far-reaching implications for human rights. The proposed changes, in particular, would have reduced protections for minority businesses and allowed for

greater government interference in judicial lawsuits. The referendum ultimately failed, indicating that Italians oppose measures that could jeopardize their human rights. In terms of evaluation, the United Kingdom and Canada have taken several steps to strengthen their commitment to human rights. Both countries have enshrined those values in their respective constitutions and gone above and beyond legal guidelines to protect people from discrimination and persecution. Furthermore, each country has made efforts to recognize and respect indigenous peoples' human rights. Citizens' widespread approval of their governments' rules reflects their strong commitment to protecting human rights. These comparisons demonstrate a clear relationship between support for human rights and democratic values. Countries that support human rights vigorously are better able to uphold democratic standards, while those that do not may struggle to maintain their democracies. As a result, it is critical for governments to ensure that citizens understand the significance of respecting and protecting human rights (Dahlgren, 2013).

Political participation and engagement:

Political participation is a key element of any democracy. It is how residents' specific their voice, engage in decision-making, and contribute to the improvement of the kingdom. Different countries have different levels of political participation and engagement, which often mirror their political lifestyle (Kahne, Crow, & Lee, 2013). For example, the contrast of Italian referendum with those inside the United Kingdom and Canada indicates how one-of-a-kind their tiers of political engagement are. In Italy, turnout for the 2016 constitutional referendum turned into over 70%, indicating that residents felt invested inside the outcome of the vote. On the alternative hand, the UK noticed a decrease turnout of most effective 61% in the Brexit referendum and Canada had just a 50% turnout within the 2015 federal election. This stark difference reflects the various political cultures between those nations and how they view the significance of taking element in democracy. Canada has been traditionally extra apathetic on the subject of vote casting and attractive in politics, while Italy is thought for its passionate involvement in politics. Moreover, the comparison of Italian referendum with UK and Canada reveals a clear fashion: Italians are tons extra engaged and obsessed on democratic politics than British and Canadians are. This can be attributed to cultural norms surrounding politics in each United States of America as well as differences within the electoral structures used by every United States of America. For instance, the usage of proportional representation in elections has brought about a greater colourful political environment in Italy than that of the first beyond the publish system used by the UK and Canada. Citizens who accept as true with politicians

have a tendency to be more likely to participate politically as they agree with their opinion can be taken into consideration whilst choices are made (Bush, 2015).

National identification and team spirit:

When looking at the impact of political way of life on democracy, it's miles vital to take into account countrywide identification and unity. A shared experience of national identification can sell a sturdy feel of team spirit and cohesion amongst residents, allowing them to come together to shape collective answers and include a shared democratic imaginative and prescient (Kahne & Bowyer, 2017). This is specifically real in nations with a history of sturdy national traditions and customs, along with Italy, in which citizens have an exquisite experience of satisfaction of their country and its cultural heritage. The importance of countrywide identification and solidarity has been established in latest political events. For example, the assessment between the Italian referendum of 2016 and the referendums inside the UK and Canada in 2017 highlights the function that countrywide identification and harmony can play in democratic effects. In Italy, regardless of good sized discontent over proposed constitutional reforms, the populace voted overwhelmingly in desire of the reforms – a result attributed to their robust experience of country wide identity. In contrast, both the UK and Canada voted to reject the proposed changes of their respective referendums due to lack of public consensus. This contrast highlights how a shared national identification and unity may be essential in securing a success democratic effects. It indicates that when populations feel strongly connected to their country's history and traditions, they are much more likely to return collectively around a common purpose or issue and obtain a nice final results via collaboration. Moreover, this contrast demonstrates how extraordinary international locations may additionally reply in a different way depending on their individual political cultures. Each kingdom has distinctive values, pastimes and goals which have to be taken into consideration while trying to advantage public popularity of a policy or action. Thus, any contrast of referendums ought to don't forget the nuances of each state's political tradition for you to nicely understand why sure effects had been accomplished or not performed (Kahne, 2013).

Democracy and authoritarianism:

A vital issue in knowledge how political tradition impacts democracy is inspecting the views on democracy and authoritarianism (Terjesen et al., 2015). This may be seen thru contrast of the 2016 Italian Referendum on constitutional reform with the United Kingdom and Canada. In Italy, the end result became a victory for anti-establishment forces, even as the

United Kingdom and Canada opted to live the direction on their existing democratic systems. In Italy, the referendum resulted in a “No” vote which signalled a rejection of the Prime Minister Matteo Renzi’s proposed reforms. This was in large part considered as a blow to the European Union assignment and a win for Eurosceptic businesses. It showed that although Italy has long been a member of the European Union and had embraced democracy as its selected shape of presidency, there is nevertheless a big range of Italians who're wary of the EU task and support greater authoritarian strategies. In comparison, in both the United Kingdom and Canada, referendums have been held in 2016 on problems including membership of the EU or converting from one electoral gadget to some other, however these did not venture the basics of their respective democracies. The votes confirmed a clear acceptance and appreciation for democratic standards and an unwillingness to include any form of authoritarian rule. It is apparent from this comparison of Italian Referendum with the ones held within the UK and Canada that there is an enormous difference in attitudes towards democracy and authoritarianism. This distinction is a mirrored image of political tradition and may play an essential position in determining the achievement of democracy in a kingdom (Bush, 2015).

Cultural and spiritual range:

The concept of racial, ethnic, religious, and other non-secular diversity is an essential component to the functioning of a successful democracy. If you want to make sure that everyone's opinion is taken into consideration during the decision-making process for political issues, it is essential for a variety of organizations to be given a voice. For instance, drawing parallels between the referendums held in Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada demonstrates how different religious and cultural traditions in these three countries have contributed to their respective countries' economic success. In Italy, where Catholicism holds the position of most significant religion, the referendum was ultimately fruitful as a result of the guidance provided by the Catholic population. On the other hand, countries such as the United Kingdom and Canada have long embraced multiculturalism and have been more receptive to a diverse range of values and cultures. They have been able to achieve higher levels of political participation and engagement from minority groups as a direct result of this, which has led to a democracy that is more balanced and equitable. According to Urbinati (2014), diversity in cultural and spiritual practices can assist in the improvement of democratic values and norms, the strengthening of trust within institutions, and an increase in support for human rights

3.10.3.3. Economic development:

Greater Economic Equality:

A greater economic equality is one of the most important factors that can significantly impact direct democracy during the process of economic development. People are less likely to feel excluded or disadvantaged in political processes when wealth and income are more evenly distributed, and they have more incentive to participate in those processes when wealth and income are distributed more evenly. For instance, in the recent Italian referendum on constitutional reforms, which aimed to reduce the power of the Senate and increase the power of the Prime Minister, one of the primary arguments against the reforms was that they would increase the disparity in wealth that exists between the wealthy and the less well-off citizens of Italy. The opponents of the reforms argued that they would centralize power in the hands of the elites, who would then be able to use that power to advance their own economic interests at the expense of the rest of the population. In contrast, nations such as the United Kingdom and Canada, which have higher levels of economic equality, tend to have democratic systems that are more stable and inclusive for a greater number of people. When people do not have to struggle to make ends meet or have the impression that their voices are not being heard, they have a greater sense of connection to their communities and a greater investment in working toward the common good. This is one of the reasons why. Therefore, if countries want to strengthen their direct democracy, they need to address the root causes of economic inequality, such as unequal distribution of resources, access to education and job opportunities, and systemic biases in the political and legal systems. In other words, countries need to address the root causes of economic inequality (McChesney, 2016) If they take these steps, they will be able to create a more level playing field in which everyone will have an equal opportunity to participate and contribute to the decision-making process.

Foreign investment and change:

The funding and exchange from other countries is one of the factors that may have an effect on direct democracy. When a nation displays signs of monetary development, international companies may become interested in investing in or conducting business with the nation in question. This influx of resources from other countries can have both beneficial and detrimental effects on direct democracy. Take, for instance, the most recent referendum held in Italy, where voters decisively rejected an initiative to amend the country's constitution. The current state of Italy's economy has been cited by some analysts as a possible explanation for

this result. Some voters in Italy may have viewed the constitutional reform as a diversion from more pressing monetary issues because the country has been struggling with high levels of debt and a coffee economic boom. In contrast, the economies of the United Kingdom and Canada have expanded at a faster rate over the course of the last few years. Both nations clearly receive a substantial amount of foreign funding and exchange, and both nations have democracies that are largely stable. Even though economic factors are not the most direct factor in determining political outcomes, they can undeniably have an impact on how the public thinks about various issues. A nation can gain access to new resources, ideas, and opportunities if it attracts a greater amount of foreign investment and trade in the modern day. However, if foreign organizations gain an excessive amount of control over a country's resources, this could lead to economic inequality as well as a loss of the country's sovereign rights. It is essential to take a nuanced and multi-faceted approach when thinking about how monetary development can have an effect on direct democracy (Mainwaring & Pérez-Lián, 2013). This is due to the fact that the topic is complex.

Increased Civic Engagement:

Increased civic engagement is an important factor to take into consideration when thinking about the relationship between economic growth and the functioning of direct democracy. People who are more financially secure are more likely to get involved in the affairs of their community and take part in civic activities as their standard of living improves. This includes participating actively in the political process, such as voting in elections, going to community meetings, and attending political events. One recent event that serves as an illustration of increased civic engagement is the referendum on constitutional change that was held in Italy. In spite of the election taking place during an off year, there was a high turnout at the polls, with more than 60 percent of eligible voters casting ballots. This was in part due to increased participation among younger people, who were motivated by the prospect of significant political change (McCombs et al., 2013). It is important to keep in mind that Italy is not the only country experiencing this trend of increased civic engagement. For instance, in the United Kingdom, the referendum on Scottish independence in 2014 saw a voter turnout that broke all previous records, with over 80 percent of eligible voters participating. In a similar vein, voter participation in the federal election held in Canada in 2015 was the highest it had been in the past 20 years, with over 68 percent of eligible voters casting ballots. Voter turnout and overall civic engagement tend to be lower in countries with lower levels of economic development, such as many nations in Africa, when these examples are compared to countries

with lower levels of economic development. This is frequently the result of a combination of factors, including economic deprivation, inadequate levels of education, and an absence of reliable political leadership. Overall, increased civic engagement is a positive outcome of economic development because it helps to cultivate a stronger sense of community and encourages people to take an active role in shaping their own futures. This is one of the many reasons why economic development is considered to be a positive outcome. According to Tsfati and Ariely (2014), it is essential to continue encouraging and promoting civic engagement in order to guarantee a robust and stable democratic system. This is because direct democracy is becoming more commonplace.

Greater Resources for Political Parties:

When a rustic experiences economic development, there are several elements that come into play that can have an effect on the functioning of direct democracy. One such issue is the improved resources which are made to be had to political events. As the economic system grows, more funds end up available for political parties to apply for campaigning and outreach efforts. This method that events have more capability to mobilize their supporters, and get their message out to a much wider audience. For instance, a political celebration might be able to manage to pay for to rent extra team of workers, run greater tv ads, or host large occasions.

This may have a widespread effect on direct democracy, as it tiers the gambling field and allows for a more balanced debate on vital problems. In a country in which political parties are well-funded, voters are more likely to listen multiple views and to have a clear understanding of what every birthday party stands for. An evaluation of the Italian referendum with the United Kingdom and Canada is a good example of the way financial improvement can affect direct democracy. In Italy, political parties are usually much less properly-funded than in other international locations, which has contributed to a more polarized political environment. In the latest referendum on constitutional reform, as an instance, there had been very few political events campaigning in prefer of the modifications, which made it difficult for electorate to completely understand the implications of the referendum. By assessment, inside the UK and Canada, political parties have extra assets at their disposal, which has brought about a far better public debate on crucial troubles. This has helped to make certain that voters have a clearer understanding of the distinct perspectives on key issues, and may make extra informed decisions at the ballot field. Overall, the availability of resources for political parties is an important factor in determining the effectiveness of direct democracy. By

ensuring that events have the essential assets to get their message out to the public, we can help to create a greater vibrant, inclusive, and knowledgeable democracy (Liverani *et al.*, 2013).

Increased Political Competition:

Increased Political Competition is a vital element in how financial development can have an impact on direct democracy. It refers to the number of political parties, applicants, and groups vying for power and influence in a democratic machine (Dahlgren, 2013). With greater economic development, we will anticipate to look an increase in political competition, as extra resources end up to be had for political campaigns, voter mobilization efforts, and media advertising. One instance of the effect of economic development on political opposition can be seen inside the contrast of the latest Italian referendum with those of the United Kingdom and Canada. In Italy, we noticed an excessive stage of political opposition, with several events and organizations mobilizing voters to support or oppose the proposed constitutional adjustments. This changed into in assessment to the United Kingdom's Brexit referendum, which changed into largely ruled by means of most important campaigns and comparatively little opposition from smaller parties. Canada's recent federal election became additionally marked through a high level of political competition, with numerous parties vying for electricity and giant swings in public opinion over the path of the marketing campaign. This multiplied opposition could have each effective and negative influences on direct democracy. On the only hand, it is able to result in a greater variety of ideas, perspectives, and coverage proposals being offered to voters. It can also inspire events to be more attentive to the needs and possibilities in their constituents, as they are trying to find to differentiate themselves from their competitors. On the alternative hand, elevated competition can also result in more bad campaigning, mudslinging, and misinformation being unfold by means of political actors, that can erode public trust in the democratic method. Overall, multiplied political opposition is a vital aspect to consider whilst examining the impact of economic development on direct democracy. While it could simply cause extra vibrant and numerous political systems, it also poses some capability risks and challenges that want to be controlled cautiously by means of political actors and citizens alike (Charfeddine & Mrabet, 2017).

Increased Access to Information:

As economic improvement takes preserve, the amount of information to be had to residents frequently will increase dramatically. This can consist of get entry to to a extensive variety of media sources, from newspapers and TV channels to social media platforms and

online forums. With a more abundance of facts available, human beings may be extra informed approximately their authorities' sports, regulations, and plans. For instance, within the contrast of the Italian referendum with UK and Canada, the amount of facts available to Italian citizens had a sizeable impact at the final results. Italy has a vibrant media landscape with several newspapers, TV channels, and on-line systems, and these played a first-rate function in shaping the public's expertise of the referendum. The UK and Canada also have a high stage of media insurance, but the nature in their political structures is extraordinary, so the impact of this information was much less stated. However, while multiplied get right of entry to information can be a boon for democracy, it is able to additionally gift challenges. For instance, humans may be crushed via the sheer quantity of records to be had, making it difficult to split truth from fiction. They can also be exposed to propaganda and fake information, which could result in misunderstandings and bad choice-making. Overall, financial development may have a widespread effect on how data is disseminated and utilized in direct democracy. As more people have access to information, they are able to make more knowledgeable choices and take part greater efficiently within the democratic method. However, it is essential to make sure that this information is correct and reliable to ensure that democracy stays healthy and sturdy (Urbinati, 2014).

Greater Social Cohesion:

Greater social brotherly love refers to anything else besides direct democracy that has the potential to have an effect on it in a full-scale manner. Growth in the economy almost always results in increased equilibrium and security, which ultimately contributes to improved social harmony. In this manner, individuals get the impression of an increased sense of network and shared reason, which has the potential to strengthen the foundations of democratic institutions. A good illustration of this can be seen in the contrast between the most recent referendum in Italy and comparable votes held in the UK and Canada. The Italian referendum, which aimed to decrease the power of the Senate and streamline the procedure for passing laws, was marked by an excessive amount of political division and polarization. This department was fueled further by a lack of social cohesion and financial confidence, which both contributed to the department's downward spiral. In comparison, the referendums on independence held in the United Kingdom and Canada (the Scottish independence referendum and the Quebec sovereignty referendum) were marked by a more sense of social concord, despite the fact that the issues at hand were noticeably charged and contentious. In each instance, the discussion evolved into one that featured a more constructive dialogue between opposing viewpoints. This

was a direct result of additional experiences of having a common goal and a shared identification. This exemplifies how important the role that social brotherly love can play in bolstering democratic institutions and ensuring that political debate is carried out in a way that is constructive and inclusive. According to Kahne, Crow, and Lee (2013), if we promote economic growth in a way that also increases social harmony, we can build a democratic system that is more robust and more stable, and as a result, it will be better able to meet the requirements of all of its constituents.

Greater Public Trust:

Greater economic improvement has a big impact on public agree with in direct democracy. People generally tend to accept as true with the democratic procedure more after they see the tangible advantages of a healthful economy. This is due to the fact monetary growth fosters social stability, reduces inequality, and creates jobs and opportunities. Countries with a high level of monetary development, like Canada and the United Kingdom, generally tend to have higher ranges of public accept as true with in their democratic institutions. For example, let's test the comparison of the Italian referendum with the UK and Canada. Italy, like many different European nations, is suffering with low monetary growth, excessive unemployment rates, and high stages of earnings inequality. As a result, humans in Italy are greater sceptical approximately their democratic establishments and are much more likely to specific distrust of their government. In comparison, nations just like the UK and Canada have sturdy economies, low unemployment quotes, and a high degree of economic equality, main to higher degrees of public accept as true with of their democratic approaches. Greater public believe in democratic institutions additionally means that humans are much more likely to participate in direct democracy. Citizens feel extra empowered and engaged when they accept as true with that their voice might be heard and that their vote counts. When people have agree with of their authorities and its institutions, they're more likely to vote, have interaction in political discussions, and specific their evaluations on public coverage. In conclusion, more economic development can extensively effect public accept as true with in direct democracy. A healthful economic system can reduce inequality, create jobs and opportunities, foster social stability, and in the long run result in more public consider in democratic institutions. By inspecting the evaluation of the Italian referendum with the United Kingdom and Canada, we will see the tremendous function that economic improvement performs in shaping the democratic system (Kahne, & Bowyer, 2017).

More Stable Democratic Institutions:

The consistency of democratic institutions is one of the factors that makes a contribution to how monetary advancement influences direct democracy. It is absolutely necessary to have a reliable democratic device in order to carry out direct democracy. If the authorities are powerful, there is a lower chance of anarchy, instability, and other disturbances that would interfere with the democratic process. On the other hand, in countries like the United Kingdom and Canada, where democratic institutions are particularly robust, direct democracy has a solid foundation. Even though Canada has a federal parliamentary device, the United Kingdom is still considered to be a parliamentary democracy. Both of these political frameworks have a long history in the region, giving them a tremendous advantage over other nations' political systems, which have, for the most part, adopted democratic principles in recent decades. When a nation sees an improvement in its economic situation, there is typically a corresponding development in the stability of the democratic institutions that govern the nation. This is due to the fact that economic development leads to increased access to assets as well as more environmentally friendly government services, which ultimately results in a society that is more stable. In general, the existence of robust democratic institutions is essential to the accomplishment of the goals of direct democracy. It is of the utmost importance to make certain that the economic growth of a country helps maintain the steadiness of democratic institutions rather than hindering this process. According to Terjesen et al. (2015), gaining knowledge from the comparison of the Italian referendum with those of the United Kingdom and Canada enables us to see the significance of strong democratic establishments in the process of ensuring the success of direct democracy.

3.10.3.4. Media freedom:

Media affords get right of entry to records:

The ability of citizens to gain access to information on significant issues and events that may have an effect on them is made possible by the freedom of the media. This is an essential component of direct democracy. Take, for instance, a look at the similarities and differences between the referendums held in Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada. According to Kalogeropoulos (2019), the media in Italy provided in-depth coverage and analysis of the proposed constitutional amendments, as well as extensive coverage of the referendum on constitutional reform. Because of this, citizens were able to make educated decisions regarding whether or not they should vote in favour of the reforms. In a similar vein, during the Brexit

referendum that took place in the United Kingdom, the media provided coverage on both the benefits and drawbacks of remaining a member of the EU, focusing on the potential repercussions that could result from either choice. Citizens were able to make more educated decisions as a result of having access to this information, which ultimately had an impact on the final result of the referendum. In addition, the media played an important part in the provision of information to voters during the federal elections that took place in 2019 in Canada. The coverage provided by the media helped voters gain a better understanding of the policies and positions held by each party on the various issues, which in turn gave them the ability to make an informed choice. In conclusion, citizens are afforded access to information that is necessary for them to make informed decisions, particularly during direct democracy events such as elections and referendums. It is impossible to understate the significance of the role that the media plays in influencing public opinion and in providing a forum for a variety of points of view. Furthermore, the impact that the media has on direct democracy is invaluable (Reich & Hanitzsch, 2013).

Media holds authority's officers accountable:

One of the important thing approaches in which media freedom impacts direct democracy is via retaining government officers responsible for their actions. When politicians and officials are elected into workplace, they may be predicted to uphold the guarantees they made to their ingredients. However, there are often instances where officials fail to satisfy their obligations or have interaction in unethical practices. In such instances, the media performs a essential function in exposing such behavior and bringing it to the eye of the general public. This serves as a powerful deterrent to authority's officials who might be tempted to behave of their own hobbies in place of the pastimes of the public. For instance, let's take the instance of the Italian referendum of 2016. In the lead as much as the referendum, the media changed into instrumental in uncovering the numerous falsehoods and misrepresentations being peddled by means of government officials. By reality-checking claims made via politicians and supplying a balanced view of the professionals and cons of the referendum, the media turned into capable of provide citizens with the data they had to make informed decisions. In comparison, the media coverage of the UK Brexit referendum and the Canadian federal elections also had a widespread impact at the outcome of the vote. By highlighting the potential outcomes of leaving the European Union or electing a certain political birthday celebration, the media performed a critical role in shaping public opinion and preserving authority's officers chargeable for their actions. In conclusion, media freedom is important for the functioning of

direct democracy. It no longer best gives residents with get right of entry to information, however additionally serves as a watchdog, ensuring that government officials are held responsible for their actions. In a world wherein incorrect information is increasingly rampant, the position of the media in selling transparency, reality, and responsibility can't be overstated (Amazeen, 2020).

Media encourages citizen participation:

The manner in which it encourages citizen participation in direct democracy is one of the many significant benefits that come with media freedom. The ability of citizens to remain informed and actively participate in decision-making processes is made possible by the media's provision of access to a variety of independent facts. For instance, in the analysis that compared the Italian referendum with those of the United Kingdom and Canada, it was found that the role of the media in encouraging people to take part was extremely important (Repucci, 2021). The Italian referendum held in 2016 had the intention of making significant constitutional changes to the structure of the government, and the media played an essential role in informing the general public about the proposed reforms. Similarly, citizens of the United Kingdom were given the opportunity to participate in vital debates about the benefits and drawbacks of withdrawing from the European Union thanks to media coverage of the referendum. Citizens were provided with the opportunity to make informed decisions based on facts that could be relied upon thanks to this insurance. Media coverage of election campaigns in Canada ensures that voters are aware of the policies of the various political parties and that they are able to make informed choices about which candidate they support. Residents are provided the opportunity to participate in democratic processes and have their voices heard as a result of this coverage. Overall, the freedom of the media encourages citizen participation by helping to foster open discussions and critical debates about important issues. This is accomplished with the assistance of the media. According to De Albuquerque (2019), when residents are well-informed, they are able to make choices based on that information and have a voice in the process of decision-making.

Media promotes diversity and inclusion:

One of the approaches in which media freedom influences direct democracy is via promoting diversity and inclusion. The media performs an essential position in giving voice to underrepresented groups and highlighting their perspectives on vital troubles. For instance, for the duration of the comparison of Italian referendum with UK and Canada, the media helped to exhibit the range of reviews and viewpoints on the problem. Media shops are answerable for ensuring that they constitute a number perspectives in their insurance, along with the ones of minority businesses and marginalized groups. By doing so, they create an extra inclusive and consultant public discourse, which can help to foster greater social concord and information. Furthermore, media insurance can assist to challenge and triumph over stereotypes and prejudice. Through reporting on issues of discrimination and inequality, the media can improve focus of these problems and promote greater tolerance and appreciate for variety. In the context of direct democracy, media range may be mainly vital. By supplying a platform for a wide range of voices and evaluations, the media can help to make certain that the democratic procedure is greater inclusive and participatory. Citizens can interact with a broader range of views, taking into consideration greater informed choice-making. Ultimately, media range and inclusion are crucial additives of a healthy democracy. By presenting a discussion board for diverse voices and views, the media enables to make certain that the democratic method is truly representative of the humans it serves. During the contrast of Italian referendum with UK and Canada, it turned into the media that played a crucial role in showcasing the real diversity of opinion and standpoint on the problem (Bollyky, 2019).

Media fosters critical questioning:

Within the framework of direct democracy, the media plays a significant part in the promotion of critical thinking. People are better equipped to analyse and evaluate various arguments and ideas when they are presented with a variety of information and points of view, which happens when they are exposed to a variety of information and perspectives. For instance, when looking at the similarities and differences between the referendums held in Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada, different media outlets provided varied coverage of the events and the potential consequences of those events. Citizens were able to examine the perks and drawbacks of each position, participate in debates and discussions, and formulate their own opinions based on reasoned analysis thanks to the coverage that was provided. In addition, the media encourages critical thinking because it presents difficult topics in a manner that is approachable and easy to comprehend. Journalists are adept at simplifying difficult concepts and reducing them to their component parts in order to communicate effectively with their

readers. This method inspires readers to become actively involved with the topic at hand, to inquire about it, and to look for further information in order to improve their level of comprehension. In conclusion, the media encourages critical thinking through the promotion of accountability and transparency. Media outlets provide citizens with the ability to challenge the status quo and demand change where it is warranted by holding elected officials and government institutions accountable for their actions. Citizens are made aware of malfeasance, corruption, and other abuses of power thanks to the work of investigative journalists. Individuals are better able to make decisions based on accurate information and to hold their elected officials accountable for those decisions, which ultimately leads to a more democratic and responsive system of governance. In general, the freedom of the media to operate independently and transparently is essential for encouraging critical thinking and empowering citizens to participate fully in direct democracy (Ananny, 2018)

Media enables public debate:

The role of media in facilitating public debate is crucial for the functioning of a right away democracy. In the age of virtual communicate, the media has a more obligation to offer independent and reality-based totally information to the residents. The media ought to encourage knowledgeable discussions and foster a tradition of debate, even inside the maximum divisive and polarizing problems (Sorensen, 2018). An evaluation of Italian referendum with UK and Canada illustrates the significance of media in facilitating public debate. In the 2016 Italian constitutional referendum, the media played a sizeable function in influencing public opinion. The coverage of the referendum by diverse media shops changed into polarized and frequently biased, leading to confusion and incorrect information among the citizens. This made it tough for citizens to make knowledgeable choices, and ultimately, the referendum became rejected. In comparison, the media coverage of the United Kingdom Brexit referendum and the Canadian referendum on constitutional modifications become balanced and unbiased. The media provided exact insurance of each aspects of the talk, such as the pros and cons of each position. This helped citizens to have informed discussions and make knowledgeable choices, which ended in a success referendum outcome. In conclusion, media freedom is crucial in facilitating public debate in an immediate democracy. A free and independent media guarantees that citizens have get admission to impartial and truth-primarily based statistics, permitting them to take part in discussions and make knowledgeable selections. An assessment of the Italian referendum with UK and Canada indicates that the media has the

strength to steer public opinion, and consequently, it need to work out its duty with caution and impartiality (Diamond, 2019).

Media enhances transparency:

The increase in openness and honesty that comes about as a result of increased press freedom is among the most important of the many benefits that come with media freedom. Media companies have the ability to shed light on the actions and decisions made by those in power because they have access to records that would otherwise be kept secret and would otherwise be kept hidden. Through increased openness and transparency, this, in turn, makes it easier for citizens and their leaders to reach a consensus on important issues. Investigative journalism, for instance, can uncover instances of corruption and malfeasance, which contributes to the maintenance of public officials' accountability. In a similar vein, the dissemination of public records and various professional documents can assist locals in gaining a deeper comprehension of the operations of their respective authorities as well as other powerful institutions. In addition, media retailers frequently take on the role of a watchdog on behalf of the general public, monitoring the sports and regulations that are enacted by authorities to ensure that they are carried out in an open and honest manner. This can include reporting on decisions pertaining to the budget and spending, monitoring the activities of legislative bodies, and covering elections and other important events. In general, the transparency that is provided by a free media environment is essential to the functioning of a democracy. When citizens are better informed about the actions of those in power, they are better able to make informed decisions about who to support and hold accountable for their actions. And by selling transparency, media retailers help to foster more acceptability between residents and their leaders, thereby building a more powerful foundation for direct democracy (Kovach, 2021).

Media empowers residents:

One of the vastest approaches that media freedom influences direct democracy is via empowering residents. In an instantaneous democracy, the residents have the electricity to participate in selection-making strategies that effect their lives. However, without get admission to facts, it can be difficult for residents to make knowledgeable decisions. Media empowers citizens by means of providing them with data on various troubles, from politics to social issues and financial topics. This facts enables residents understand the implications of rules and legal guidelines, letting them interact greater actively in selection-making. Moreover,

media permits citizens to explicit their reviews and share their perspectives with others, helping to shape public opinion and create a more engaged and informed society. Through media, citizens can voice their issues, preserve authority's officials accountable, and endorse for their rights. Media also serves as a watchdog, maintaining a check on those in power and exposing wrongdoing or corruption. This, in flip, facilitates to build accept as true with between residents and authorities and enhances transparency in choice-making methods. Furthermore, media empowers citizens via offering them with a platform to preserve public officers accountable. By exposing corrupt or unethical behavior, media allows to keep public officers accountable and promotes accurate governance. This in the end ends in an extra responsible, responsive, and powerful government. Overall, media performs an essential function in empowering citizens in direct democracies. By imparting records, encouraging citizen participation, and preserving officials accountable, media allows to create a more informed, engaged, and accountable society (Kruse, 2018).

Media protects human rights:

The media has been instrumental in the fight to protect human rights, bringing to light instances of violations of human rights and holding governments accountable for their actions. Media organizations have the ability to shed light on abuses of power and promote accountability for those who have committed human rights abuses through the use of investigative journalism. One illustration of this would be the part that the media played in bringing to light instances of police brutality in the United States. Videos of police brutality against African Americans captured by bystanders and journalists have gone viral on social media, bringing widespread attention to the issue of systemic racism as well as the requirement for police reform. Legislators have been put under pressure to enact changes that address racial injustice and police brutality as a result of widespread media coverage and public outrage. In addition to this, news organizations have the power to amplify the voices of underrepresented communities and provide a forum from which those communities can advocate for their own rights. For instance, the media played a significant part in bringing attention to the Me Too movement, which in turn brought awareness to the widespread occurrence of sexual assault and harassment. The survivors were given a platform by the media outlets to tell their stories, which in turn sparked a conversation on a national level about how to address the problem. In addition, the freedom of the media is an extremely important factor in the preservation of the right to access information as well as the freedom of speech. For the purpose of holding governments accountable and promoting transparency, these fundamental human rights are

absolutely necessary. Without a free press, citizens may be prevented from gaining access to vital information, which may result in an abuse of power by the government as well as a lack of accountability on its part. In a nutshell, the freedom of the media is an essential component in the process of defending human rights. According to Carothers et al. (2019), the media has the ability to promote a more just and equitable society by holding those in power accountable, amplifying the voices of marginalized communities, protecting freedom of expression and access to information, and protecting access to information.

3.10.3.5. Political parties:

The stance of the celebration:

It is possible for political parties to increase the likelihood that voters will support them on specific issues if they include direct democracy measures in their platform. In addition, political events are able to influence the discourse surrounding issues related to direct democracy by utilizing their platform. For instance, if a political party's platform includes language advocating for more citizen-initiated ballot measures, it can influence public opinion and encourage voters to support such measures more strongly. This is because citizens are more likely to support ballot initiatives that were initiated by citizens. The platform of the birthday celebration can also play a role in bringing the celebration's contributors together and developing a consensus regarding the goals they have set. If political parties incorporate direct democracy measures into their platform, they can foster a sense of shared purpose among their supporters and unite them around common goals. In addition, the celebration platform is capable of functioning as a mechanism for accountability. After being elected, political parties can be held accountable for the promises made by their structures by referring to those structures. This creates an incentive for parties to adhere to their commitments regarding direct democracy and to work toward their implementation. In a nutshell, the party platform is a potent instrument that political events can employ to influence public opinion, promote internal harmony, and strengthen direct democracy. It is possible for political parties to contribute to the development of a more engaged and informed electorate if they incorporate direct democracy issues into their structures. This, in turn, may result in enhanced policy outcomes and a stronger democracy (De Blasio & Sorice, 2018).

Campaigning:

Political parties can use their resources to campaign for or against a direct democracy initiative, thereby influencing public opinion and the outcome of the vote. Political parties are essential to any democratic system because they shape public opinion, mobilize voters, and effect change through their campaigns. During election season, political parties play a significant role in influencing direct democracy. Campaigning is one of the primary means by which political parties influence direct democracy. Typically, parties employ a well-structured and organized campaign plan to reach out to voters and win their support. Political parties use every resource at their disposal, from establishing campaign offices to establishing a social media presence, to engage voters and spread their message. Political parties are particularly adept at rallying supporters around a particular candidate or platform during a campaign. They understand how to appeal to voter sentiment by emphasizing issues that resonate with their intended audience. This may involve employing emotionally-charged advertisements or catchy slogans to ensure that their message is remembered. The ultimate objective of a political party's campaign is to influence the election's outcome in their favour. This is where the significance of campaign financing becomes apparent. Political parties frequently rely on donations to fund their campaigns, which can be used to pay for advertising, campaign staff, and rallies. Not all parties have access to the same funding levels, which can give some parties a substantial advantage over others. However, parties can also rely on grassroots efforts and volunteerism to spread their message. In the end, the success of a political party's campaign depends on their ability to connect with voters and mobilize support. In conclusion, political parties shape direct democracy significantly through their campaigning efforts. Parties can mobilize voters and win support for their preferred candidate or platform through the use of social media, catchy slogans, and efficient fundraising techniques. In doing so, they shape the future direction of a country and influence the outcome of elections (Altman, 2019).

Mobilization:

Political parties can mobilize their participants to participate in direct democracy procedures, along with referendums and tasks, to make certain a favourable outcome. Party mobilization efforts can encompass outreach campaigns, canvassing efforts, telephone banking, and door-to-door canvassing to influence electorate to take part in direct democracy methods. Additionally, parties can also leverage their virtual presence via focused social media campaigns and electronic mail advertising and marketing (Kodiyat, et al., 2020). The method of mobilisation is one of the most essential ways that political events exert their effect on direct democracy. This requires encouraging human beings to participate inside the democratic

process in a few manner, whether or not it's by voting, attending rallies, or contacting their elected representatives. Political events have a great part to play in the technique of mobilisation due to their potential to provide the necessary structure and organization for people to coalesce right into a collective pressure for social transformation. They can create grassroots campaigns that reach out to communities and have interaction them in political troubles, as well as growing networks of activists who can advise for the birthday celebration's policies and unfold its message. Political parties have the capability, via mobilisation, to help growth the range of those who vote and enhance engagement in democratic methods. By encouraging human beings to get concerned and take a lively role within the democratic method, they can create a greater informed and engaged voters that is much more likely to keep its representatives accountable. Of route, there are numerous distinct approaches to mobilize people, and political events will use a whole lot of tactics relying on their goals and audience. This might involve organizing rallies, website hosting public debates or town hall conferences, jogging social media campaigns or maybe the use of extra conventional strategies which include phone banking or door-to-door canvassing. In the end, political events have a crucial element to play in mobilising citizens and supporting them in becoming lively members in the democratic system. This duty falls squarely on their shoulders. They can help to create a greater engaged and informed citizens via providing structure, assets, and expertise. This will allow the voters to be higher prepared to make choices primarily based on correct data and to maintain its representatives responsible (Citrin, 2018).

Lobbying:

Lobbying is every other technique that political parties can utilise to exert have an impact on over direct democracy. They are capable of put their connections and assets to apply so as to foyer for or in opposition to specific measures. They could also attempt to lobby elected officials to guide the location taken through their birthday celebration concerning the difficulty. In direct democracies, political parties will often have interaction in lobbying activities that allows you to exert influence over the choice-making technique. They would possibly employ paid lobbyists or send individuals of their personal personnel to speak with participants of the legislature which will help or oppose a selected trouble. Political events have the capability to sway the votes of policymakers, change public opinion, and mildew the consequences of coverage debates thru using lobbying. Lobbying can be executed in a lot of ways, from contacting particular members of Congress to organising rallies and demonstrations. The assets and know-how important to mount sophisticated lobbying campaigns that may be effective in

shaping public opinion and swaying votes are to be had to political events. These campaigns can be hooked up by way of political parties. They also have the capacity to utilise their networks of supporters a good way to rally help for a cause and placed pressure on policymakers to do so. On the opposite hand, lobbying can also have unintentional and deleterious consequences on direct democracy. It has been argued that this can provide too much electricity and have an effect on to influential special pursuits, thereby silencing the voices of common residents. Some humans consider that lobbying can lead to the introduction of a "quid seasoned quo" system, wherein lawmakers are more likely to assist the pastimes of those who donate the most money to their campaigns. These humans argue that lobbying can lead to the advent of such a gadget. Even within the face of those issues, lobbying continues to be an effective technique for political parties to exert have an impact on over the decision-making manner in direct democracies. They are capable of flow their agendas ahead and shape the route that coverage results will take with the aid of leveraging the sources and expertise at their disposal. It is still up for debate and dialogue whether or not the long-term outcomes of this have an impact on the democratic method might be useful or adverse (Hainmueller, J., & Hangartner, 2019)

The formation of coalitions:

In direct democracy, the formation of coalitions through political events is also an essential position. To increase their chances of success, they might consider forming partnerships with other businesses, hobby corporations, or even individuals. To achieve this objective, it may be necessary to make concessions or exchanges with various individuals. When working toward a common objective, political parties and other types of interest organizations frequently form coalitions. For example, if a political party is interested in enacting a particular piece of legislation, they may collaborate with advocacy groups, labour unions, and other businesses to garner support for their efforts. This may also necessitate concessions from the parties, as they may need to modify their initial concept in order to meet the requirements set forth by their coalition partners. In direct democracies, constructing effective coalitions among political parties may be a sustainable way for them to achieve their goals. Through forming partnerships with various organizations and individuals, they are able to expand their sphere of influence and increase their chances of success. This method is especially useful when addressing complex issues that require the assistance of numerous stakeholders. However, building coalitions is not without its share of difficult situations. It may become more difficult to accommodate the needs of all coalition partners, which may also

result in the original concept of the celebration being watered down. When events make too many concessions, there is a possibility that they will alienate the birthday celebration's core supporters. Political parties play a crucial role in direct democracy as an institution. They exert their influence on the political process by conducting campaigns, organizing voter turnout, providing financial support to candidates, engaging in lobbying, and forming coalitions. Citizens can better navigate the political landscape and make informed decisions regarding their government if they understand how political influence direct parties (Jacobs et al., 2018)

Expertise:

Another crucial asset that political parties can convey to the table in direct democracy is their expertise. They can use their information and experience to inform electorate about the difficulty to hand, the ability effects of different outcomes, and what the birthday celebration's stance is on the problem. In many times, citizens are not well-informed about the troubles at hand or may not have enough understanding to make knowledgeable choices. They can use their expertise and experience to inform voters approximately the difficulty at hand, the ability results of various consequences, and what the party's stance is on the matter. Voters should enjoy the information of political events that may assist near the understanding gap and offer them with crucial statistics. Producing instructional materials, preserving public debates or city hall meetings, and engaging in studies on the topic handy are all potential steps in this route. In addition to this, political parties produce other possibilities to capitalise on their expertise. For instance, they could use their knowledge of the political method to manual electorate via complicated approaches or to sway public opinion via media campaigns and messaging if they have the perfect knowledge. In addition, political events can contribute to efforts to build coalitions through using the revel in they have got gained in operating with a whole lot of interest businesses. In the grand scheme of factors, political parties play a crucial component in the shaping of public opinion in addition to the course that direct democracy takes. In spite of the reality that they may be frequently taken into consideration to be a part of the political establishment, influential alternate retailers may be created via their knowledge, assets, and capacity to mobilise electorate. Political events have the capacity to make contributions to the development of a democratic manner this is each extra inclusive and extra successful if they collaborate with residents and other interest corporations (Ernst *et al.*, 2019).

Instruction of Voters:

In direct democracy, voter education is a crucial responsibility of political parties. Through various channels, such as social media, television advertisements, pamphlets, and debates, political parties seek to inform voters about the various candidates running for office, their stances on a variety of issues, and the party's platform. This aids voters in making informed decisions during elections, which is essential for a direct democracy to function. Political parties also utilize their expertise to simplify the explanation of complex issues for the average voter. A political party may have a particular stance on healthcare reform, for instance. They may use their expertise to explain to voters how their proposed solution would benefit the average citizen. In addition to educating voters about the voting process, political parties also provide information about the voting procedure. They may provide information on how and where to register to vote, how to cast a ballot, and the various options available to them, such as early voting and mail-in ballots. Voter education is crucial in a direct democracy because it ensures that all citizens can make well-informed decisions about the political future of the nation. By providing voters with easily-understood information and educating them on the voting process, political parties can help ensure that direct democracy accurately reflects the will of the people (Bennett et al., 2018).

Candidate recruitment:

Candidate recruitment is an additional method by which political events can exert influence on direct democracy. They have the ability to choose and support candidates whose views on direct democracy issues align with those of their party. If they take this action, they can increase the likelihood of those candidates winning the election and, as a result, advance their party's agenda. Moreover, political events play a significant role in the process of shaping public opinion on issues pertaining to direct democracy. Political parties can influence the public's perception of certain issues through a variety of channels, including social media and more traditional media outlets. They are capable of attracting attention to the merits of direct democracy and the significance of its place in democracy and public participation. Voters can be persuaded to choose one direction over another by emphasizing the potential disadvantages and limitations of direct democracy, which advocates for direct democracy can emphasize. This makes it easier for political parties to gain the support of the general public, which they can then use to advance their direct democracy agenda. In addition, political events provide a stage for directing democracy-related information. Parties frequently employ in-house experts who comprehend the complexities of direct democracy mechanisms and can provide the general public with educational materials that simplify these intricate issues. This can help citizens

understand the various forms of direct democracy, their benefits and limitations, and how to participate in direct democracy effectively. When it comes to providing participants with in-depth training on particular aspects of direct democracy, parties have the option of bringing in outdoor experts. Lastly, but most importantly, events play a crucial role in the process of providing financial support for direct democracy campaigns. Political parties typically have access to substantial financial resources, which they can use to finance investment campaigns for direct democracy. This funding may be applied in a variety of ways towards the management of campaigns, the hiring of staff, the distribution of classified advertisements, and the support of direct democracy initiatives. In this way, political parties can use their resources to contribute to the growth of direct democracy and ensure that citizens have a voice in the process of determining the future of their communities. In conclusion, political parties play a critical role in the operation of direct democracy. Political parties enable citizens to participate in the democratic process and have a say in significant decisions that affect their lives in multiple ways, such as the selection of candidates and the formation of public opinion. Political parties provide the necessary infrastructure for citizens to participate in direct democracy through their mobilization, education, and financial support. This makes direct democracy an essential tool for public participation and empowerment, as it provides the necessary infrastructure (Dennison & Geddes, 2019).

3.10.3.6. International support:

Aid for worldwide improvement and different countries:

Foreign aid and development assistance can have a significant impact on direct democracy. These forms of aid are intended to assist developing nations in establishing and maintaining functional governments, which can ultimately lead to more robust democratic structures. Frequently, international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and various non-governmental organizations provide funding, resources, and expertise to developing nations (Repucci, 2020). This can range from disaster relief to long-term development initiatives. One of the most important ways in which foreign aid can influence direct democracy is by providing essential resources to support electoral processes. This may include support for political parties, candidates, and election monitoring equipment. Additionally, development assistance can play a crucial role in constructing robust democratic institutions. Aid can be used, for instance, to finance initiatives to increase transparency and accountability, to build capacity within the civil service, or to strengthen legal frameworks.

This type of assistance can contribute to the establishment of a more stable political climate that supports democratic principles. Certainly, it is important to note that foreign aid and development assistance can sometimes come with conditions. Before providing aid, donors may require countries to undertake particular reforms or meet particular benchmarks. This can sometimes be advantageous in terms of fostering democratic development, but it can also foster dependence and is not always welcomed by the recipient countries. Foreign aid and development assistance can be a potent instrument for promoting direct democracy in general. When utilized effectively, this type of support can help to strengthen institutions, promote free and fair elections, and increase government transparency and accountability (Clough, 2019).

Initiatives and programmes that foster democratic participation:

The assistance of the international community is a very important component when it comes to advancing democratic principles and promoting direct democratic participation. Programs and initiatives that promote democracy are intended to assist countries in making the transition toward a more democratic political system by imparting assistance with the legal, institutional, and policy frameworks that shape the premise of green democratic governance. This assistance can be in the form of training, mentoring, or other forms of direct involvement. The implementation of these programs is the responsibility of a wide variety of international organizations, such as the United Nations and the European Union, in addition to the bilateral partnerships that exist between countries. One of their components could be the provision of technical assistance and education on subjects such as electoral reform, the structures of political parties, and the constitutional and legal frameworks that govern the country. The European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) is a good example of a democracy-promoting application that has been implemented successfully. Since its inception in 2012, EPD has provided economic assistance to a variety of projects in a variety of countries, including Tunisia, Myanmar, and Zimbabwe, with the primary objective of strengthening democratic governance. As part of the initiatives that have been successful thus far, assistance has been provided in the establishment of independent media outlets, mechanisms for monitoring civil society and human rights, and electoral reform and remark have also been implemented. These kinds of projects have shown to be effective in fostering more openness and responsibility in the decision-making process of the government, encouraging more citizen participation, and providing support for political illustration that is

more inclusive of and diverse in its scope. Programs and projects aimed at promoting democracy do so by advocating for and providing assistance to direct democracy. This helps to construct societies that are stronger, more stable, and more welcoming of those who are different, which in turn contributes to peace and stability within the international community (Leininger & Nowack, 2022).

Training and capacity constructing:

The importance of training and capacity constructing projects can't be overstated whilst discussing the advertising and strengthening of direct democracy. International guide can play a main function in offering resources and information to help residents turn out to be greater informed and engaged of their democratic process. Education and education programmes are one approach that may be utilised to accomplish this intention. Workshops, seminars, and publications can be provided by global organizations to train citizens approximately the diverse additives of democracy. Topics that can be blanketed consist of a way to run for public office, how to take part in public hearings, the way to organise and propose for precise issues, and so forth. This form of education can help people build the knowledge and abilities they need to have interaction with their authorities and participate more effectively in selection-making. Capacity building tasks additionally consist of supplying assets and infrastructure to support democratic establishments. For example, worldwide support can offer investment to establish or make stronger establishments together with impartial media, civil society groups, and human rights commissions. These businesses play a huge part in fostering transparency, duty, and civic engagement, all of which are crucial to the proper operation of a democracy. In addition, the significance of using technology and numerous digital equipment in order for residents to engage with their respective governments is growing. Access to tools consisting of social media, on line systems, and different virtual assets that enable citizens to talk with each other and their representatives can be furnished by means of global assist. This has the ability to result in extended transparency as well as a higher illustration of the voices of citizens inside the process of choice-making. In well known, initiatives that concentrate on education and capability constructing are truly important to make certain the success of direct democracy. It is viable for international aid to help inside the improvement of democratic systems which can be greater robust and participatory in different parts of the arena by way of offering citizens with the facts and equipment they need to efficiently have interaction with their authorities and propose for his or her pastimes (Ginsburg, 2020).

Treaties and agreements reached on a bilateral and multilateral scale:

Direct democracy can be encouraged with the aid of international help in some of ways, considered one of which is through using multilateral and bilateral agreements and treaties. These agreements are made between or extra international locations and can cover a huge style of topics, inclusive of commerce, safety, and human rights. They are made among or greater international locations. These agreements have the capacity to serve as a tool for advancing democratic ideals and tactics, particularly within the context of direct democracy. For instance, a kingdom may also reach an agreement with every other country to provide the latter with technical assistance as a way to help the latter state in organising or improving its democratic establishments (Repucci & Slipowitz, 2021). Training for election officers, help for civil society companies, or assistance with drafting new legal guidelines or constitutions ought to all fall beneath this class. In addition, both bilateral and multilateral agreements have the potential to serve as a discussion board for discussion between international locations concerning democratic sorts of government. For example, countries might come to an agreement to preserve ordinary conferences to speak approximately democratic practises and exchange ideas and examples of what works nicely. This can assist to sell extra expertise and cooperation between international locations, which in the end can lead to democracies which can be greater robust and effective. It must come as no marvel that each bilateral and multilateral agreements are not free of problems. The method of negotiating those agreements can be difficult and time ingesting, and there may be disagreements among nations regarding the handiest method to improve democratic principles. In addition, there may be an opportunity that positive international locations will no longer budge inside the face of strain from different nations to adjust their political systems, and that those international locations can also be reluctant to open themselves up to the have an impact on of other countries. Nevertheless, bilateral and multilateral agreements continue to be a critical tool for the promoting of democracy everywhere in the world, in spite of the demanding situations that they face. Countries can contribute to the improvement of democratic structures that are more potent and greater inclusive by cooperating with each other, sharing thoughts and sources, and absolutely representing the voices and hobbies of all in their citizens (Graham & Svulik, 2020).

Observation of the Election:

Election observation is an indispensable part of the worldwide network's commitment to assisting direct democracy. To this place, independent observers are dispatched that allows you to hold an eye fixed at the balloting technique taking region in an exceptional state. The observers determine whether or no longer the elections are performed in a loose and honest way and whether or not or no longer the process is open to the public. The conclusions reached through the worldwide observers may have an effect on the decisions so as to be made concerning the future of direct democracy in that country. The time period "election commentary" can check with a number of unique activities, such as lengthy-term tracking of political trends, pre-election checks, and tracking all through the election itself. It is viable for global observers to reveal each the national and the nearby elections in a few instances. The purpose of this endeavour is to ensure that the election is executed in a fair and open manner, and that the effects of the vote accurately replicate the need of the human beings. The provision of assets to fund the election observation system, which in turn allows build the capability of civil society organizations in that united states, can be made viable with the help of international guide. It additionally sends a clear message to the authorities in the host United States of America, allowing them to realize that there's a high stage of interest and concern for the legitimacy in their democratic tactics on a global scale. Observing elections also can bring about sizable adjustments being made to laws and processes governing elections. The presence of global observers has the potential to deter capacity acts of electoral fraud, and the hints of election observers can lead to the enactment of latest legal guidelines that enhance the credibility of electoral approaches. For instance, the African Union dispatched a group of election observers to Zimbabwe for the presidential election in 2018, which befell in 2018. Their report changed into the impetus for adjustments in each the electoral legal guidelines and approaches in Zimbabwe, which in flip led to enhancements inside the election's typical level of transparency. In end, international aid for direct democracy inside the shape of election statement is an essential tool in ensuring that elections in overseas nations are transparent, loose, and honest. It offers a forum in which democratic actors can collaborate, with the goals of growing their ability, replacing know-how, and fostering the growth of democratic institutions in the country (Bellamy, 2019).

Diplomatic pressure:

One of the ways in which direct democracy will be impacted by global governance is through the application of diplomatic pressure software. This can take place in a variety of different ways, including public statements made by the leaders of different countries, authentic communications from embassies or global enterprises, and negotiations between diplomats that take place behind closed doors (Mross, 2022). For instance, if the leader of a country is accused of suppressing political opposition or cracking down on free speech, the leaders of other countries may also issue statements condemning these movements and calling for a return to democratic norms. This is inappropriate behavior, and it must change its approach immediately or run the risk of being isolated and possibly having to deal with sanctions. Reforms that encourage transparency, duty, and participation within the democratic system can also be driven for through the utilization of stress through diplomatic channels. These reforms are important because they help ensure that democratic systems continue to function effectively. This may want to involve encouraging the adoption of new laws or policies, providing financial incentives to encourage tremendous alternative, providing technical help and understanding, or imparting technical help and know-how to others. It is possible that putting pressure on a rural area through diplomatic channels will require a delicate balancing act. An excessive amount of pressure can have the opposite of the desired effect, making it more difficult for reformers to make progress or driving countries further away from democracy. On the other hand, authoritarian regimes may be able to keep their repressive practices going unchecked so long as there is not always enough pressure placed on them to do so. In the grand scheme of things, diplomatic pressure is merely one tool among many that are included in the toolkit of an international guide for direct democracy. According to Kearton et al. (2021), when it is used strategically and with an eye toward long-term development, it has the potential to be a potent driving force for high-quality information exchange.

Sanctions:

When it comes to influencing direct democracy, sanctions are regularly visible as a last inn for worldwide actors. Despite this, they still have the ability to play an enormous element in shaping the consequences of political approaches. An us of a, organization, or man or woman may be subjected to sanctions as a form of punishment when they're imposed on them through every other kingdom or group of states. They would possibly take the form of restrictions on financial interest, on alternate or on monetary hobby; prohibitions on journey; or a freezing of property. The motive of sanctions is to use stress to the goal inside the wish that this will result in a exchange in both their behaviour or their policies. For example, if a country engages in

human rights violations or refuses to permit unfastened and fair elections, different international locations can impose sanctions to sign their disapproval and pressure the goal to make concessions. By depriving the ruling regime of resources and separating it diplomatically, sanctions can also be used as a tool for helping democratic forces like competition groups, civil society firms, or independent media. This is performed by means of isolating the ruling regime diplomatically. Critics argue that they regularly harm ordinary residents rather than their supposed targets, as they could purpose inflation, unemployment, and shortages of vital items. In addition, sanctions have the capacity to backfire by giving upward thrust to a black marketplace or underground economic system, both of which can be adverse to democratic norms and the rule of thumb of regulation. Sanctions, alternatively, have the capacity to be a beneficial device for influencing direct democracy as long as they're carried out with discretion and at the side of other styles of global assist. For example, sanctions can be a part of a comprehensive method that consists of diplomatic engagement, civil society development, and election monitoring. Sanctions can also be calibrated to limit the effect on everyday residents while maximizing the stress at the ruling regime. Finally, sanctions can be blended with incentives, together with lifting sanctions in exchange for democratic reforms or cooperation on a shared trouble. By taking those steps, international actors can use sanctions to nudge direct democracy in a wonderful direction (Berman & Snegovaya, 2019).

Threats of pressure:

When it comes to influencing direct democracy, threats of force are frequently considered a remaining inn. However, in some instances, it can be vital to apply this tactic to make certain that democratic approaches are respected. International guide for democracy can take many bureaucracy, and the risk of pressure is one of the maximum extreme. It can encompass the whole thing from monetary sanctions to military intervention, and is generally reserved for cases wherein other options have failed. The use of threats of force may be effective in positive conditions. For instance, inside the occasion that a dictator refuses to preserve elections that are loose and fair, a global coalition may additionally threaten to use army force in an effort to put off them from energy. Because autocratic leaders are typically extra concerned with retaining their preserve on energy than they may be with the welfare of the humans beneath their rule, this can be an incredibly powerful motivator. However, using pressure is never without the possibility of terrible outcomes. It is viable for there to be civilian casualties, similarly to damage to infrastructure and different critical resources, as a result of this. The use of force is regularly appeared as a breach of countrywide sovereignty, which also

can paintings to undermine the legitimacy of democratic strategies. In the stop, the choice of whether or no longer to aid direct democracy through using threats of force is a hard one. It is essential to give cautious attention to all the available options, further to having a recognition of the capacity dangers and blessings. However, if its miles used as it should be, it has the potential to be a green device for advancing democratic values and safeguarding human rights (Tomz, Weeks & Yarhi-Milo, 2020).

The involvement of the army:

When discussing direct democracy, it is critical to bring up the contentious issue of military intervention because it is an issue that must be addressed. On the one hand, some believe it could aid in the establishment or defence of democratic values and institutions, while others believe it undermines the very concepts of democracy. Military intervention is frequently regarded as a last resort when it comes to obtaining assistance from the global network. When all other types of international relations have failed, this is the case. One of the most important effects of military intervention on direct democracy is the creation of a secure environment in which democratic processes can take place. This is one of the most significant ways in which military intervention can affect direct democracy. This can include providing protection for polling stations, ensuring that residents can vote without fear of violence or intimidation, and preventing outside forces from interfering in any way with the electoral process. These are all examples of things that could be considered inferior to this class. Furthermore, the preservation of pre-existing order or the restoration of the rule of law in a country is critical to the successful operation of a democracy. The establishment or restoration of the rule of law in a rural area can benefit from military intervention. This can include maintaining the current structure of an independent judiciary to uphold the law and protect citizens' rights, as well as deploying police forces to ensure the general populace's safety. However, there are a number of disadvantages to using naval force that must be considered. Local populations frequently harbour resentment toward it because they believe it imposes foreign values and pastimes on their communities. This is because locals accept it as true because it represents an imposition of foreign values and pastimes on their communities. Furthermore, military interventions can be costly, both in terms of human lives and financial resources expended, and they can result in long-term instability within the region that is the subject of the intervention. In the context of direct democracy, military intervention has the potential to be a double-edged sword. It should not be used unless there are no other options, and if it must be used, it should be done with extreme caution and sensitivity to the desires and

alternatives of the population in the region where it is being used. In certain circumstances, it has the potential to provide protection and equilibrium. Finally, it is up to the people of each country to decide how they want to be ruled, and the primary focus of international assistance should be on empowering and enabling democratic strategies (Dryzek et al., 2019). This should be the case because each country's citizens are ultimately responsible for their own well-being.

Support from the international community:

When it comes to direct democracy, having a civil society that is active and unbiased is critical to ensuring that residents are capable to take part within the democratic system in an effective manner. The equal is authentic for a loose and unbiased media, which performs an important function in preserving the ones in energy liable for their actions and informing resident's approximately political troubles. Therefore, worldwide help for the improvement of civil society and the media is an important component of efforts being made to promote direct democracy all over the international (Wang *et al.*, 2021). This kind of support can take many distinctive forms, together with offering monetary help to civil society corporations and media outlets, providing schooling and capability-constructing opportunities for journalists and activists, and advocating for the safety of individuals' rights to freedom of expression and assembly. Through the availability of such guide, the worldwide network can make a contribution to the creation of a surroundings that is beneficial to the increase of direct democracy. Independent media shops can offer citizens with reliable records in addition to expose corruption and abuse of strength. Civil society enterprises can have interaction citizens in political approaches and hold elected officers accountable. The European Endowment for Democracy (EED) is one company that exemplifies global help for the improvement of civil society and the media. This organization offers financial assistance and support to civil society businesses and media stores in countries in which democracy is in danger. The European External Action Service (EEAS) has furnished investment for a diverse array of initiatives, including the increase of citizen journalism projects inside the Balkans and the advertising of ladies' rights in Tunisia. One more example of this may be visible within the work achieved through the Open Society Foundations (OSF), which helps to foster the growth of civil society and the media in over one hundred twenty international locations all over the international. The Open Society Foundation (OSF) has a programme called "media" that enables help impartial journalism and guarantees that reporters have get entry to the gear and sources they require to do their jobs. In a broader experience, worldwide support for the development of civil society and the media is vital for organising the conditions important for direct democracy to flourish.

Helping to ensure that democracy is genuinely of the people, via the humans, and for the human beings is something that the international community can do with the aid of giving citizens more energy and with the aid of supporting unbiased media (Sobirovich, 2022).

CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS

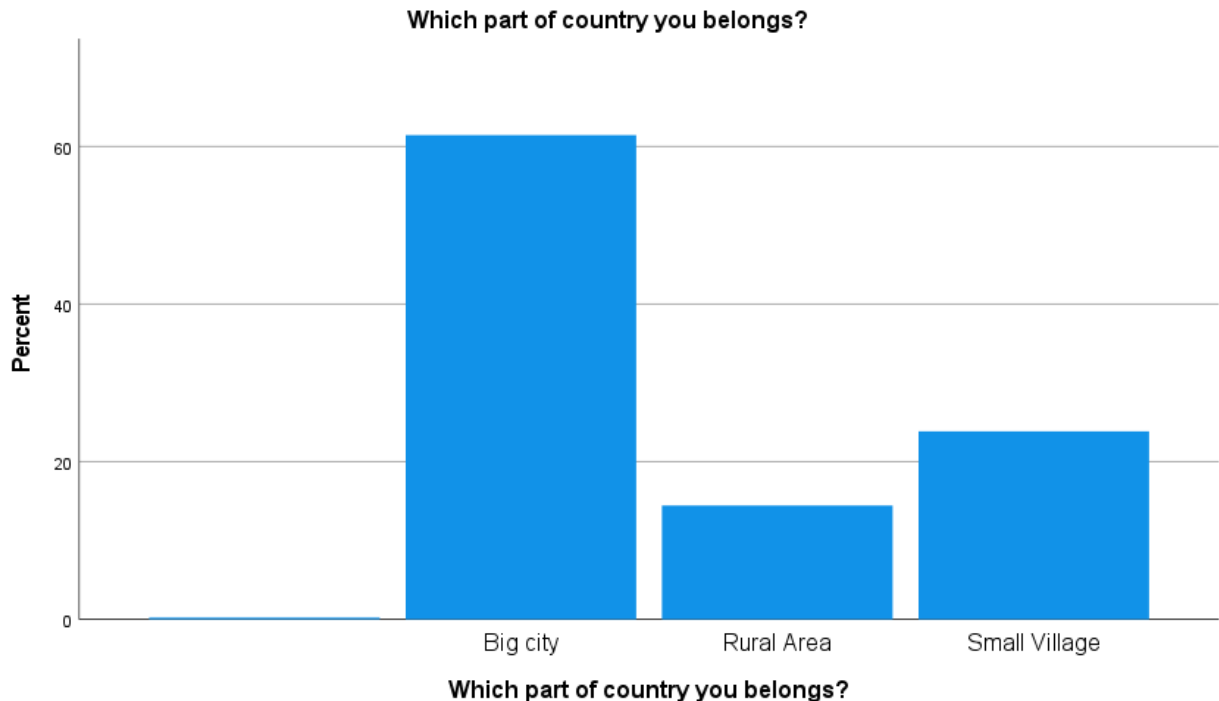
4.1. Results

The data analysis involved the use of frequency tables and graphical representations to summarize the demographic characteristics of the respondents. The key variables analyzed included the region of residence, age, gender, marital status, level of education, occupation, type of occupation, and country of origin.

Frequency tables and graphs

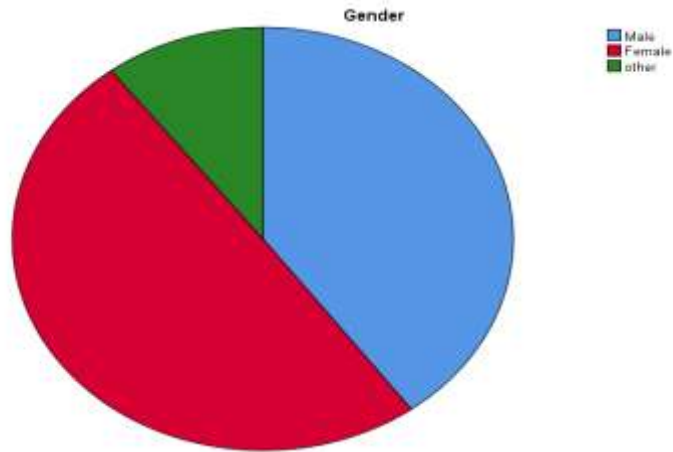
Which part of country you belongs?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	.2	.2	.2
Big city	268	61.5	61.5	61.7
Rural Area	63	14.4	14.4	76.1
Small Village	104	23.9	23.9	100.0
Total	436	100.0	100.0	



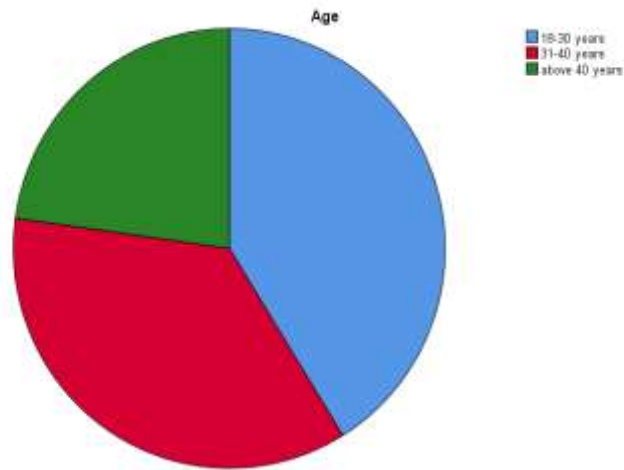
The part of country respondents belonged to are given in the above displays in bar graph and frequency tables. A majority of participants belonged to big city i.e., 61.5 per cent whereas only 14.4. per cent, 23.9 per cent belonged to rural area and small village, respectively.

		Gender			Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	Male	154	38.1	39.9	39.9
	Female	192	47.5	49.7	89.6
	other	40	9.9	10.4	100.0
	Total	386	95.5	100.0	
Missing	System	18	4.5		
Total		404	100.0		



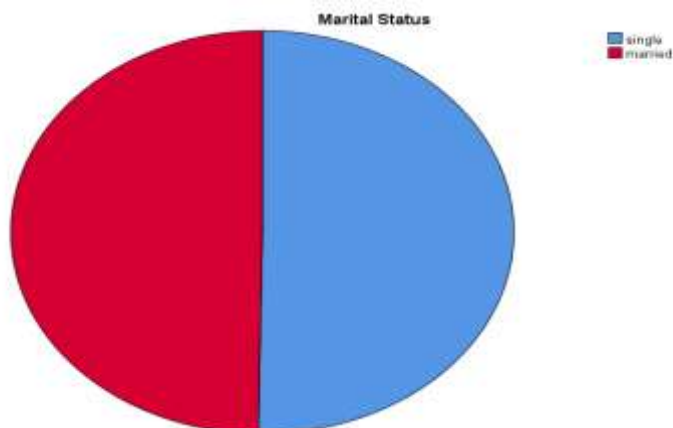
The gender-wise distribution is illustrated in the table followed by pie-chart. The above data shows that Male 38.1 per cent, female 47.5 per cent, and 9.9 per cent other gender were observed in the dataset.

		Age			Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	18-30 years	159	39.4	41.2	41.2
	31-40 years	139	34.4	36.0	77.2
	above 40 years	88	21.8	22.8	100.0
	Total	386	95.5	100.0	
Missing	System	18	4.5		
Total		404	100.0		



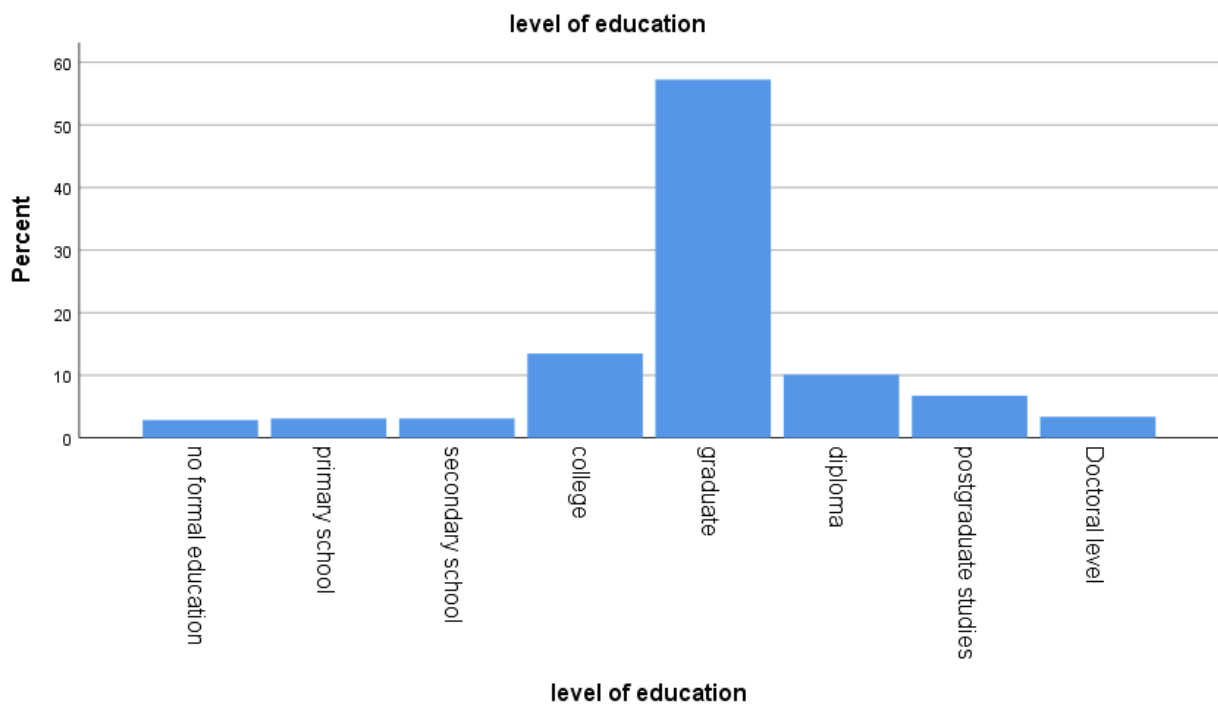
The age-wise distribution is illustrated in the table followed by pie-chart. The age distribution was categorized into 18-30 years, 31-40 years, and above 40 years. Eighteen to thirty years 39.4 per cent, thirty-one to forty years 34.4 per cent, and above forty-years 21.8 per cent aged respondents were observed in the dataset.

		Marital Status			Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	single	194	48.0	50.3	50.3
	married	192	47.5	49.7	100.0
	Total	386	95.5	100.0	
Missing	System	18	4.5		
Total		404	100.0		



The marital status distribution is shown in the table followed by pie-chart. In the sample of this study, Single respondents were 48 per cent and married respondents were 47.5 per cent as presented in the dataset.

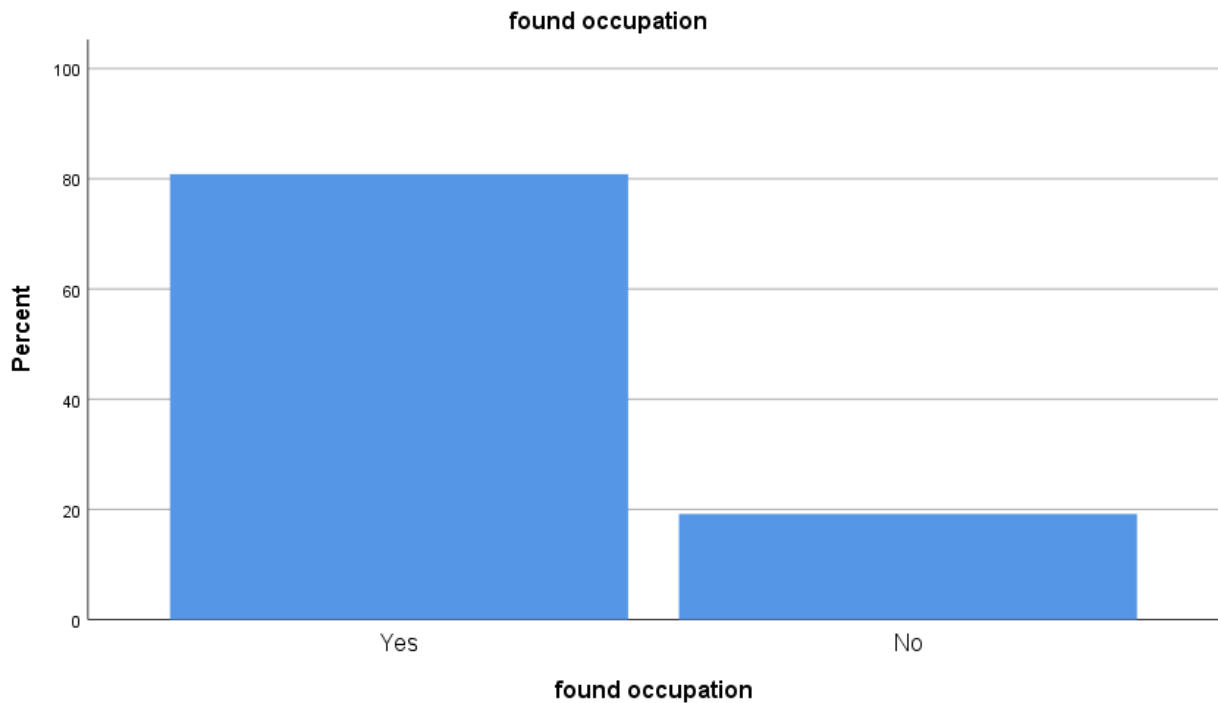
		level of education			Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	no formal education	11	2.8	2.8	2.8
	primary school	12	3.1	3.1	6.0
	secondary school	12	3.1	3.1	9.1
	college	52	13.5	13.5	22.5
	graduate	221	57.3	57.3	79.8
	diploma	39	10.1	10.1	89.9
	postgraduate studies	26	6.7	6.7	96.6
	Doctoral level	13	3.4	3.4	100.0
Total		386	100.0	100.0	



The level of education distribution is shown in the table followed by figure depicted bar-graph. It shows various levels of education of the respondents in this study. Except for 11 respondents that had no formal level of education, all others had one or other level of education. The distribution of the level of educations is as follows; primary school 3.1 per cent, secondary school 3.1 per cent, college 13.5 per cent, graduate 57.3 per cent, diploma 10.1 per cent, postgraduate studies 6.7 per cent, and Doctoral level 3.4 per cent.

You found occupation

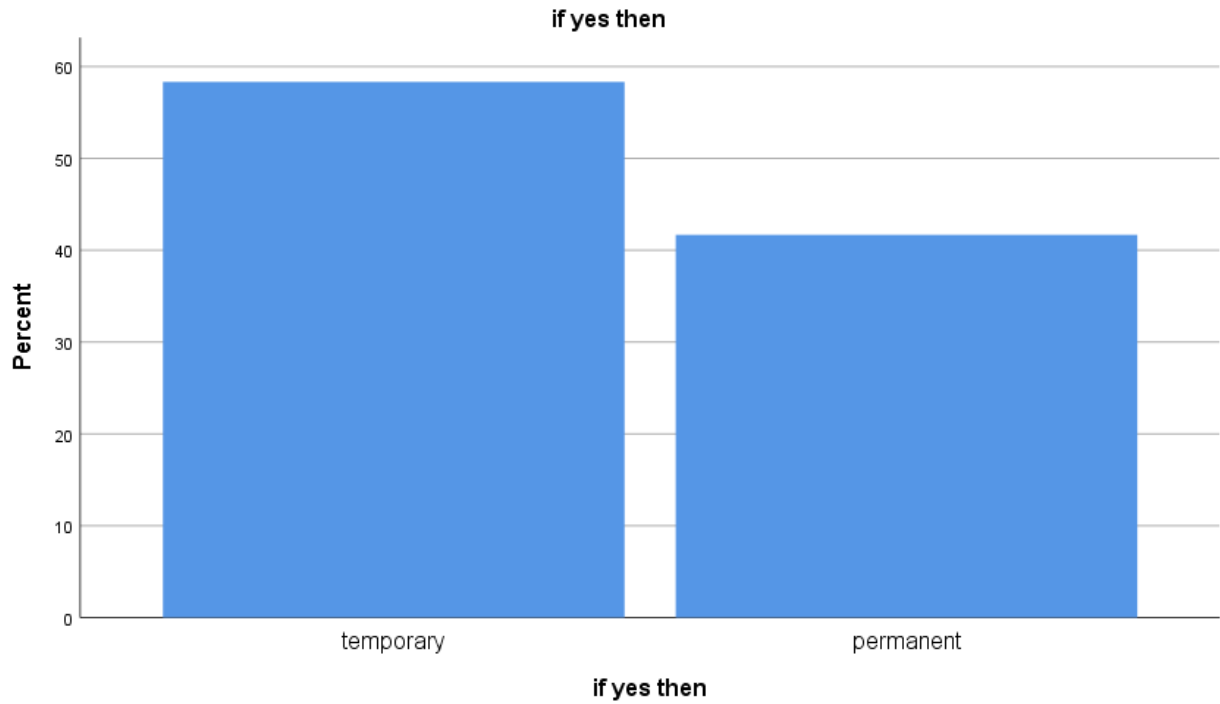
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	312	80.8	80.8	80.8
	No	74	19.2	19.2	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	



The above distribution shows the table of found any kind of occupation or not followed by bar-graph illustration. It shows that other than 19.2 per cent participants, 80.8 per cent of the respondents found some kind of occupation.

if yes then

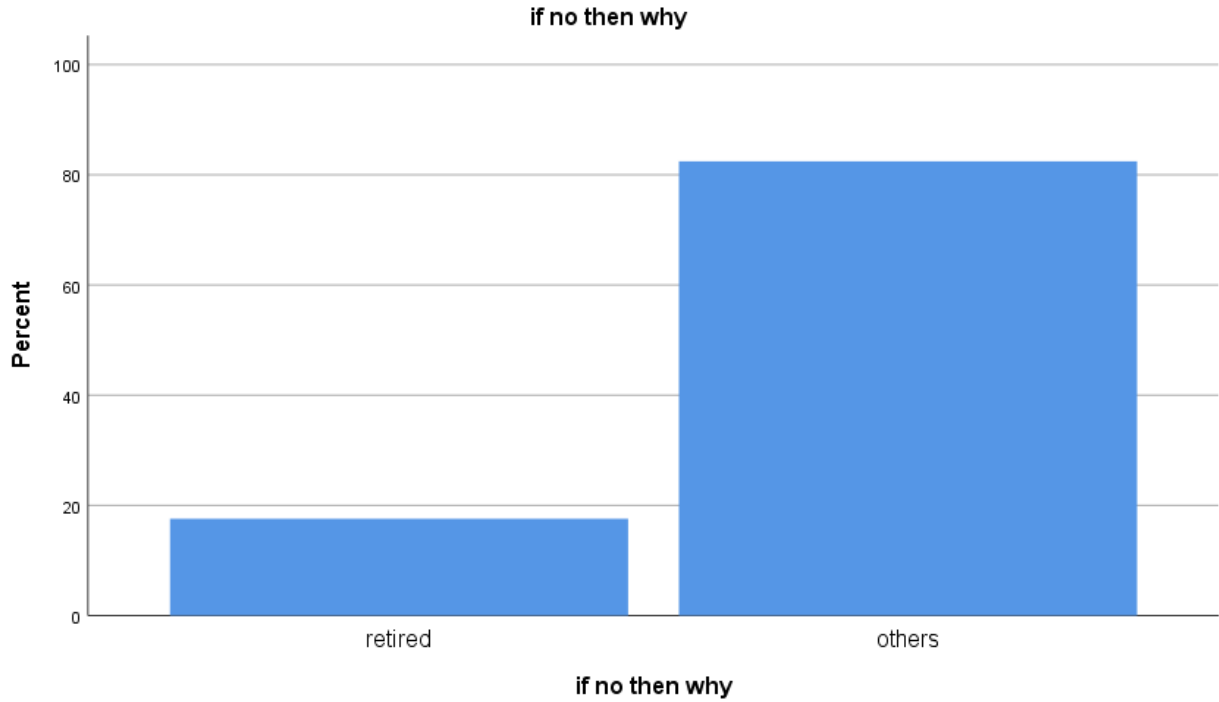
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	temporary	182	47.2	58.3	58.3
	permanent	130	33.7	41.7	100.0
	Total	312	80.8	100.0	
Missing	System	74	19.2		
Total		386	100.0		



The above bar-graph illustrates the data distribution of those who found some kind of occupation and nature of their occupation which is shown in frequencies and percentages in the table. A majority of the respondents of this study had found temporary occupation i.e., 47.3 per cent whereas 33.7 per cent had found permanent occupation.

if no then why

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	retired	13	3.4	17.6	17.6
	others	61	15.8	82.4	100.0
	Total	74	19.2	100.0	
Missing	System	312	80.8		
Total		386	100.0		



The above bar-graph illustrates the data distribution of those who did not find some kind of occupation and reason behind that which is shown in frequencies and percentages in the table. Some of them around 13 respondents had retired until then while 61 of the participants stated other reason behind not finding by then the occupation.

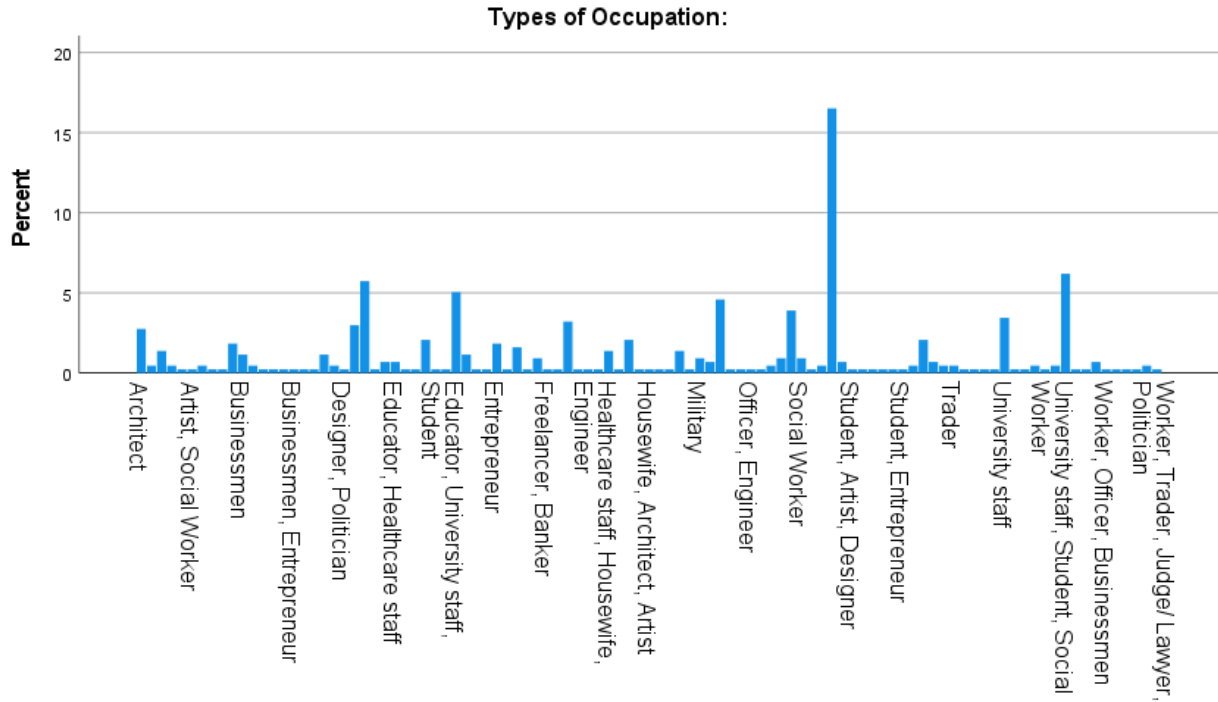
Types of Occupation:

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Architect	12	2.8	2.8	2.8
Architect, Social Worker	2	.5	.5	3.2
Artist	6	1.4	1.4	4.6
Artist, Entrepreneur	2	.5	.5	5.0
Artist, Judge/ Lawyer	1	.2	.2	5.3
Artist, Social Worker	1	.2	.2	5.5
Artist, Social Worker, Entrepreneur	2	.5	.5	6.0
Artist, Social Worker, Entrepreneur, Freelancer, Designer	1	.2	.2	6.2
Artist, Social Worker, Freelancer	1	.2	.2	6.4
Banker	8	1.8	1.8	8.3
Businessmen	5	1.1	1.1	9.4

Businessmen, Architect, Artist, Designer	2	.5	.5	9.9
Businessmen, Architect, Artist, Entrepreneur, Designer	1	.2	.2	10.1
Businessmen, Banker	1	.2	.2	10.3
Businessmen, Educator	1	.2	.2	10.6
Businessmen, Entrepreneur	1	.2	.2	10.8
Businessmen, Entrepreneur, Freelancer	1	.2	.2	11.0
Businessmen, Entrepreneur, Freelancer, Banker	1	.2	.2	11.2
Designer	5	1.1	1.1	12.4
Designer, Judge/ Lawyer, Politician	2	.5	.5	12.8
Designer, Politician	1	.2	.2	13.1
Doctor	13	3.0	3.0	16.1
Educator	25	5.7	5.7	21.8
Educator, Artist, Freelancer	1	.2	.2	22.0
Educator, Engineer	3	.7	.7	22.7
Educator, Healthcare staff	3	.7	.7	23.4
Educator, Healthcare staff, Doctor	1	.2	.2	23.6
Educator, Healthcare staff, Student	1	.2	.2	23.9
Educator, Student	9	2.1	2.1	25.9
Educator, University staff	1	.2	.2	26.1
Educator, University staff, Student	1	.2	.2	26.4
Engineer	22	5.0	5.0	31.4
Engineer, Architect	5	1.1	1.1	32.6
Engineer, Student	1	.2	.2	32.8
Engineer, University staff, Student	1	.2	.2	33.0
Entrepreneur	8	1.8	1.8	34.9
Entrepreneur, Freelancer	1	.2	.2	35.1
Fire fighters	7	1.6	1.6	36.7
Fire fighters, Social Worker	1	.2	.2	36.9
Freelancer	4	.9	.9	37.8
Freelancer, Banker	1	.2	.2	38.1
Freelancer, Designer	1	.2	.2	38.3

Healthcare staff	14	3.2	3.2	41.5
Healthcare staff, Artist, Social Worker, Entrepreneur, Freelancer, Designer	1	.2	.2	41.7
Healthcare staff, Doctor	1	.2	.2	42.0
Healthcare staff, Housewife, Engineer	1	.2	.2	42.2
Healthcare staff, Student	6	1.4	1.4	43.6
Healthcare staff, Student, Freelancer	1	.2	.2	43.8
Housewife	9	2.1	2.1	45.9
Housewife, Architect	1	.2	.2	46.1
Housewife, Architect, Artist	1	.2	.2	46.3
Housewife, Freelancer	1	.2	.2	46.6
Housewife, Social Worker	1	.2	.2	46.8
Judge/ Lawyer	6	1.4	1.4	48.2
Judge/ Lawyer, Politician	1	.2	.2	48.4
Military	4	.9	.9	49.3
Military, Police	3	.7	.7	50.0
Officer	20	4.6	4.6	54.6
Officer, Businessmen	1	.2	.2	54.8
Officer, Businessmen, Healthcare staff, Politician	1	.2	.2	55.0
Officer, Engineer	1	.2	.2	55.3
Officer, Social Worker, Entrepreneur	1	.2	.2	55.5
Officer, Student	2	.5	.5	56.0
Police	4	.9	.9	56.9
Retired	17	3.9	3.9	60.8
Social Worker	4	.9	.9	61.7
Social Worker, Banker	1	.2	.2	61.9
Social Worker, Entrepreneur	2	.5	.5	62.4
Student	72	16.5	16.5	78.9
Student, Artist	3	.7	.7	79.6
Student, Artist, Designer	1	.2	.2	79.8
Student, Artist, Freelancer	1	.2	.2	80.0
Student, Artist, Social Worker	1	.2	.2	80.3
Student, Artist, Social Worker, Entrepreneur, Freelancer	1	.2	.2	80.5

Student, Designer	1	.2	.2	80.7
Student, Entrepreneur	1	.2	.2	81.0
Student, Fire fighters	2	.5	.5	81.4
Student, Social Worker	9	2.1	2.1	83.5
Student, Social Worker, Entrepreneur	3	.7	.7	84.2
Student, Social Worker, Freelancer	2	.5	.5	84.6
Trader	2	.5	.5	85.1
Trader, Businessmen, Engineer, Entrepreneur, Freelancer	1	.2	.2	85.3
Trader, Entrepreneur	1	.2	.2	85.6
Trader, Politician	1	.2	.2	85.8
Trader, Social Worker	1	.2	.2	86.0
University staff	15	3.4	3.4	89.4
University staff, Artist	1	.2	.2	89.7
University staff, Social Worker	1	.2	.2	89.9
University staff, Student	2	.5	.5	90.4
University staff, Student, Entrepreneur	1	.2	.2	90.6
University staff, Student, Social Worker	2	.5	.5	91.1
Worker	27	6.2	6.2	97.2
Worker, Banker	1	.2	.2	97.5
Worker, Freelancer	1	.2	.2	97.7
Worker, Officer	3	.7	.7	98.4
Worker, Officer, Businessmen	1	.2	.2	98.6
Worker, Officer, Social Worker	1	.2	.2	98.9
Worker, Officer, Student	1	.2	.2	99.1
Worker, Police	1	.2	.2	99.3
Worker, Trader	2	.5	.5	99.8
Worker, Trader, Judge/ Lawyer, Politician	1	.2	.2	100.0
Total	436	100.0	100.0	



After those who had occupation, the kind of occupation was recorded of these respondents. The table shows the percentage and frequency distribution of the various types of occupation as it is followed by in the bar-graph. The data distribution of various types of occupations with majority of them students, workers, university staff and so.

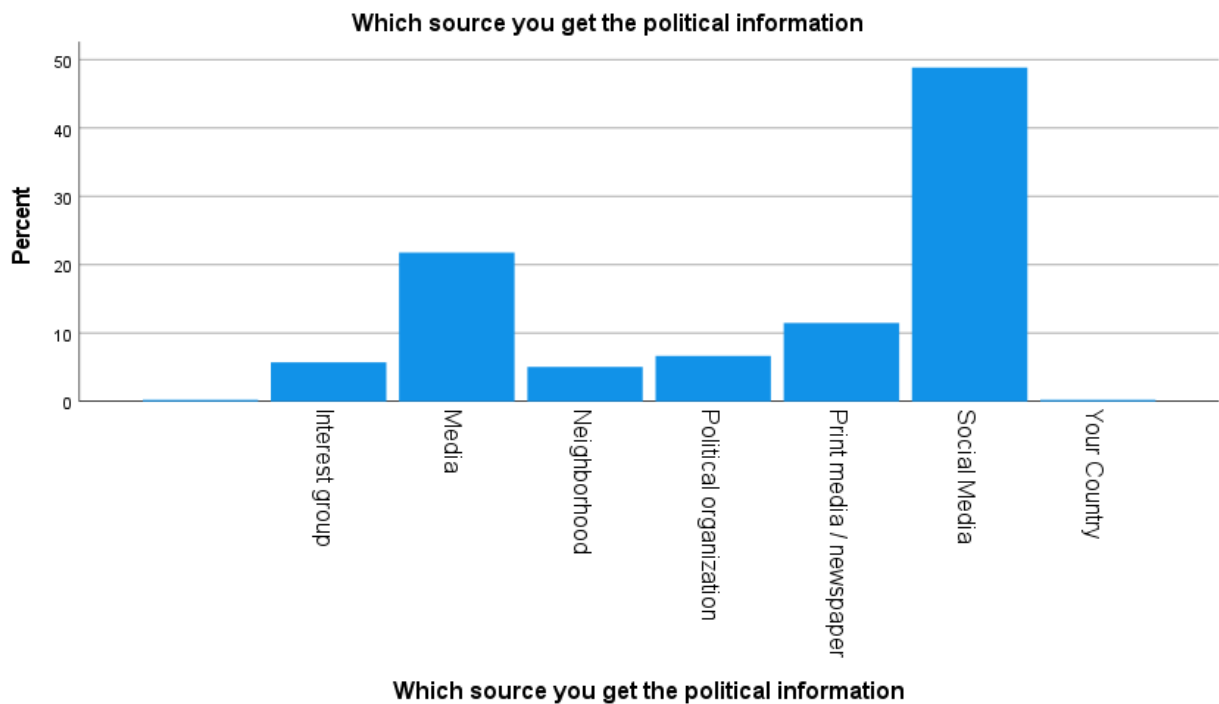
		Country		
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Italy	126	32.7	32.7
	UK	100	25.9	25.9
	Canada	75	19.4	19.4
	France	24	6	6
	Jordon	16	4	4
	Norway	3	1	1
	Pakistan	39	10	10
	Switzerland	3	1	1
	Total		386	100.0

As this study was conducted to make a comparative analysis of the level of engagement in referendum across the Italy, UK Canada, France, Jordon, Norway, Pakistan and Switzerland. The sample was sought from these countries, respectively. However, the size of sample from Italy was higher than the latter two countries. Sample size from Italy included 32.7 per cent,

UK 25.9 per cent, Canada 19.4 per cent, France 6 per cent, Jordan 4 per cent, Norway 1 per cent, Pakistan 10 per cent, and Switzerland 1 per cent.

Which source you get the political information

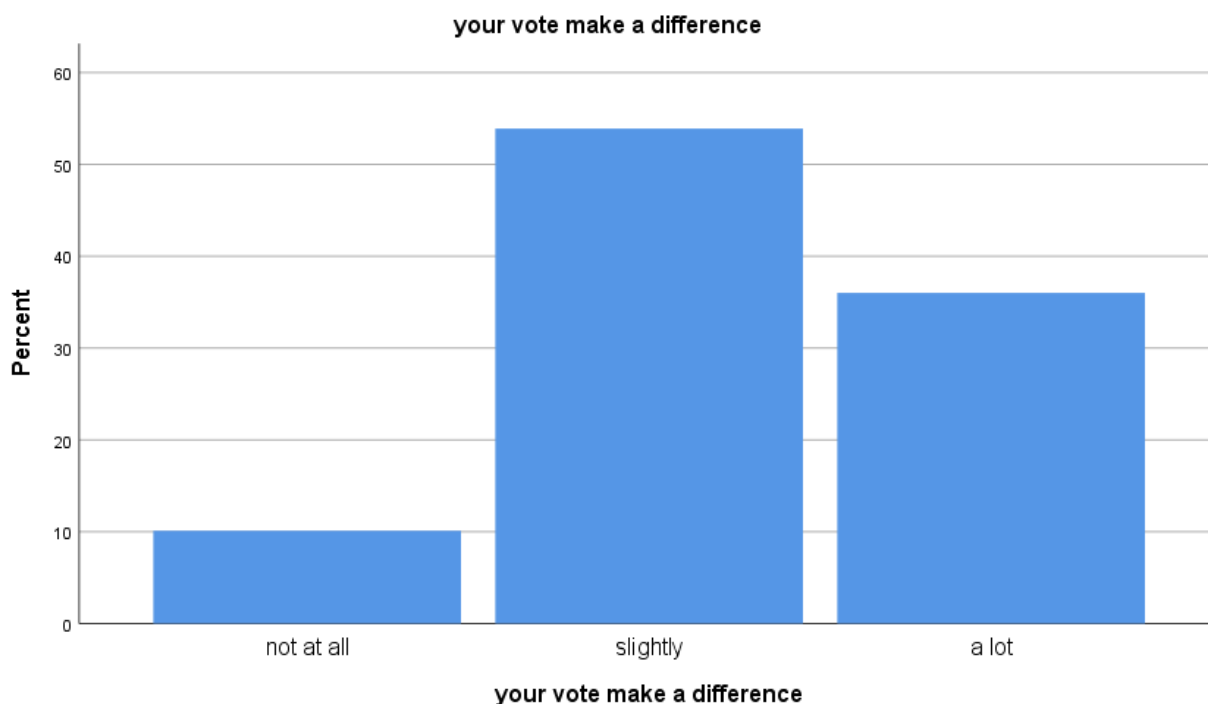
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	.2	.2	.2
Interest group	25	5.7	5.7	6.0
Media	95	21.8	21.8	27.8
Neighborhood	22	5.0	5.0	32.8
Political organization	29	6.7	6.7	39.4
Print media / newspaper	50	11.5	11.5	50.9
Social Media	213	48.9	48.9	99.8
Your Country	1	.2	.2	100.0
Total	436	100.0	100.0	



The data in the table above given followed by bar-graph is about the source of getting political information. Key source of getting political information found in this study are as follows; social media 48.9 per cent, media 21.8 per cent, print media/ newspaper 11.5 per cent, political organization 6.7 per cent and neighborhood 5 per cent.

your vote makes a difference

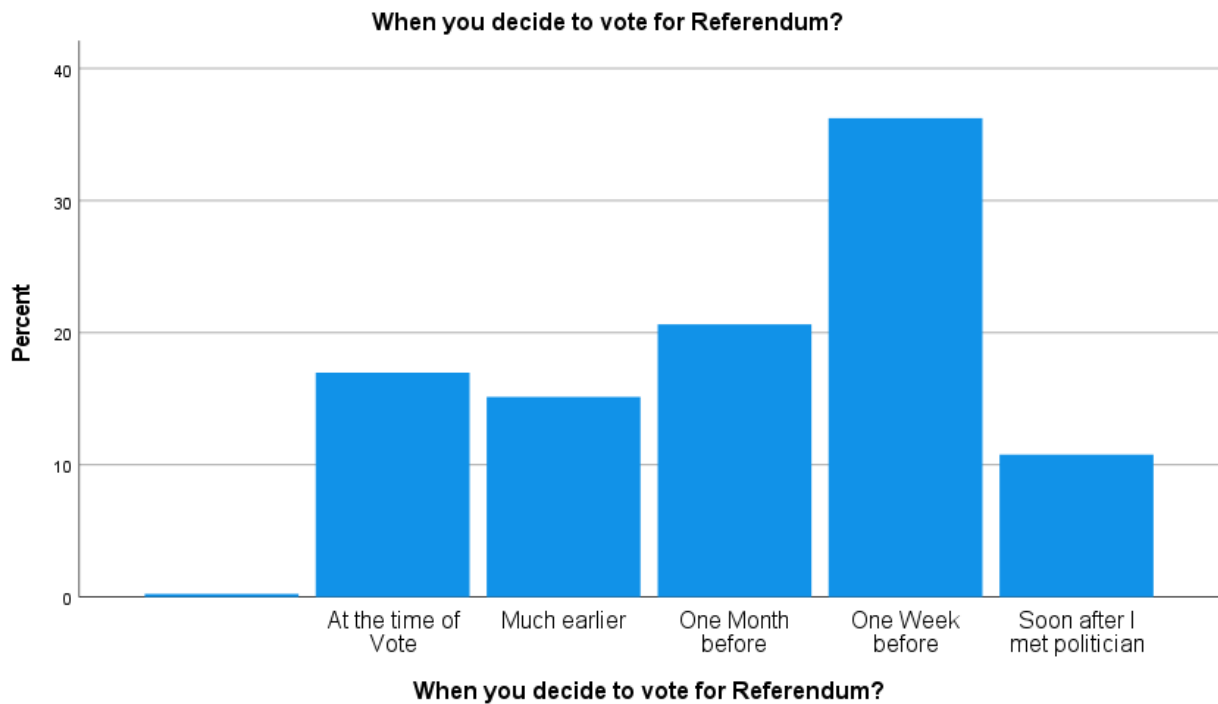
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	not at all	39	10.1	10.1	10.1
	slightly	208	53.9	53.9	64.0
	a lot	139	36.0	36.0	100.0
Total		386	100.0	100.0	



The perception of respondents regarding their power of vote was measured by asking them whether their vote make a difference or not. The data distribution is shown in the table in terms of percentages and frequencies given above and followed by the bar-graph. As the data demonstrates, an overwhelming majority registered positive attitude towards the said question. A majority of respondents of around 53.9 per cent said their vote make a slight difference, 36 per cent said it makes a lot difference while only 10 per cent declined the notion that their vote make any difference at all.

When you decide to vote for Referendum?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	.2	.2	.2
At the time of Vote	74	17.0	17.0	17.2
Much earlier	66	15.1	15.1	32.3
One Month before	90	20.6	20.6	53.0
One Week before	158	36.2	36.2	89.2
Soon after I met politician	47	10.8	10.8	100.0
Total	436	100.0	100.0	

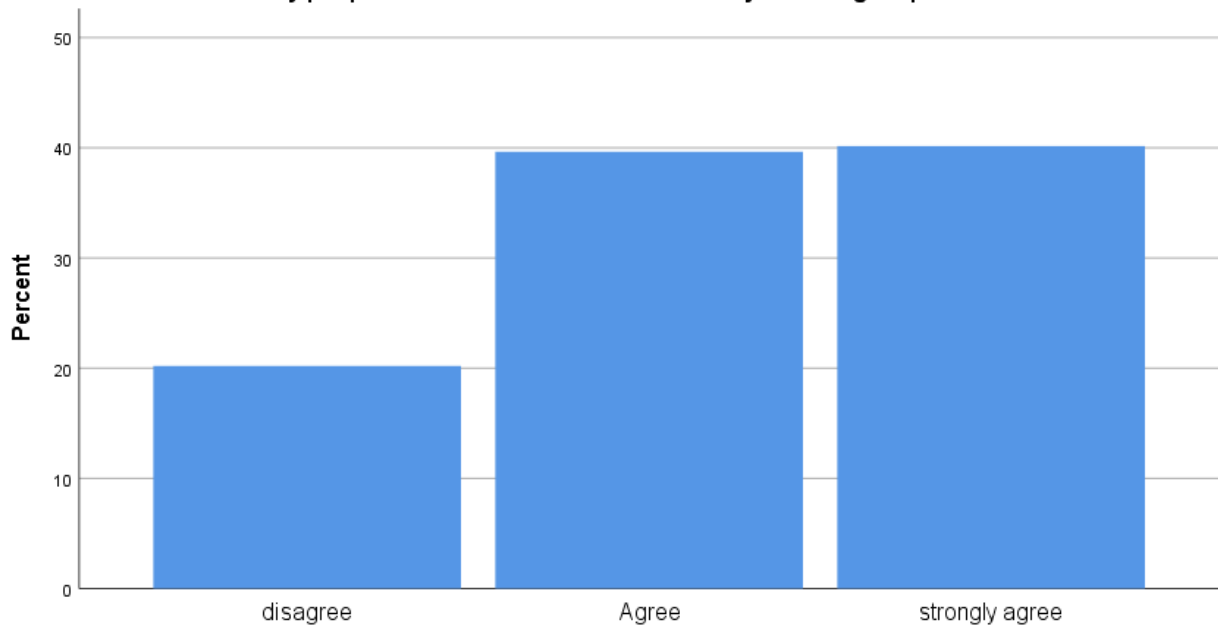


The distribution of data by when the respondents decide to vote for referendum is shown in the bar-graph and frequency table. A majority of 36.2 per cent decide to vote for referendum one week before the referendum. Similarly, approximately 20.6 per cent decide to vote for referendum one month before it. Other responses found are as follows: at the time of vote 17 per cent, much earlier 15.1 per cent and soon after met politician.

In democracy people are decision maker either directly or through representatives.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	disagree	78	20.2	20.2	20.2
	Agree	153	39.6	39.6	59.8
	strongly agree	155	40.2	40.2	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	

In democracy people are decision maker either directly or through representatives.



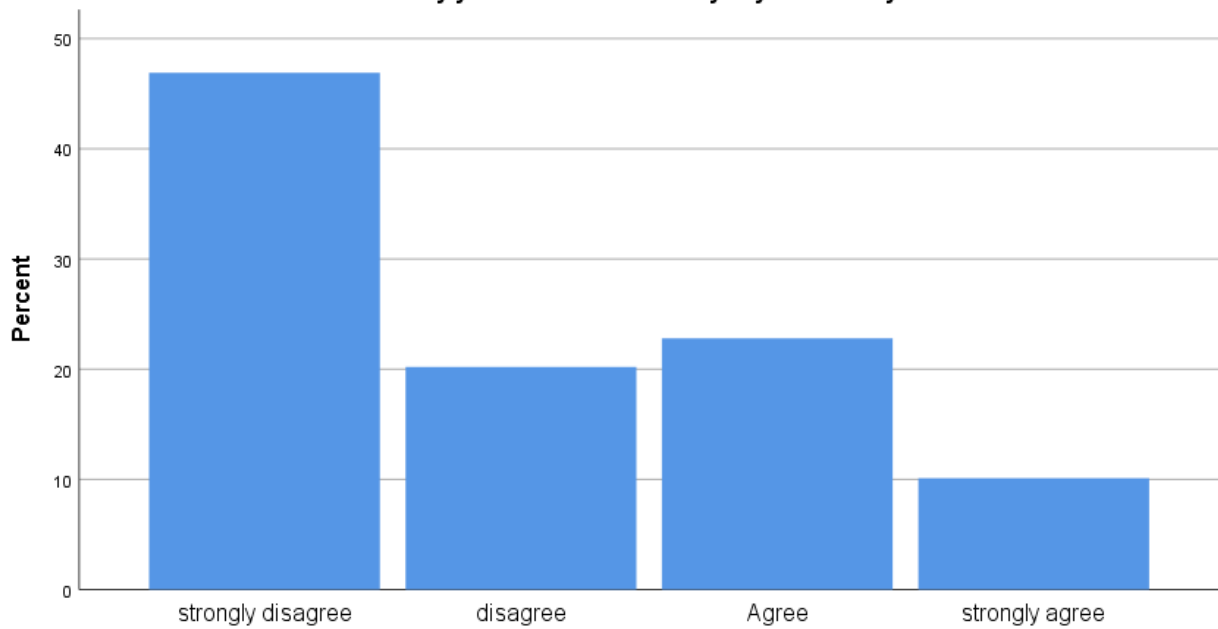
In democracy people are decision maker either directly or through representatives.

As per the above figures, the significant proportion of respondents, 79.8% (20.2% disagree + 39.6% agree), have a positive attitude towards the issue, indicating that they agree to some extent that, in a democracy, people play a role in decision making directly or by proxy. The majority (40.2%) strongly agree with the statement, indicating strong support for the idea that people have a central role in the democratic decision-making process. About 20.2% of the respondents disagreed with the statement, indicating that few people have a different view on the extent to which people participate in decision-making in a democratic system. This summary looks at the distribution of views among respondents on the role of people as decision-makers in a democratic context.

How satisfy you are with democracy in your country

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	181	46.9	46.9	46.9
	disagree	78	20.2	20.2	67.1
	Agree	88	22.8	22.8	89.9
	strongly agree	39	10.1	10.1	100.0
Total		386	100.0	100.0	

How satisfy you are with democracy in your country

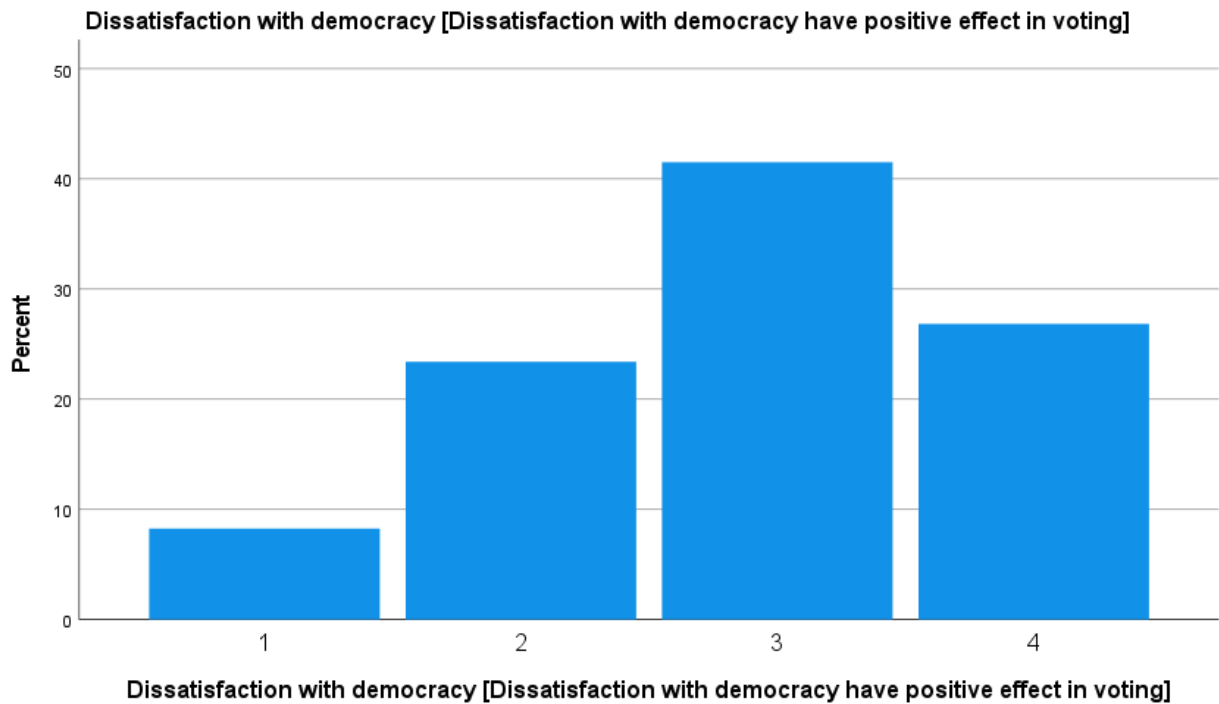


How satisfy you are with democracy in your country

The frequency table and bar-graph show significant proportion of the respondents, 67.1% (46.9% strongly disagree + 20.2% disagree), express varying levels of satisfaction with democracy in their country About 22.8% agree with their satisfaction and 10.1% strongly agree, making it a minority who are satisfied with democracy in their country Most respondents appear to have negative feelings, with a particularly high percentage strongly disagreeing. This suggests that individual respondents may be more concerned or dissatisfied with the state of democracy in their country. This summary provides an indication of the distribution of opinions and levels of satisfaction among respondents with the democracy in their country.

**Dissatisfaction with democracy [Dissatisfaction with
democracy have positive effect in voting]**

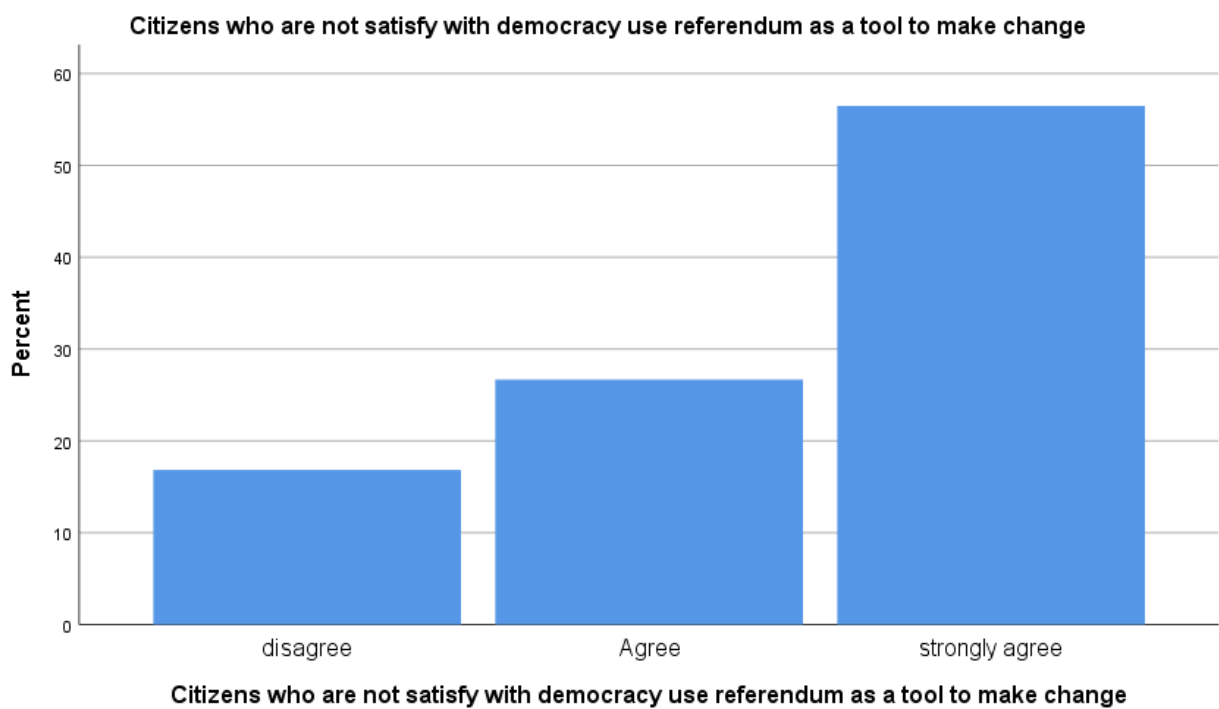
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	36	8.3	8.3	8.3
	2	102	23.4	23.4	31.7
	3	181	41.5	41.5	73.2
	4	117	26.8	26.8	100.0
	Total	436	100.0	100.0	



The above distribution shows the relationship between dissatisfaction with democracy and the positive effect of participants. Summary of the description: 8.3% strongly disagree. This indicates a proportion of respondents do not believe that dissatisfaction with democracy has a positive effect on voting. 23.4% disagreed with the statement. Like the strongly disagreeable group, this means that a significant proportion of respondents see no positive relationship between dissatisfaction with democracy and turnout Agree (41.5%): 41.5% agree with the statement. This is a relatively large group, indicating that a majority of respondents believe that dissatisfaction with democracy has a positive effect on voting. I strongly agree (26.8%): 26.8% strongly agree with this statement. This is indicating that minorities hold strongly to the view that dissatisfaction with democracy positively affects voting.

Citizens who are not satisfy with democracy use referendum as a tool to make change

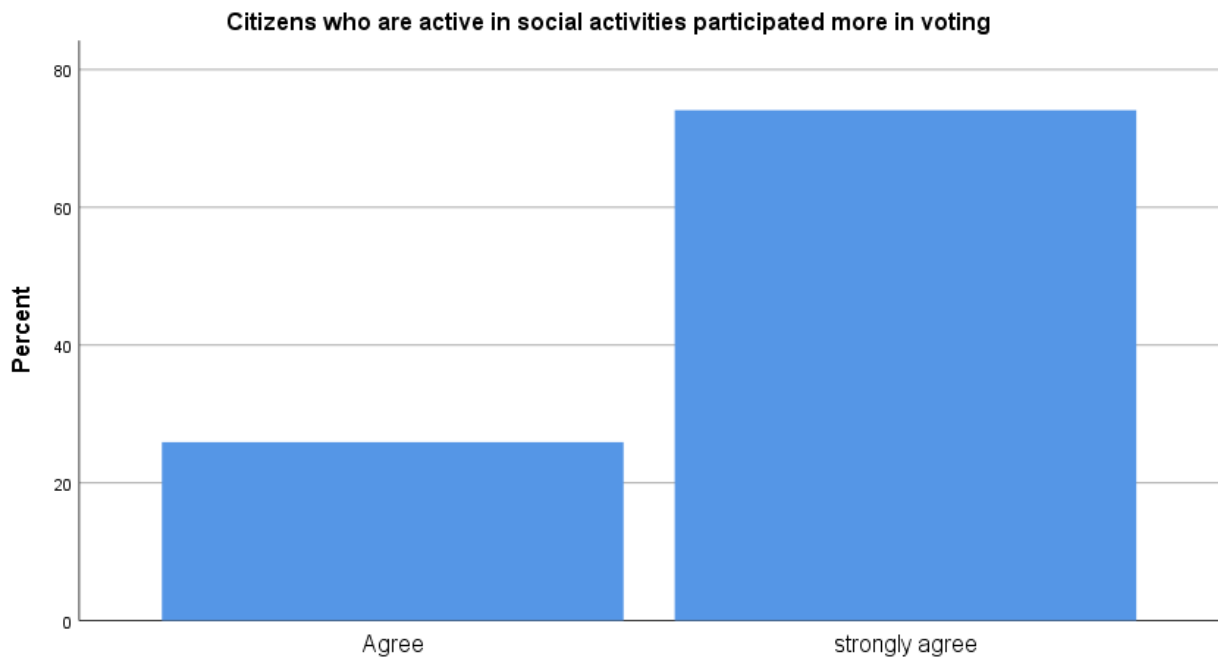
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	disagree	65	16.8	16.8	16.8
	Agree	103	26.7	26.7	43.5
	strongly agree	218	56.5	56.5	100.0
Total		386	100.0	100.0	



The bar-graph of data distribution as well as table presents data on public satisfaction with democracy and referendums as a mechanism for change. Among the respondents, 16.8% disagree, 26.7% agree, and a majority of 56.5% strongly agree with the idea of using the referendum as a means of reform. Cumulative percentages show that 43.5% of the participants agree or disagree with the idea of offering a referendum as a response to dissatisfaction with democracy as a way to express their dissatisfaction with the democratic process and advocating for change shows remarkable support.

Citizens who are active in social activities participated more in voting

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	100	25.9	25.9	25.9
	strongly agree	286	74.1	74.1	100.0
Total		386	100.0	100.0	



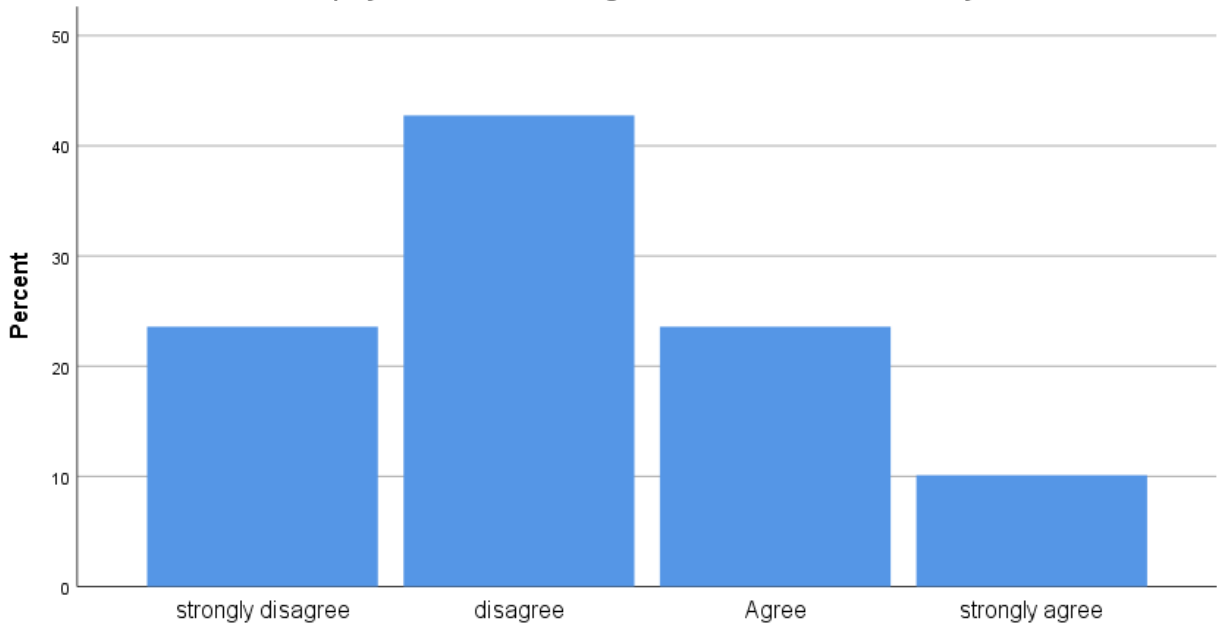
Citizens who are active in social activities participated more in voting

The table as well as bar-graph shows data on citizen participation in social activities and voter participation. A significant majority at 74.1% of respondents strongly agree that individuals involved in social activities are more likely to participate in elections. Another 25.9% simply agree with this statement. The cumulative percentage of 100% indicates that all participants agree on the positive relationship between active participation in social activities and increased participation in the voting process between. These findings underscore the strong assumption that socially active citizens are more likely to exercise their right to vote, highlighting the potential impact of social cohesion on civic participation plant.

Citizens play their role who have good attachment with community

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	91	23.6	23.6	23.6
	disagree	165	42.7	42.7	66.3
	Agree	91	23.6	23.6	89.9
	strongly agree	39	10.1	10.1	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	

Citizens play their role who have good attachment with community

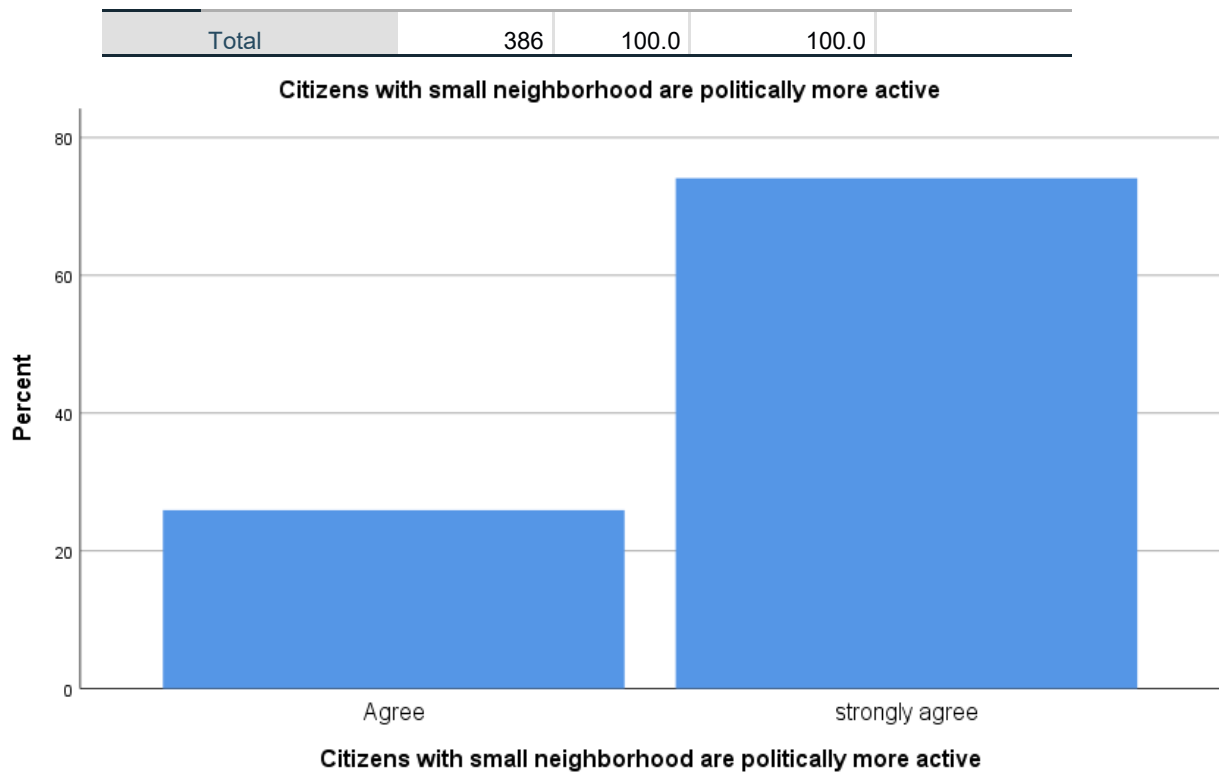


Citizens play their role who have good attachment with community

The table and bar-graph show residents’ perceptions of the relationship between their attachment to the community and their active role in civic engagement. A large number of respondents, 66.3%, neither agreed (42.7%) nor strongly agreed (23.6%) with the notion that individuals who are highly connected to their communities play an important role ie. there was opposition, 23.6% agreed, 10.1 %. Even agree strongly with the statement, it shows a minority of people who see a positive relationship between community engagement and civic participation with it. The cumulative percentage reflects 100% opinion.

Citizens with small neighborhood are politically more active

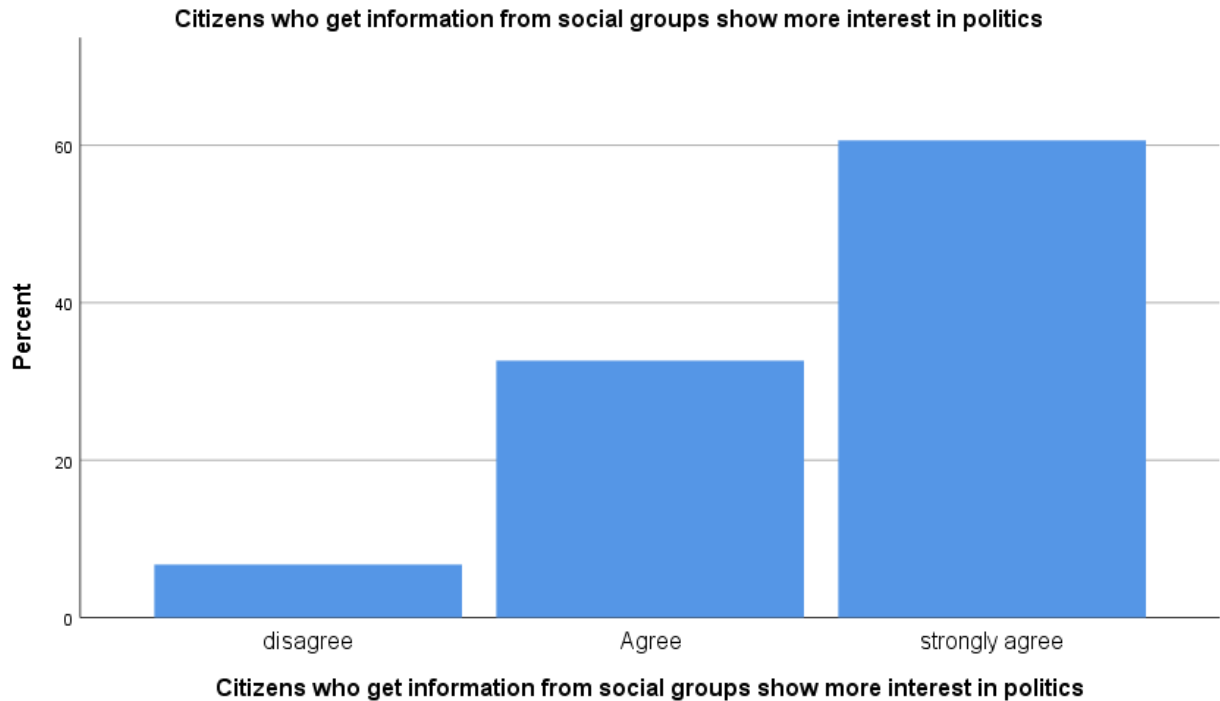
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	100	25.9	25.9	25.9
	strongly agree	286	74.1	74.1	100.0



The bar-graph as well as table presents research on the relationship between civic community size and political activity. A majority including 74.1% strongly agree that individuals living in small communities are more politically active. Another 25.9% agree with this statement. A cumulative percentage of 100% indicates that all participants agree on the positive relationship between small communities and high levels of political participation. These findings illustrate the prevailing view that citizens in smaller neighborhoods tend to be more actively involved in politics, highlighting the perceived effect of neighborhood size on political participation. Further investigation into these underlying specific forces and contributing factors may yield valuable insights into public behavior.

Citizens who get information from social groups show more interest in politics

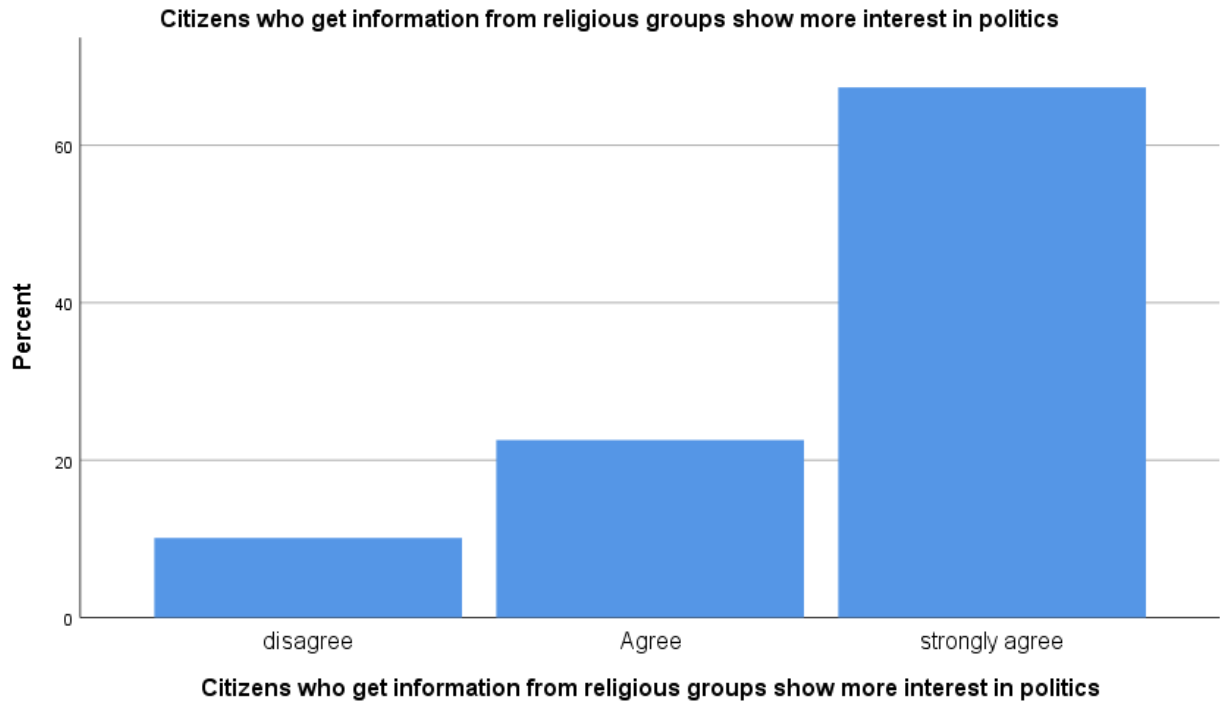
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	disagree	26	6.7	6.7	6.7
	Agree	126	32.6	32.6	39.4
	strongly agree	234	60.6	60.6	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	



The data in tables and bar graphs give us the relationship between different sources of information of citizens, especially social groups, and their level of interest in politics. 60.6% strongly agree that individuals get information from life of the categories there show a strong interest in political approval, while only 6.7% disapprove. The cumulative percentages indicate a high level of agreement among participants on the positive relationship between access to information from social groups and increased political interest. These findings suggest a widespread belief that social group networks play an important role in shaping individuals' political participation, emphasizing the importance of social networks in fostering political interest among citizens. Further research may provide valuable insights into the specific mechanisms by which social groups influence political knowledge and participation.

Citizens who get information from religious groups show more interest in politics

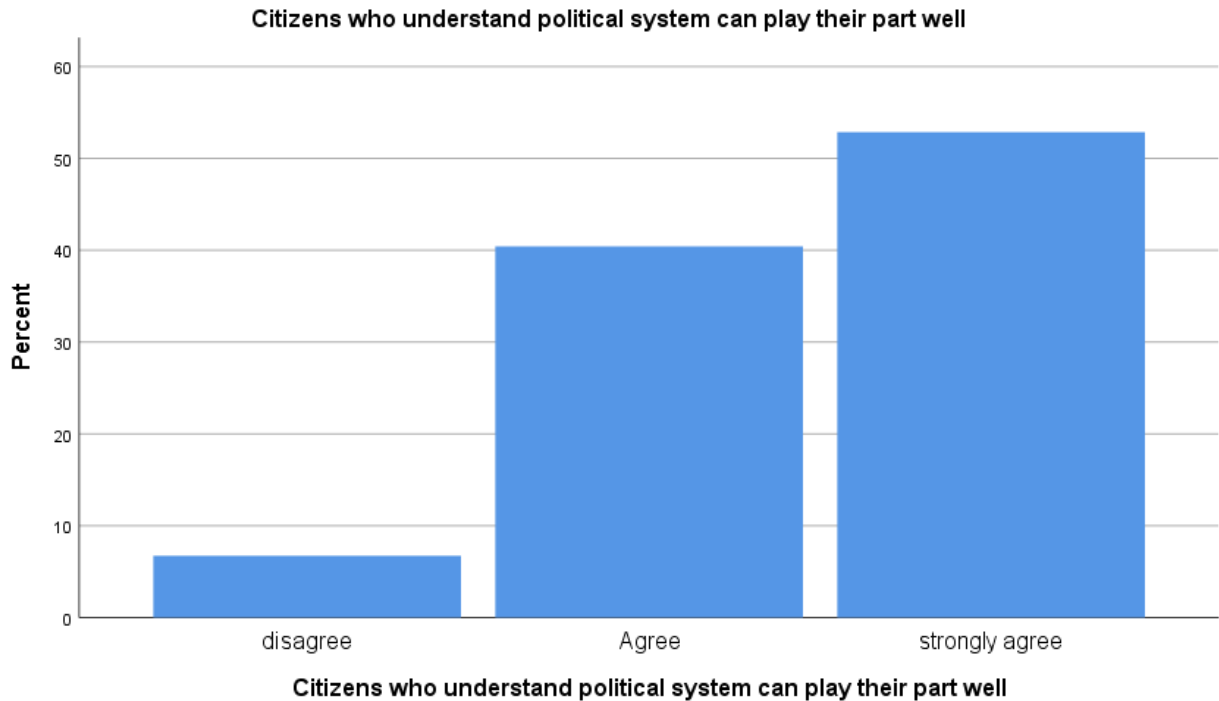
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	disagree	39	10.1	10.1	10.1
	Agree	87	22.5	22.5	32.6
	strongly agree	260	67.4	67.4	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	



The table as well as bar-graph in the above figure shed light on the relationship citizens have with the information they receive from religious groups and their interest in politics. A majority of the respondents 67.4% strongly agree that individuals receiving information from religious groups show a strong interest in politics in addition to 22.5% agreeing with this statement, while only 10.1% disagree. The cumulative percentage of 100% indicates that participants mainly agree on the positive relationship between information sources from religious groups and increased political interest. These findings suggest that the widespread belief that participation in religious groups is associated with increased political awareness and interest among citizens may further investigation reveal specific developments and trajectories of religious groups help shape individual political participation.

Citizens who understand political system can play their part well

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	disagree	26	6.7	6.7	6.7
	Agree	156	40.4	40.4	47.2
	strongly agree	204	52.8	52.8	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	

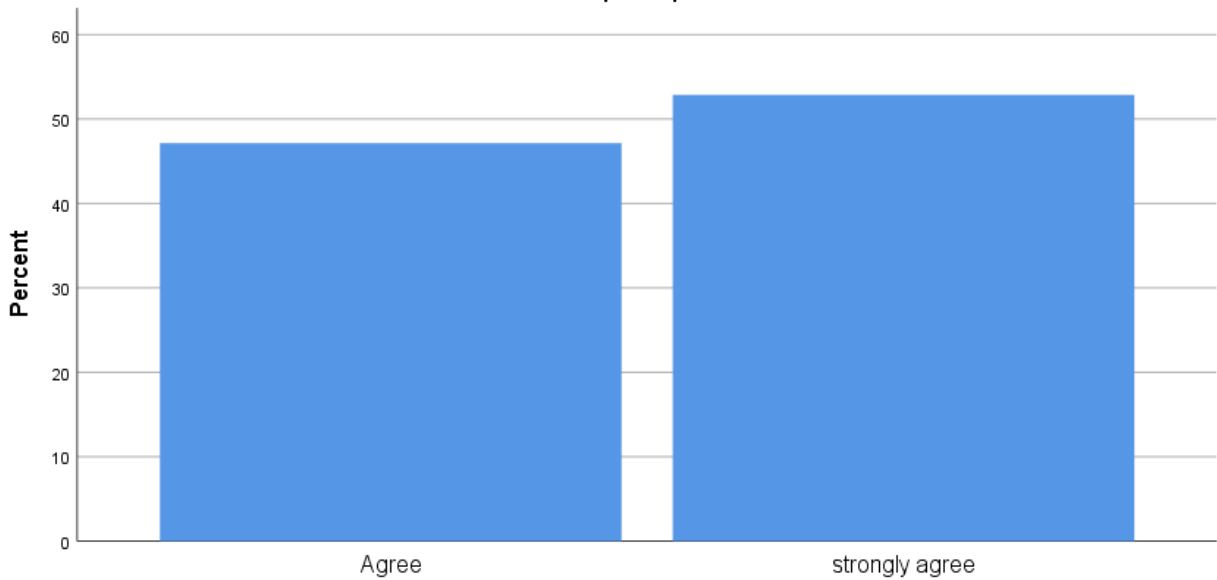


The frequency distribution by the bar-graph and table provide insight into public opinion on the relationship between the understanding of the political system and effective public participation. 52.8% strongly agree that individuals with an understanding of the political system are better equipped to implement it strongly Furthermore, 40.4% agree with this statement, while only 6.7% disagree. A cumulative percentage of 100% indicates agreement among participants on the positive relationship between understanding the political process and effective public participation. These findings suggest a strong belief that acceptance of the political system enhances citizens' ability to make meaningful contributions to public life. Further research could reveal specific aspects of political knowledge that citizens believe are important for effective participation and how this understanding translates into meaningful civic engagement.

Citizens with high level of internal efficacy knows referendum add extra voice in existing system because of direct voter participation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	182	47.2	47.2	47.2
	strongly agree	204	52.8	52.8	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	

Citizens with high level of internal efficacy knows referendum add extra voice in existing system because of direct voter participation

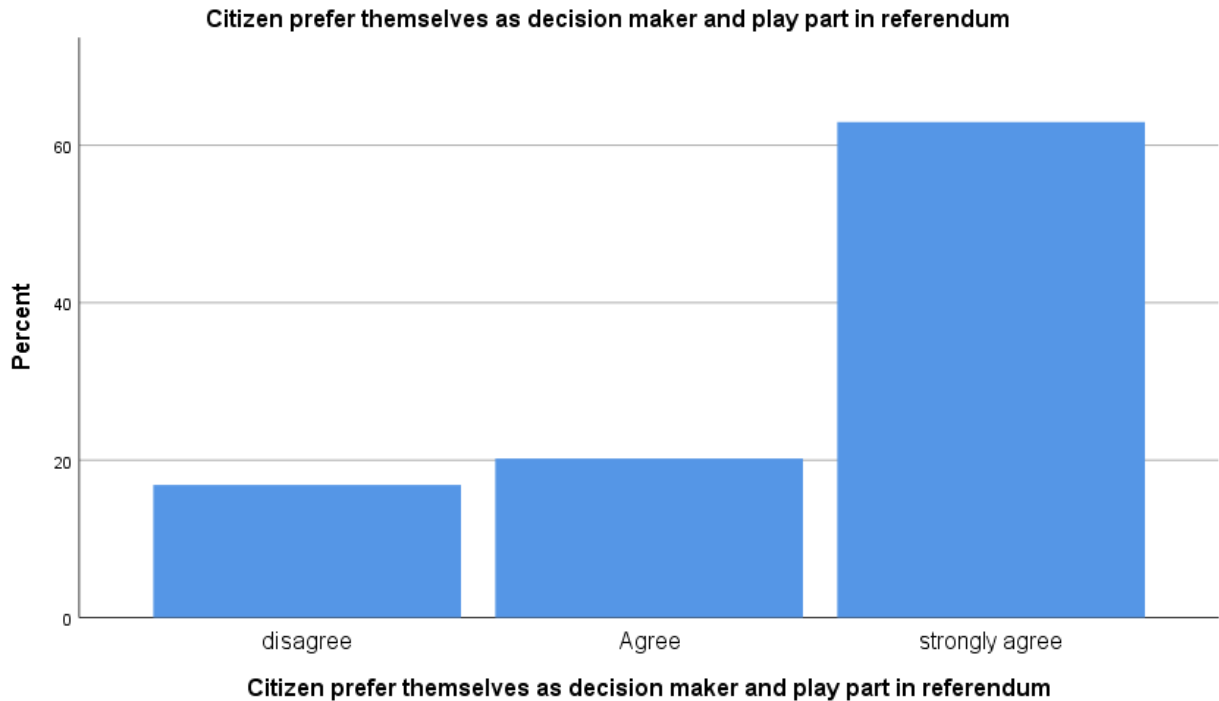


Citizens with high level of internal efficacy knows referendum add extra voice in existing system because of direct voter participation

The table as well as bar-graph provides insight into the relationship between citizen efficacy, especially its high status, and referendums as a means of adding new voices to the existing political system through voter engagement between the straight lines. Furthermore, 47.2% agree with this statement. The cumulative percentage of 100% indicates that participants agree on the positive relationship between high internal performance and the belief that referendums can provide a political system with existing has been enhanced by direct citizen participation networks. These findings reflect the common belief that citizens who feel genuinely empowered are more likely to use referendums as a valuable means of directly participating in and contributing to the political process.

Citizen prefer themselves as decision maker and play part in referendum

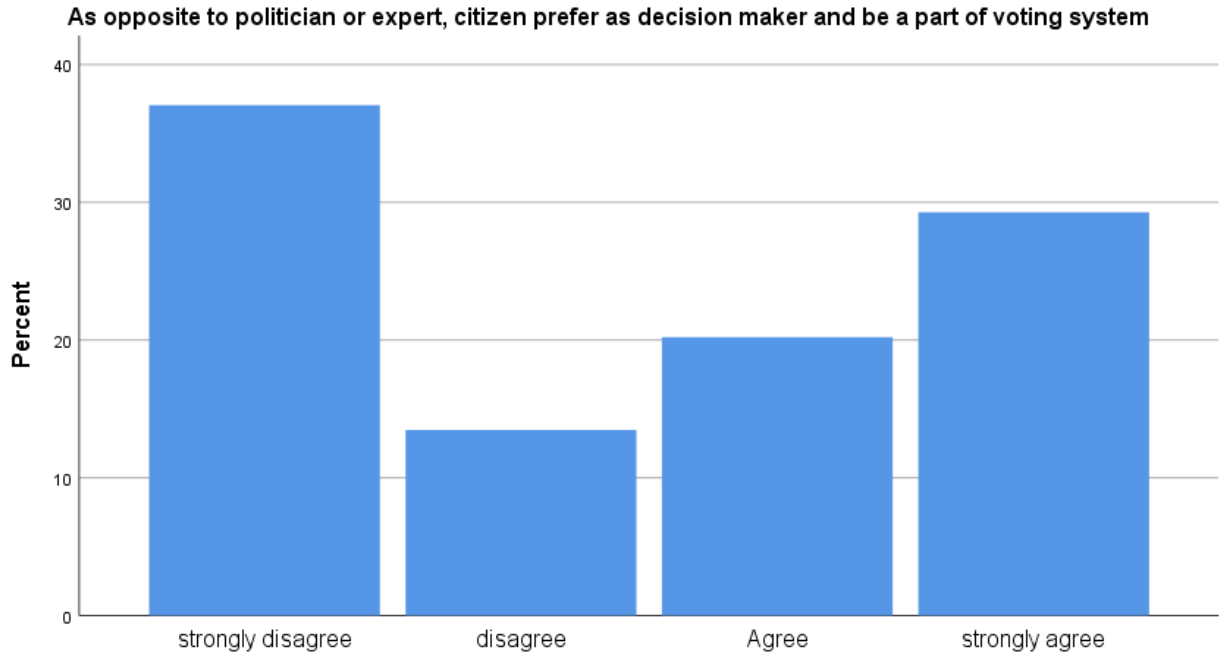
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	disagree	65	16.8	16.8	16.8
	Agree	78	20.2	20.2	37.0
	strongly agree	243	63.0	63.0	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	



The above figures present public opinion on the role of decision-makers and active participants in the referendum process. The majority of respondents, 63.0%, strongly agree that citizens like to see themselves as decision-makers and actively participate in referendums in addition to 20.2% who agree this statement, while 16.8% disagree. The cumulative percentage of 100% indicates that participants are strongly of opinion on the positive relationship between citizen self-determination and willingness to participate between strong referendums. These findings reflect a common belief that citizens want a direct say in decision-making processes, especially through the referendum process. Further research could examine the motivations for this preference and its implications for democratic participation and governance.

As opposite to politician or expert, citizen prefer as decision maker and be a part of voting system

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	143	37.0	37.0	37.0
	disagree	52	13.5	13.5	50.5
	Agree	78	20.2	20.2	70.7
	strongly agree	113	29.3	29.3	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	

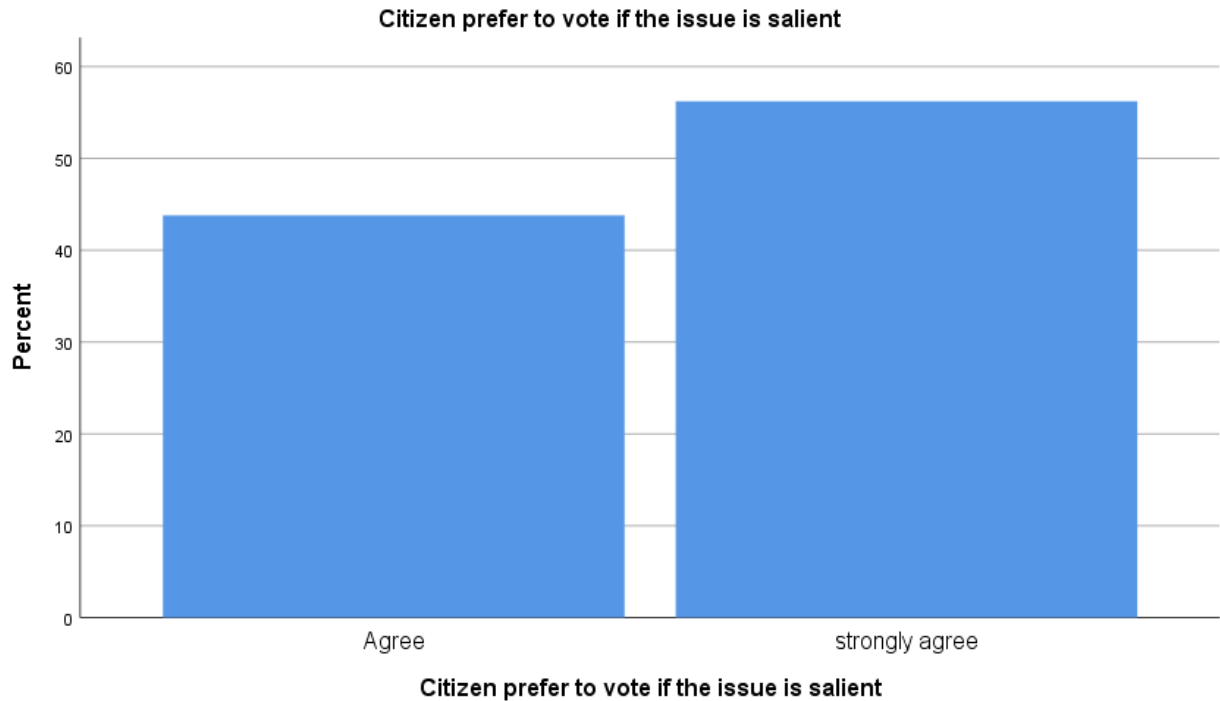


As opposite to politician or expert, citizen prefer as decision maker and be a part of voting system

The above data reflects the sentiments of the public on their desire to be decision-makers and participants in the electoral process, as opposed to the role of politicians or experts. In contrast to top-down, experts or experts prefer that they take on the role of decision-maker and are an active participant in the electoral process. In contrast, 37.0% strongly disagree with this view and 13.5% disagree. A cumulative percentage of 100% indicates a diversity of opinion, with significant proportions revealing a strong preference for citizen-controlled decision-making as opposed to relying on politicians or experts. The factors affecting these preferences and their implications for democratic practices could be further examined.

Citizen prefer to vote if the issue is salient

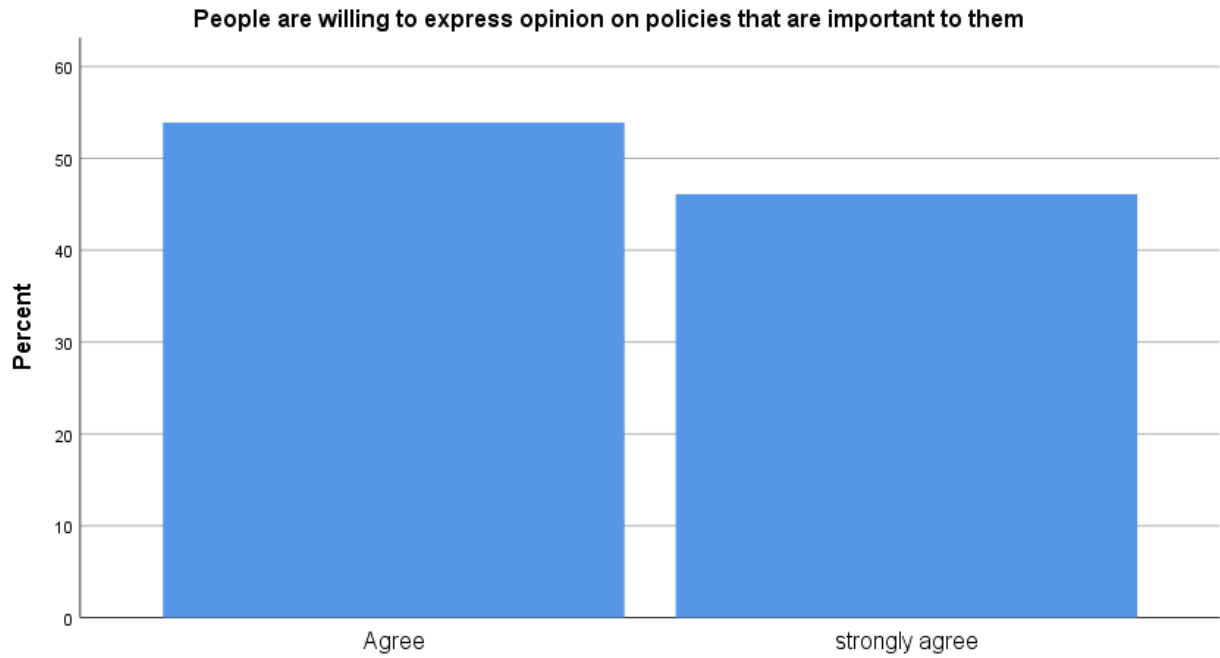
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	169	43.8	43.8	43.8
	strongly agree	217	56.2	56.2	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	



The graph and table show that most respondents strongly agree, with another 43.8% agreeing that citizens are more likely to vote when the issue at hand is high. These findings suggest that citizens are more likely to participate in elections when the issues decided upon are considered important or relevant. The strong agreement reflects the belief that critical issues play an important role in motivating and mobilizing citizens to exercise their right to vote. The factors that individuals consider when determining the importance of issues and how these considerations influence their political participation could be examined in more detail.

People are willing to express opinion on policies that are important to them

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	208	53.9	53.9	53.9
	strongly agree	178	46.1	46.1	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	

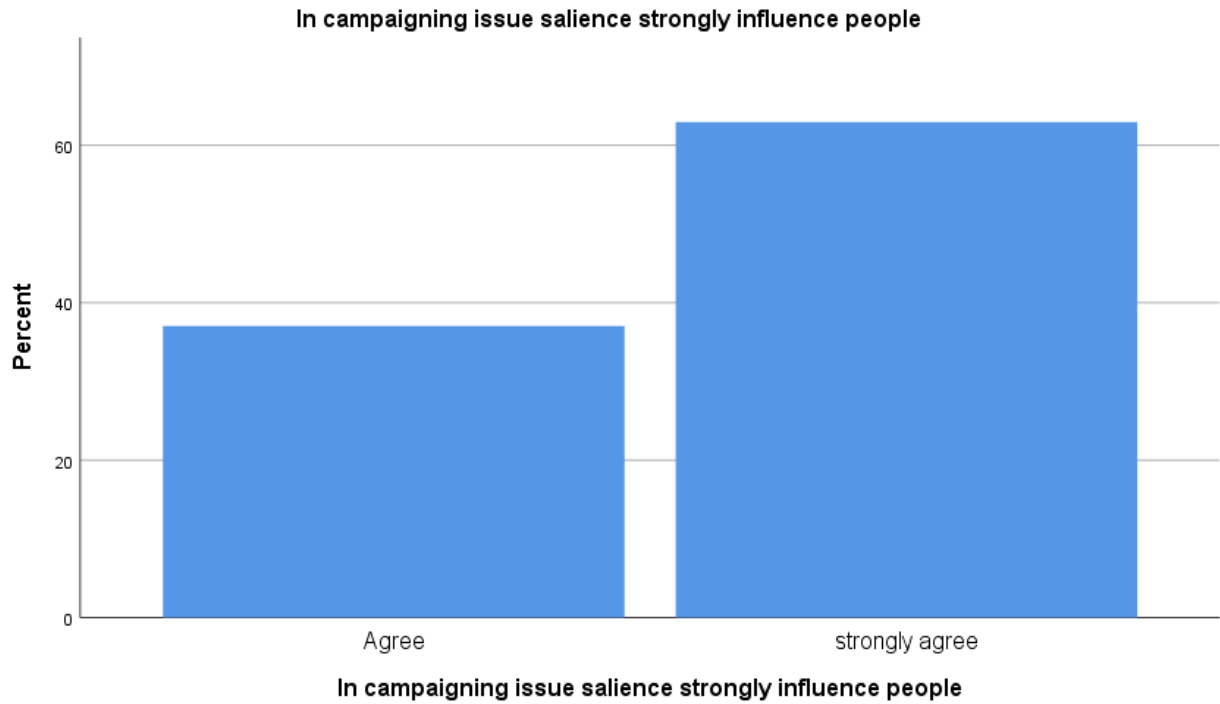


People are willing to express opinion on policies that are important to them

The data shows a majority of 53.9 per cent agree and about 46 per cent strongly agree with the statement that people are willing to express opinion on policies that are important to them.

In campaigning issue salience strongly influence people

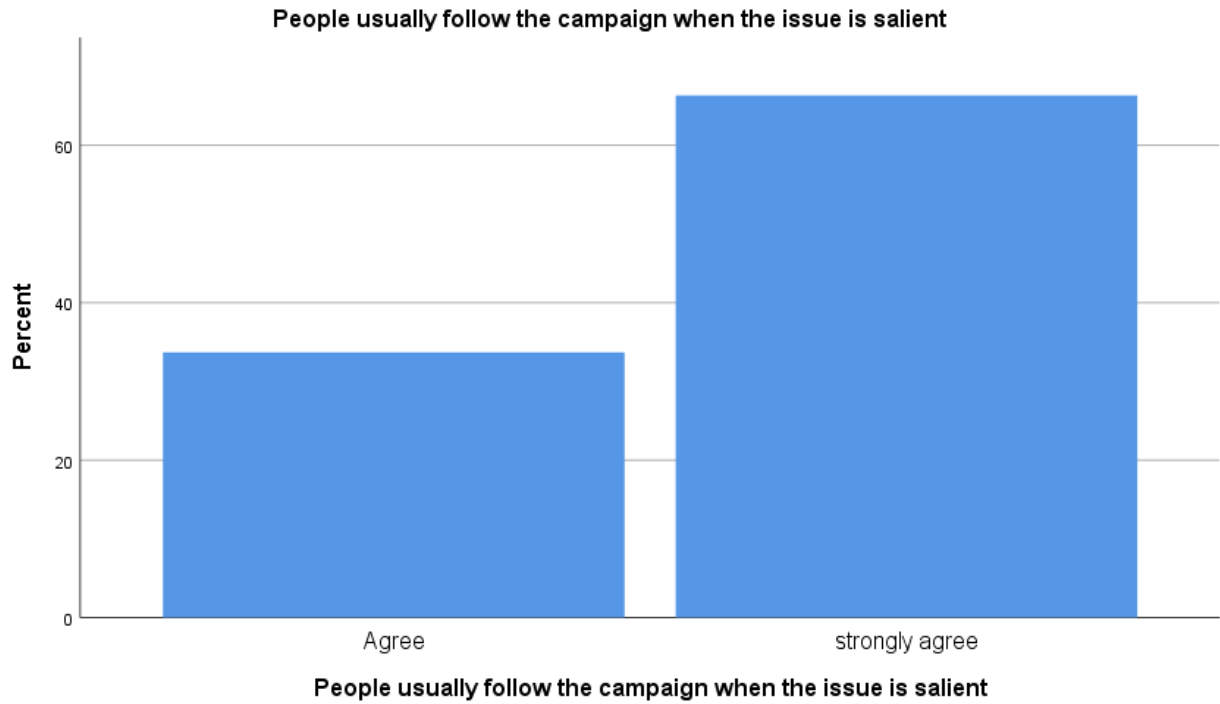
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	143	37.0	37.0	37.0
	strongly agree	243	63.0	63.0	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	



The data shows a majority of 37 per cent agree and about 63 percent strongly agree with the statement that in campaigning issue salient strongly influence people.

People usually follow the campaign when the issue is salient

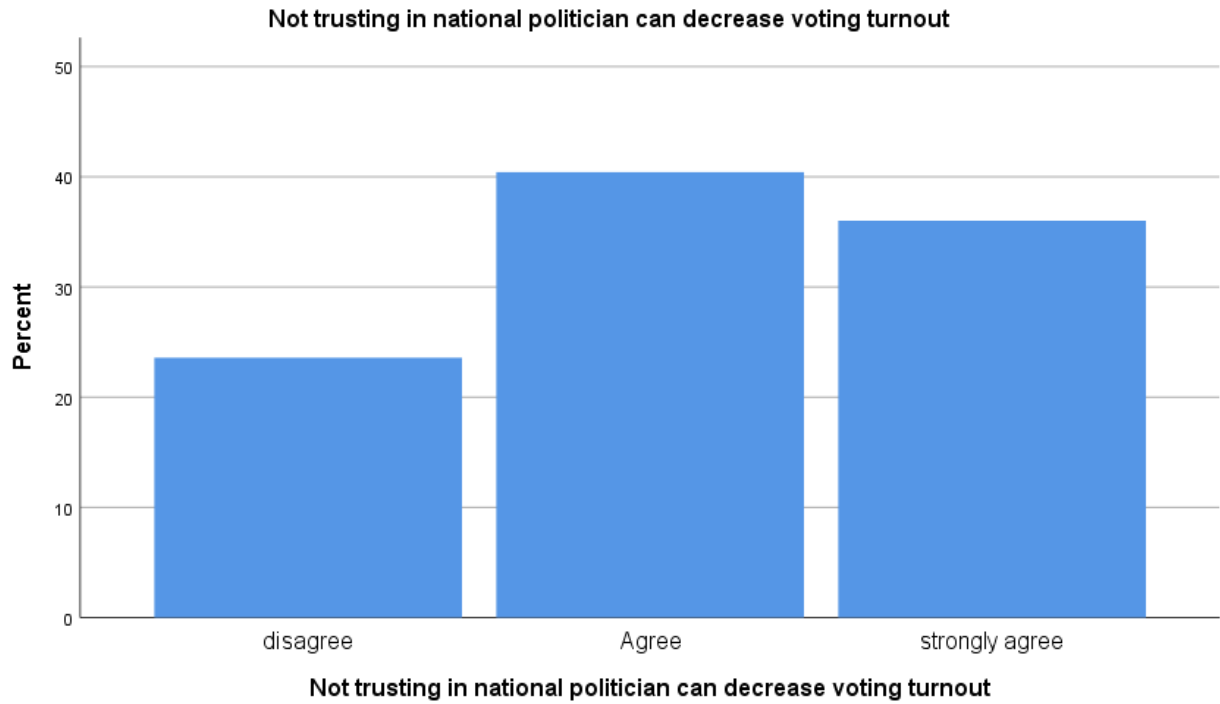
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	130	33.7	33.7	33.7
	strongly agree	256	66.3	66.3	100.0
Total		386	100.0	100.0	



The data shows a majority of 33.7 per cent agree and about 66.3 percent strongly agree with the statement that people usually follow the campaign when the issue is salient.

Not trusting in national politician can decrease voting turnout

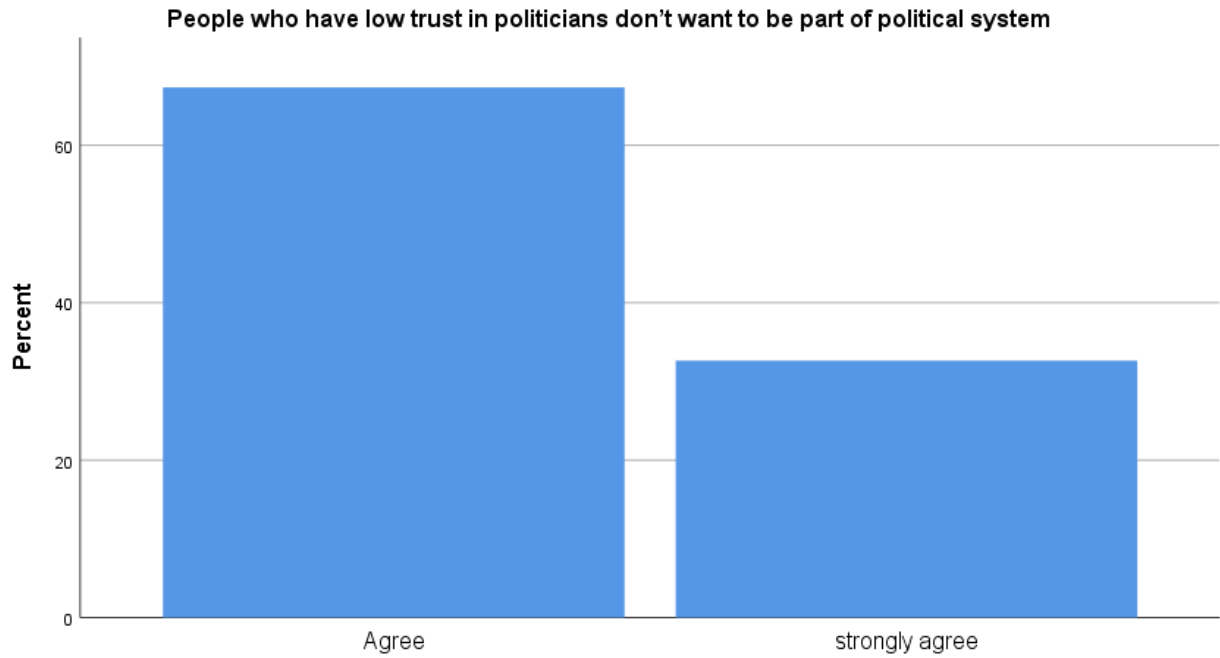
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	disagree	91	23.6	23.6	23.6
	Agree	156	40.4	40.4	64.0
	strongly agree	139	36.0	36.0	100.0
Total		386	100.0	100.0	



The data shows a majority of 40.4 per cent agree and about 36 percent strongly agree while 23 per cent disagree with the statement that not trusting in national politician can decrease voting turnout.

People who have low trust in politicians don't want to be part of political system

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	260	67.4	67.4	67.4
	strongly agree	126	32.6	32.6	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	

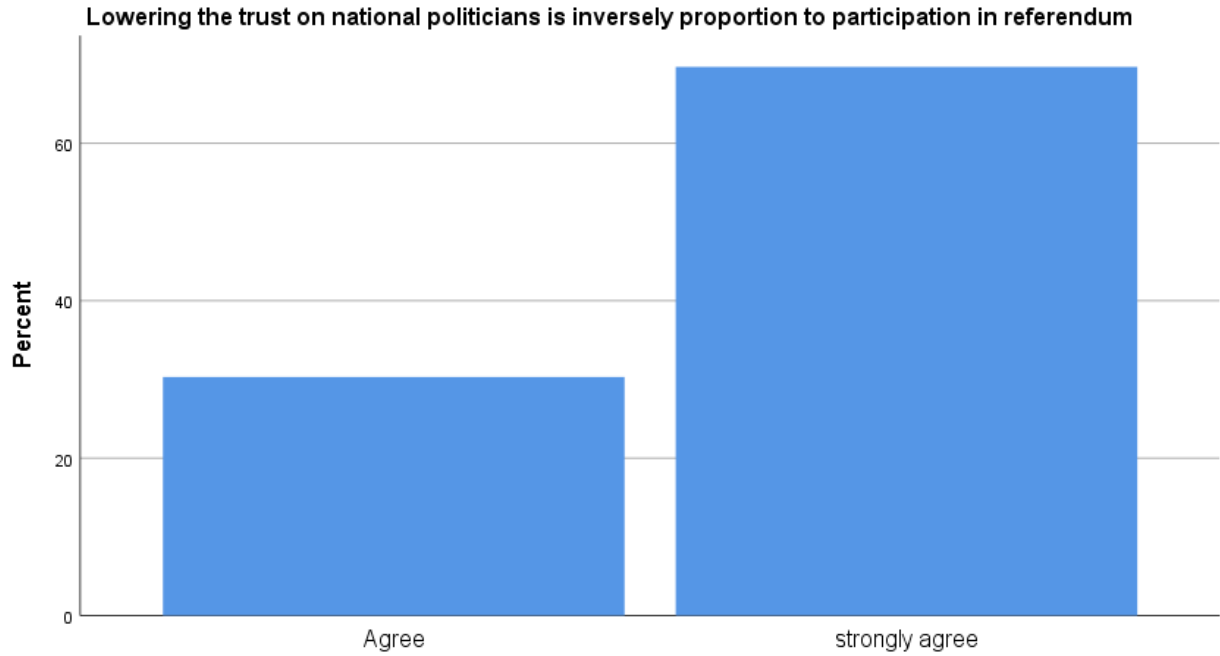


People who have low trust in politicians don't want to be part of political system

The data shows a majority of 67.4 per cent agree and about 32.6 percent strongly agree with the statement that people who have low trust in politicians don't want to be part of political system.

Lowering the trust on national politicians is inversely proportion to participation in referendum

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	117	30.3	30.3	30.3
	strongly agree	269	69.7	69.7	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	

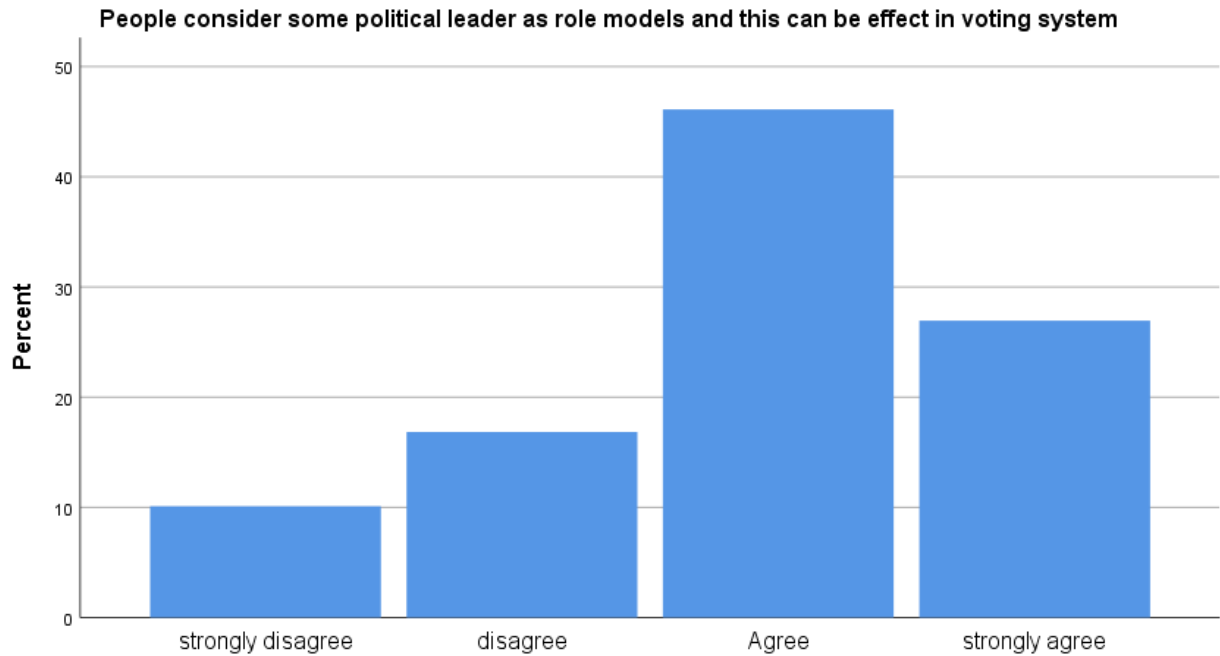


Lowering the trust on national politicians is inversely proportion to participation in referendum

The data shows a majority of 30.3 per cent agree and about 69.7 percent strongly agree with the statement that lowering the trust on national politicians is inversely proportion to participation in referendum.

People consider some political leader as role models and this can be effect in voting system

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	39	10.1	10.1	10.1
	disagree	65	16.8	16.8	26.9
	Agree	178	46.1	46.1	73.1
	strongly agree	104	26.9	26.9	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	

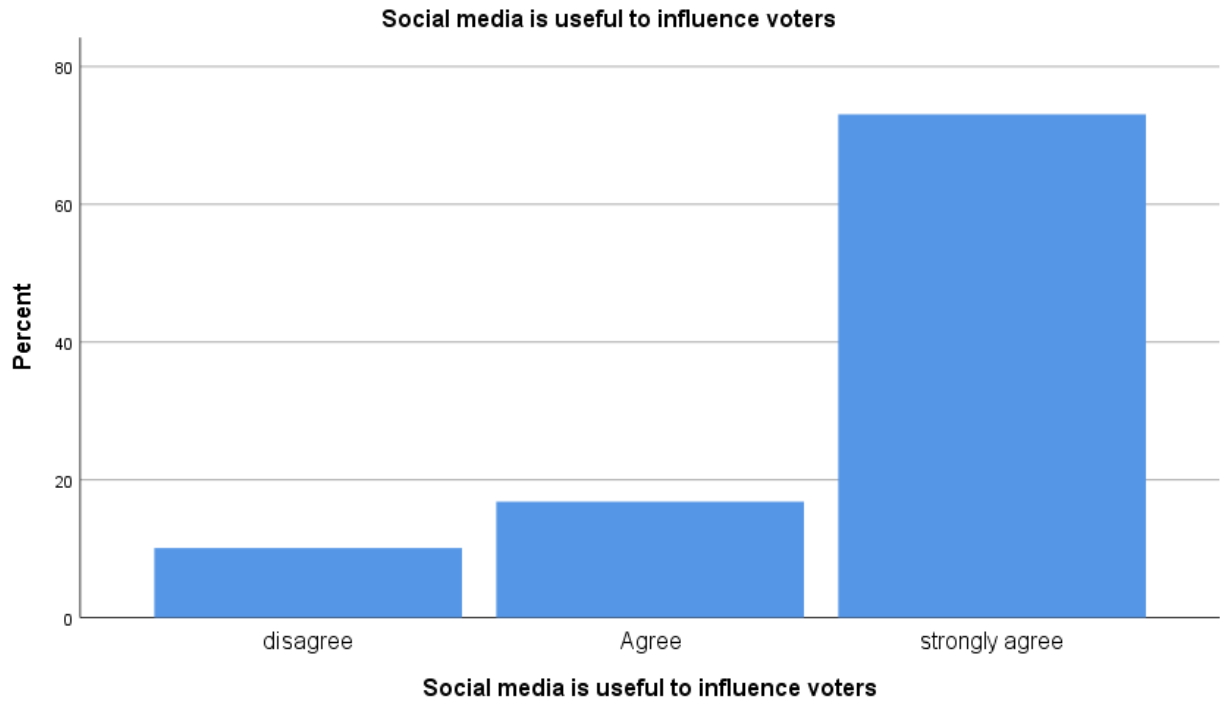


People consider some political leader as role models and this can be effect in voting system

The table reveals insights into the extent to which individuals perceive political leaders as role models and the potential impact of this perception on the electoral process. A majority of respondents including 26.9% strongly agreed, with another 46.1% agreeing that people should consider certain political leaders as role models, an opinion that can influence electoral processes while 16.8% disagreed with this opinion. A cumulative percentage of 100% indicates consensus among the participants, indicating that most believe that individuals look up to political leaders as role models and that this appreciation can influence the electoral process. These findings suggest that the actions and attitudes of political leaders are perceived as influential factors in the political attitudes and behaviors of citizens, and may influence their voting choices to date.

Social media is useful to influence voters

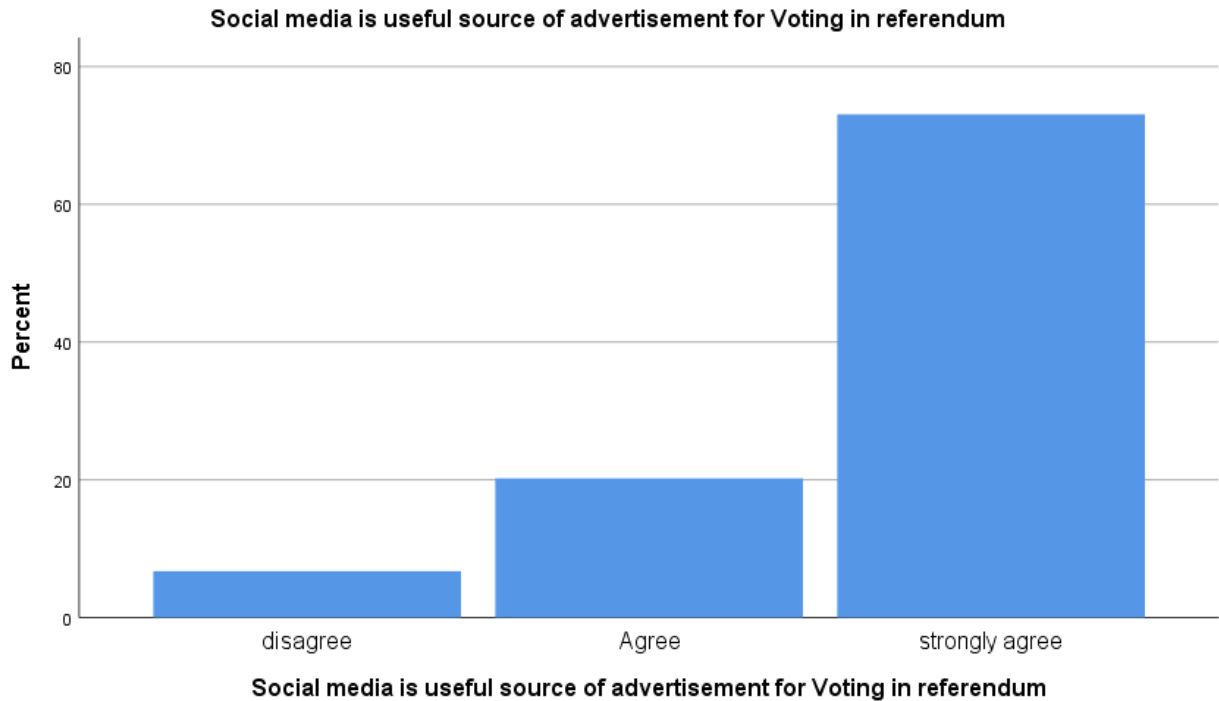
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	disagree	39	10.1	10.1	10.1
	Agree	65	16.8	16.8	26.9
	strongly agree	282	73.1	73.1	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	



The above bar-graph illustrate while table contains the information on social media is useful to influence voters. It provides that an overwhelming majority strongly agreed 73.1 per cent and 16.1 per cent agreed. On the other hand, only 10.1 per cent disagreed.

Social media is useful source of advertisement for Voting in referendum

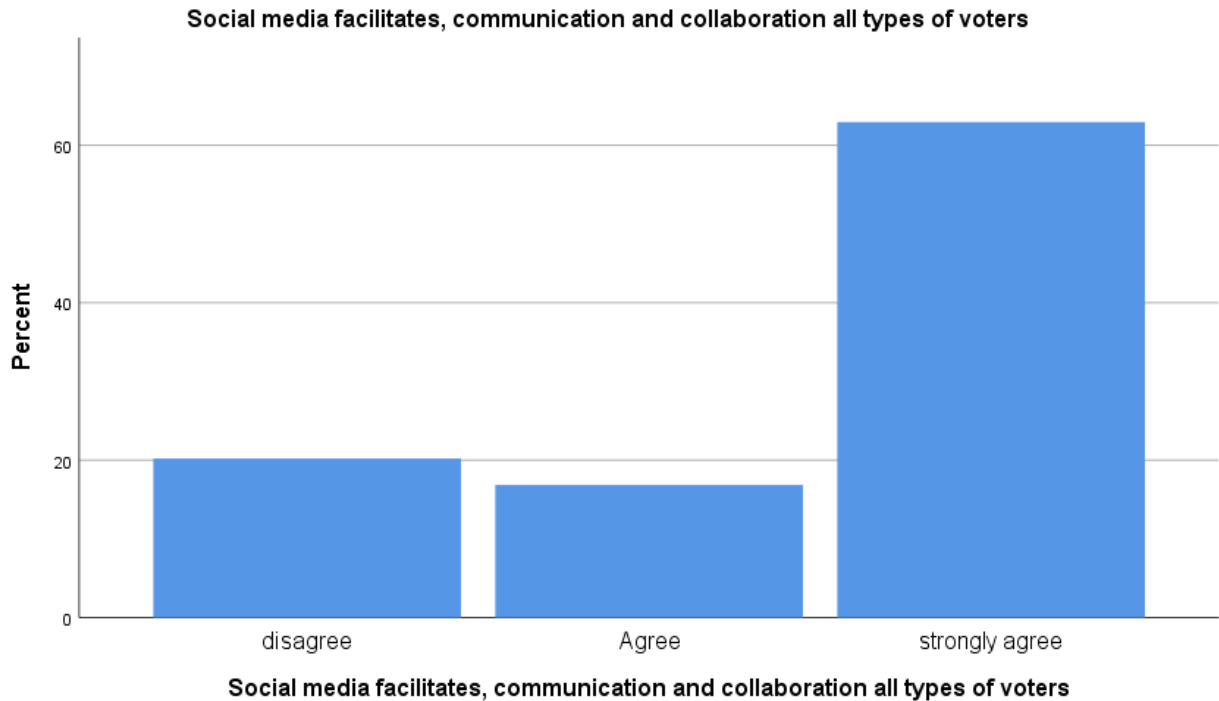
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	disagree	26	6.7	6.7	6.7
	Agree	78	20.2	20.2	26.9
	strongly agree	282	73.1	73.1	100.0
Total		386	100.0	100.0	



The above bar-graph illustrate while table contains the information on social media is useful source of advertisement for voting referendum. It provides that an overwhelming majority strongly agreed 73.1 per cent and 20.1 per cent agreed. On the other hand, only 6.7 per cent disagreed.

Social media facilitates, communication and collaboration all types of voters

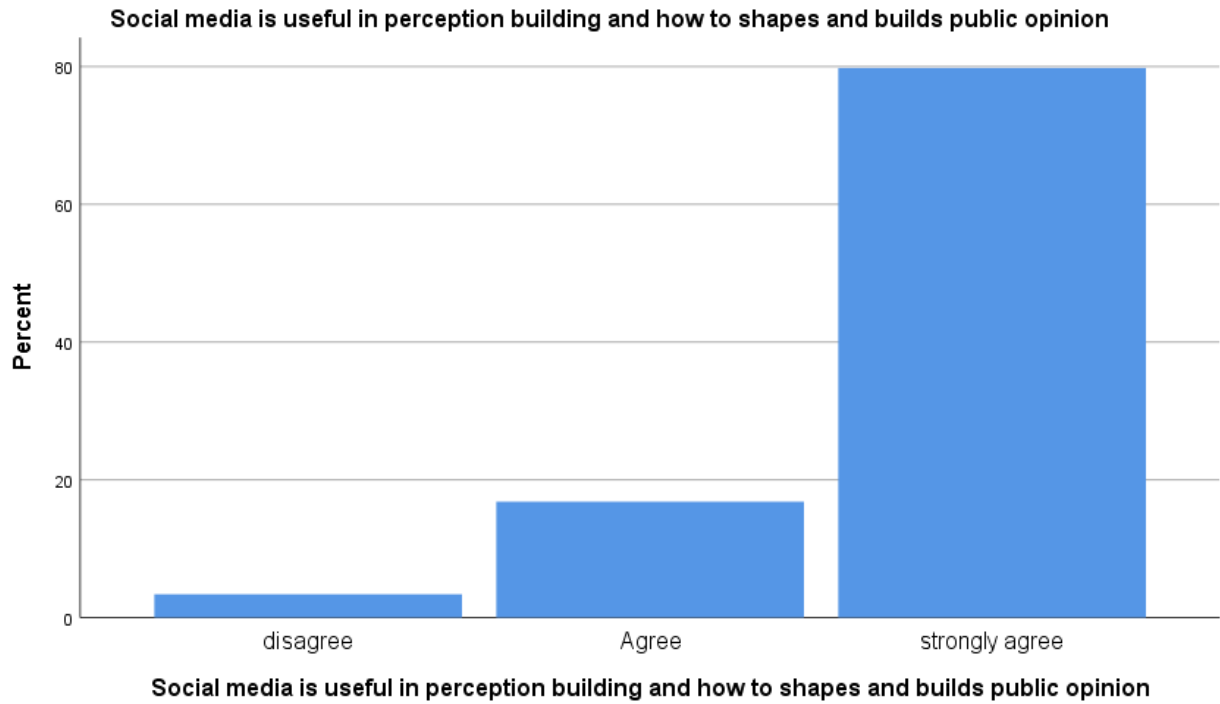
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	disagree	78	20.2	20.2	20.2
	Agree	65	16.8	16.8	37.0
	strongly agree	243	63.0	63.0	100.0
Total		386	100.0	100.0	



The above bar-graph illustrate while table contains the information on social media facilitates communication and collaboration on all types of voters. It provides that an overwhelming majority strongly agreed 63 per cent and 16.8 per cent agreed. On the other hand, only 20.2 per cent disagreed.

Social media is useful in perception building and how to shapes and builds public opinion

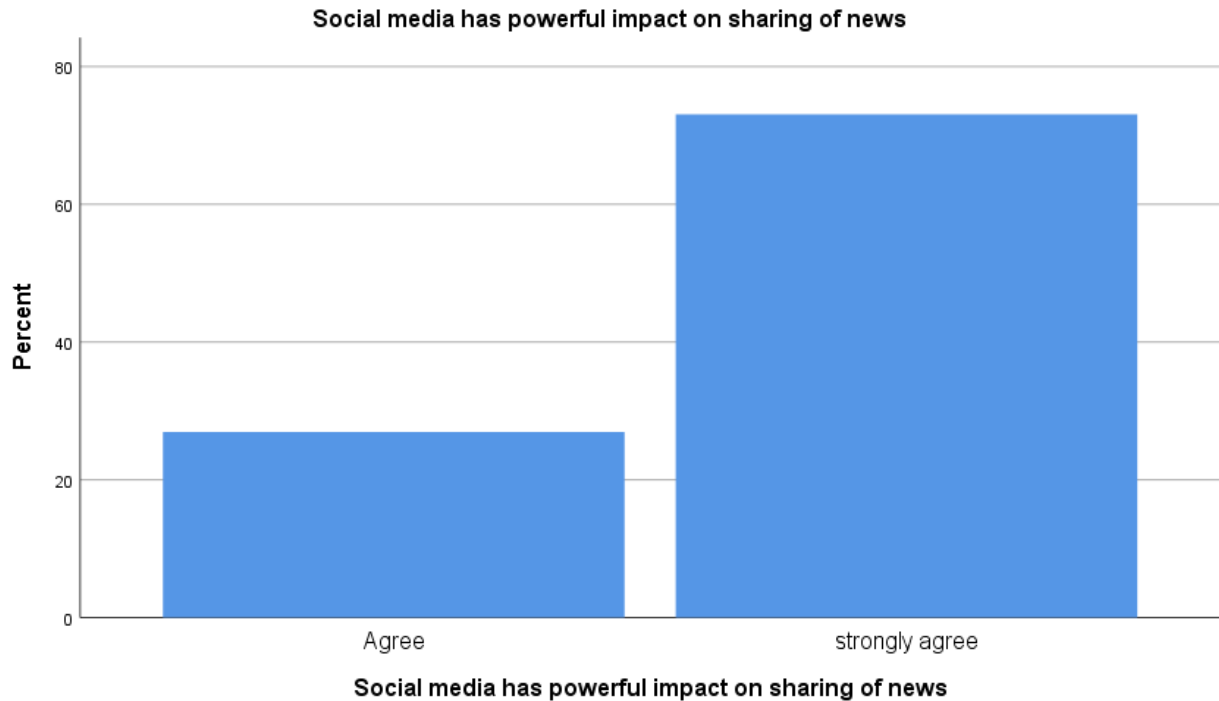
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	disagree	13	3.4	3.4	3.4
	Agree	65	16.8	16.8	20.2
	strongly agree	308	79.8	79.8	100.0
	Total	386	100.0	100.0	



The above bar-graph illustrate while table contains the information on social media is useful in perception building and how to shape and build public opinion. It provides that an overwhelming majority strongly agreed 79.8 per cent and 16.8 per cent agreed. On the other hand, only 3.4 per cent disagreed.

Social media has powerful impact on sharing of news

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	104	26.9	26.9	26.9
	strongly agree	282	73.1	73.1	100.0
Total		386	100.0	100.0	



The above bar-graph illustrate while table contains the information on social media has powerful impact on sharing of news. It provides that an overwhelming majority strongly agreed 73.1 per cent and 26.9 per cent agreed.

4.2. Hypotheses testing: Contingency tables

H1: Civicism favors voting in referendums.

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	294.219 ^a	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	263.247	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	.001	1	.972
N of Valid Cases	386		

a. 3 cells (12.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.81.

The above tables offer the results of the Chi-rectangular tests and measures of association for the relationship between civicism and vote casting in referendums. The Pearson Chi-square statistic is 294.219 with sixteen degrees of freedom. The associated p-cost is .000, indicating a statistically full-size courting between civicism and vote casting in referendums.

The null hypothesis of independence can be rejected, suggesting that civiness and balloting aren't independent of each other. The N of Valid Cases shows the variety of cases protected within the evaluation, that's 386. Additionally, the notice below the table mentions that three cells (12.0%) have expected counts less than five, and the minimal predicted matter is 3.81. This suggests no potential issue with the Chi-square test assumptions.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.873	.000
	Cramer's V	.437	.000
N of Valid Cases		386	

This table presents measures of affiliation among the two variables. A) Nominal by way of Nominal (Phi): Phi is a measure of affiliation for nominal variables. In this example, the Phi coefficient is .873, indicating a sturdy association among civiness and vote casting in referendums. The p-value is .000, supporting a tremendous affiliation. B) Cramer's V: Cramer's V is another degree of affiliation for nominal variables that considers the variable's dimensions. The Cramer's V price is .437, indicating a mild affiliation among civiness and balloting in referendums. The p-cost is .000, supporting a significant association.

In summary, the effects propose a statistically widespread affiliation between civiness and vote casting in referendums based on the Phi coefficient and Cramer's V. The research hypothesis is, therefore, accepted that Civiness favors voting in referendums.

H2: Higher levels of internal efficacy favours voting in referendums.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	352.918 ^a	12	.000
Likelihood Ratio	355.011	12	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	3.426	1	.064
N of Valid Cases	386		

a. 4 cells (20.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.26.

The two tables provide the effects of the Chi-rectangular tests and measures of affiliation for the relationship between civickness and internal efficacy. The Chi-square tests table presents the consequences of different Chi-rectangular tests performed on the information. A) Pearson Chi-Square: The Pearson Chi-square statistic is 352.918 with 12 tiers of freedom. The p-fee related to the test is .000, indicating a statistically significant association between civickness and balloting in referendums. Thus, the null speculation of independence can be rejected, suggesting that civickness and balloting aren't unbiased of every other. The N of Valid Cases suggests the range of instances included within the evaluation, that is 386.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.956	.000
	Cramer's V	.552	.000
N of Valid Cases		386	

The symmetric measures table affords measures of association between the 2 variables. A) Nominal by Nominal (Phi): The Phi coefficient, which measures association for nominal variables, has a cost of .956. This indicates a robust affiliation among civickness and vote casting in referendums. The related p-cost is .000, assisting the presence of a massive affiliation. B) Cramer's V: Cramer's V is some other degree of affiliation for nominal variables that takes into consideration variable dimensions. Here, Cramer's V has a fee of .552, suggesting a mild association between civickness and vote casting in referendums. The p-fee is .000, indicating a enormous association.

In summary, the results imply a statistically good sized affiliation between civickness and voting in referendums. Both the Phi coefficient and Cramer's V suggest a strong and significant affiliation. The research hypothesis is, therefore, accepted that Higher levels of internal efficacy favours voting in referendums.

H3: Dissatisfaction with democracy favours voting in referendums.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	349.422 ^a	16	.000

Likelihood Ratio	286.121	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	4.155	1	.042
N of Valid Cases	386		

a. 5 cells (20.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.72.

The Pearson Chi-rectangular statistic is 349.422 with 16 ranges of freedom. The p-value is related to the check is .000, indicating a statistically huge association between civciness and dissatisfaction with democracy. Thus, the null hypothesis of independence can be rejected, suggesting that civciness and dissatisfaction with democracy aren't impartial of every other. The N of Valid Cases indicates the wide variety of instances covered within the evaluation, that's 386.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.951	.000
	Cramer's V	.476	.000
N of Valid Cases		386	

The Phi coefficient, which measures association for nominal variables, has a fee of .951. This indicates a strong affiliation between civciness and dissatisfaction with democracy. The related p-v is .000, supporting the presence of a huge affiliation. Cramer's V is every other measure of association for nominal variables that takes under consideration variable dimensions. Here, Cramer's V has a fee of .476, suggesting a mild affiliation between civciness and dissatisfaction with democracy. The p-price is .000, indicating a sizable association.

In summary, the null hypothesis was rejected based on the above results. The research hypothesis is, therefore, accepted that Dissatisfaction with democracy favours voting in referendums.

H4: The preferences for citizens as decision-makers favours voting in referendums.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	337.311 ^a	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	331.265	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.500	1	.019

N of Valid Cases	386		
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a. 1 cells (4.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 4.44.

The crosstabulation between the variables Preference for residents as selection-makers and Voting in referendum. The Pearson Chi-square statistic is 337.311 with 16 levels of freedom. The related p-value is .000, indicating a statistically sizeable relationship between Preference for residents as decision-makers and Voting in referendum. The null hypothesis of independence can be rejected, suggesting that those variables are not unbiased. Likelihood Ratio: The Likelihood Ratio statistic is 331.265 with sixteen degrees of freedom.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.935	.000
	Cramer's V	.467	.000
N of Valid Cases		386	

The symmetric measures table provides measures of association among the two variables. The Phi coefficient has a cost of .935, indicating a robust association between Preference for residents as selection-makers and Voting in referendum. The related p-price is .000, helping the presence of a tremendous association. Cramer's V: Cramer's V is another measure of association for nominal variables that considers variable dimensions. Here, Cramer's V has a price of .467, suggesting a moderate affiliation between the two variables under analysis. The research hypothesis is, therefore, accepted that the preferences for citizens as decision-makers favours voting in referendums.

H5: Issue salience favours voting in referendums.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	280.500 ^a	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	245.328	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	4.110	1	.043
N of Valid Cases	386		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 5.62.

The furnished table shows the crosstabulation between the variables Issue Salience and Voting in referendum. The Pearson Chi-square statistic is 280.500 with 16 levels of freedom. The associated p-price is .000, indicating a statistically tremendous relationship between Issue Salience and Voting in referendum. The null hypothesis of independence can be rejected, suggesting that these variables aren't unbiased. The N of Valid Cases suggests the quantity of cases included within the analysis, which is 386. Additionally, the observe under the table mentions that zero cells (zero.0%) have an expected depend much less than 5, and the minimum predicted rely is 5.62. This word suggests that there are not any problems with the Chi-rectangular test assumptions in phrases of anticipated counts.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.852	.000
	Cramer's V	.426	.000
N of Valid Cases		386	

The symmetric measures table provides measures of association between the two variables. Nominal through Nominal (Phi): The Phi coefficient has a value of .852, indicating a strong association between Issue Salience and Voting in referendum. The related p-value is .000, assisting the presence of a good sized affiliation. Cramer's V: Cramer's V is every other measure of affiliation for nominal variables that considers variable dimensions. Here, Cramer's V has a cost of .426, suggesting a moderate association at the p-value is .000, indicating a sizeable association. The research hypothesis is, therefore, accepted that Issue salience favours voting in referendums.

H6: Lower trust in national politicians decreases chance of voting in referendum.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	259.672 ^a	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	182.118	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	34.110	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	386		

a. 3 cells (12.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.91.

The above tables offer the results of the Chi-rectangular tests and measures of association for the relationship between Lower trust in national politicians and vote casting in referendums. The Pearson Chi-square statistic is 259.672 with sixteen degrees of freedom. The associated p-cost is .000, indicating a statistically full-size courting between Lower trust in national politicians and vote casting in referendums. The null hypothesis of independence can be rejected, suggesting that Lower trust in national politicians decreases balloting aren't independent of each different. The N of Valid Cases shows the variety of cases protected within the evaluation, that's 386. Additionally, the notice below the table mentions that three cells (12.0%) have expected counts less than five, and the minimal predicted matter is 3.91. This suggests no potential issue with the Chi-rectangular test assumptions.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.820	.000
	Cramer's V	.410	.000
N of Valid Cases		386	

This table presents measures of affiliation among the two variables. A) Nominal by way of Nominal (Phi): Phi is a measure of affiliation for nominal variables. In this example, the Phi coefficient is .82, indicating a sturdy association among lower trust in politicians and vote casting in referendums. The p-value is .000, supporting a tremendous affiliation. B) Cramer's V: Cramer's V is another degree of affiliation for nominal variables that considers the variable's dimensions. The Cramer's V price is .41, indicating a mild affiliation between lower trust in politicians and balloting in referendums. The p-cost is .000, supporting a significant association.

In summary, the effects propose a statistically widespread affiliation between lower trust in politicians and vote casting in referendums based on the Phi coefficient and Cramer's V. The research hypothesis is, therefore, accepted that Lower trust in national politicians decreases chance of voting in referendum.

H7: gender of respondent is related to the decision to vote for the referendum

Case Processing Summary

	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
	gender * dem	386	100.0%	0	0.0%	207

The table shows that 386 qualifying articles are missing any data on variables related to gender and voting decisions related to the referendum.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2- sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	99.338 ^a	3	.000
Likelihood Ratio	127.760	3	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	79.952	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	386		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 9.84.

Pearson Chi-square: 99.338 with 3 degrees of freedom. The P-value is .000, indicating a highly significant relationship between gender and the decision to vote for the referendum. This means that there is evidence to reject the null hypothesis that there is no relationship between gender and voting decisions. The probability is 127.760 with 3 degrees of freedom. The p-value was .000, confirming the significant relationship found in the Pearson chi-square test. Linear-linear association: 79.952 with degrees of freedom 1. The p-value was .000, indicating a linearly significant relationship between the two variables. The N of valid cases is 386, indicating that all 386 cases are considered in these tests. Furthermore, the expected number of 0 cells (0.0%) is said to be less than 5, and the minimum expected number is 9.84. This indicates that the test results are considered reliable because the expected statistics are all above the recommended limit.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.693	.000
	Cramer's V	.693	.000
N of Valid Cases		386	

In nominal terms: The coefficient of Phi is 0.693, and the p-value is .000. Kramer's V was also 0.693 with a p-value of .000. Both measures suggest a strong relationship between gender and the decision to vote in the referendum. The N of valid cases is 386 for symmetric measurements.

In summary, the results of the chi-square test strongly suggest a significant relationship between gender and the decision to vote for the referendum. The symmetric measure further supports this, suggesting a strong correlation between the two variables. p-values very close to zero indicate that these associations are not very likely due to chance. These are statistical evidence of a significant relationship between gender and referendum voting decisions in your data set.

H8: The respondent’s country and citizen preferences for the decision-making

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	104.449 ^a	8	.000
Likelihood Ratio	133.169	8	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.472	1	.116
N of Valid Cases	386		

a. 3 cells (20.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.39.

Pearson chi-square 104.449 with 8 degrees of freedom. The probability is 133.169 with 8 degrees of freedom. The p-value was .000, confirming the significant relationship found in the Pearson chi-square test. Linear-linear association: 2.472 with 1 degree of freedom. The p-value was .116, which exceeded the conventional significance level of 0.05. This indicates that there is no significant relationship between the nationality of respondent and citizen preferences for the decision-making. It is important to note that while all associations are significant, the linear trend may not be so pronounced. The N of valid cases is 386, indicating that all 386 cases are considered in these tests. It is stated that 3 cells (20.0%) have an expected value less than 5, and the minimum expected value is 1.39. This suggests that caution should be exercised in the interpretation of the results, especially for the expected low number of cells.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.710	.000
	Cramer's V	.502	.000
N of Valid Cases		386	

Accurate measurements: In nominal terms: The coefficient of Phi is 0.710, and the p-value is .000. Kramer's V was 0.502 with a p-value of .000. Both measures show a strong correlation between the respondent's country (Italy, UK or Canada) and citizen preferences for the decision-making. The N of valid cases is 386 for symmetric measurements.

In summary, the results of the chi-square test strongly suggest that there is a significant relationship between the respondent's country (Italy, UK or Canada) and citizen preferences for the decision-making. The symmetric measure further supports this, suggesting a strong correlation between the two variables. p-values very close to zero indicate that these associations are not very likely due to chance. The linear-to-linear association p-value is greater than 0.05, indicating that the relationship between the two variables may not have a significant linear trend but this does not reduce the overall significance of the relationship between the variables. Caution about expected numbers less than 5 in a cell suggests the need for careful interpretation, especially for specific subgroups or groups with lower expected statistics

H9: Respondents' Country and participation in democracy.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	103.648 ^a	6	.000
Likelihood Ratio	117.767	6	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	27.214	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	386		

a. 1 cells (8.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 4.16.

Pearson chi-square: 103.648 with 6 degrees of freedom. The p-value is .000, indicating a highly significant relationship between the country of respondents and their participation in democracy. This means that there is strong evidence to reject the null hypothesis that there is no relationship between these variables. The probability is 117.767 with 6 degrees of freedom.

The p-value was .000, confirming the significant relationship found in the Pearson chi-square test. Linear-linear association: 27.214 with degrees of freedom 1. The p-value is .000, indicating a linearly significant relationship between the two variables. This indicates that there is a consistent trend in the relationship between respondents and their degree of participation in a country's democracy. The N of valid cases is 386, indicating that all 386 cases are considered in these tests. It has been stated that the expected 1-cell rate (8.3%) is less than 5, and the minimum expected rate is 4.16. While this is a small percentage, the effect is probably small because it is only a single cell.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.708	.000
	Cramer's V	.500	.000
N of Valid Cases		386	

Accurate measurements: Nominal: The coefficient of Phi is 0.708, and the p-value is .000. Kramer's V is 0.500 with a p-value of .000. Both measures show a strong correlation between the nationality of the respondents and their involvement in democracy. For symmetric measurements, N in valid cases is 386.

Description: In summary, the results of the chi-squared test strongly suggest that there is a significant relationship between the nationality of the respondents and their involvement in democracy. The linear-linear association test further supports this, indicating a significant linear trend in the relationship between the two variables. Symmetric measurements provide further evidence of strong correlations between variables. p-values very close to zero indicate that these associations are not very likely due to chance. The caution about expected numbers less than 5 in a cell suggests the need for careful interpretation, especially for specific subgroups or groups with lower expected numbers, but only because they are single cells therefore, the effect may be minimal.

H10: respondents' country and when they decide for referendum

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2- sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	97.990 ^a	6	.000
Likelihood Ratio	112.342	6	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	40.111	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	386		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 6.93.

Pearson chi-square: 97.990 with 6 degrees of freedom. The P-value is .000, indicating a highly significant relationship between the nationality of respondents and referendum decision making. This means that there is strong evidence to reject the null hypothesis that there is no relationship between these variables. The probability is 112.342 with 6 degrees of freedom. The p-value was .000, confirming the significant relationship found in the Pearson chi-square test. Linear-linear association: 40.111 with degrees of freedom 1. The p-value is .000, indicating a linearly significant relationship between the two variables. This indicates that the respondents have a consistent tendency towards their decision and timing of the referendum. The N of valid cases is 386, indicating that all 386 cases are considered in these tests. It has been stated that 0 cells (0.0%) have an expected number less than 5, and the minimum expected number is 6.93. This indicates that the test results are considered reliable because the expected statistics are all above the recommended limit.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.688	.000
	Cramer's V	.487	.000
N of Valid Cases		386	

Accurate measurements:

Nominal: The coefficient of Phi is 0.688, and the p-value is .000. Kramer's V was 0.487 with a p-value of .000. Both measures suggest a strong relationship between the nationality of the respondents and when they decide to hold a referendum. For symmetric measurements, N in valid cases is 386.

In summary, the results of the chi-square test strongly suggest that there is a significant association between the nationality of the respondent and the timing of the referendum decision. The linear association test further supports this, and it indicates a significant linear trend in the relationship between the two variables. Symmetric measurements provide further evidence of strong correlations between variables. p-values very close to zero indicate that these associations are not very likely due to chance. The absence of less than 5 expected populations per cell indicates robustness and reliability of the results. This indicates that the assumptions of the experiment are met and that the findings are not significantly affected by highly unexpected statistics.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

Participation of people in referendums is an important and dynamic feature of the democratic process in the sphere of direct democracy. This thesis has conducted a thorough examination of the elements affecting people's participation in direct democracy, with a focus on a comparative analysis of the Italian referendum mechanism and direct democracy practises in the United Kingdom and Canada. This study has revealed useful insights into the motivations and barriers to public involvement in referendums via a thorough literature review, case studies, and empirical data analysis. Several major themes have arisen during the course of this research, revealing insight on the varied character of individuals' participation in direct democracy. These results add to our understanding of the mechanisms that define the participatory environment in these worldwide (Marien & Kern, 2018).

One of the most important conclusions of this study is the significant role played by civic engagement in influencing people's involvement in referendums. Civility is defined as the degree of social acceptance, reciprocity, and civic involvement within a community or culture. The study found a strong link between greater levels of civic engagement and increased participation in direct democratic processes such as referendums. Citizens who live in communities that value trust and active civic involvement are considerably more inclined to participate in a democratic way. For example, the Italian constitutional referendum in 2016 had a 65% participation rate, with areas displaying higher levels of civility being more likely to participate. Similarly, the United Kingdom and Canada have shown a strong link between civic involvement and voting in referendums. This emphasises the critical need of cultivating civic virtue in order to increase involvement in direct democracy. Importantly, civility is a factor of democratic participation as well as an effect of it. This suggests that pre-emptive steps to improve civic involvement, along with referendums, may generate a mutually reinforcing cycle of engagement. Civic education techniques, community-building projects, and apps aimed at developing social capital and agreement may all help to creating a civic participation way of life that extends to direct democratic processes.

Internal efficacy, or belief in one's power to affect political results, emerges as another factor influencing people's decisions to vote in referendums. This finding emphasises the importance of boosting people's confidence in their political endeavour. When individuals believe that their actions may have an impact, they are considerably more inclined to participate

in the democratic process. The well-known observation reveals that voters with higher levels of internal efficacy are more ready to participate in referendums, considering them as a significant route for influencing political decisions. This insight emphasises the need for initiatives aimed at empowering citizens, reaffirming their belief that their voices matter and that their votes may influence the fate of their communities and countries.

Dissatisfaction with the current democratic device might operate as a motivator for citizens to vote in referendums. When voters see flaws or ineffectiveness in democratic processes, they will resort to referendums to express their dissatisfaction and influence change. This conclusion suggests that policymakers should consider referendums not just as a tool for making particular policy decisions, but also as a gauge of popular mood towards the larger democratic framework. Addressing the root causes of discontent and imposing changes to improve openness, accountability, and responsiveness might help minimise unhappiness and, in turn, reduce the need for referendum protest votes. The inclination for citizens as decision-makers appears as a strong factor driving referendum participation. When voters think they should have a direct say in important decisions, they are more likely to participate in referendums, where their votes may have an immediate influence. This option emphasises the significance of inclusion in the decision-making process. Policymakers must remember to include citizens at many levels of decision-making processes, such as citizen assemblies and participatory budgeting programmes. Governments may satisfy individuals' expectations for increased engagement in determining the policies that influence their lives by doing so.

The significance of the topic being voted on in a referendum is also important in affecting voter participation. Residents may be more likely to participate in decision-making when an issue is prominent and relevant to them. This conclusion emphasises the need of good communication and engagement tactics in highlighting the relevance and possible impact of referendum issues on the lives of citizens. Lower trust in national leaders has been identified as a barrier to voter's participation in referendums. This might also be due to a lack of trust in the political system or a belief that their involvement would make no difference. Rebuilding trust in politicians by openness, honesty, and responsiveness in political leadership may help to increase public participation in direct democracy. This study has provided important insights into the intricate interplay of variables that influence public participation in referendums. These results provide a comprehensive perspective of the complex character of democratic involvement, ranging from civicness and inner effectiveness to unhappiness with democracy, options for citizen-led decision-making, issue salience, and trust in national leaders. The

recommendations based on those findings emphasise the importance of investing in civic education applications, selling inner efficacy, addressing dissatisfaction with democracy, embracing inclusive decision-making strategies, correctly communicating issue salience, and restoring faith in political leaders. Governments and politicians may build a more involved and empowered public in Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada, and other democratic nations across the globe by implementing these recommendations(Landrum & Garza, 2015).

The primary data collection method employed for this research involved the use of Google Forms, an online survey platform. This method was chosen for its accessibility, cost-effectiveness, and efficiency, providing several advantages throughout the research process. One of the key strengths of using Google Forms was its accessibility. Respondents could easily access the survey from various devices such as computers, tablets, or smartphones. This inclusivity ensured that participants from diverse geographical locations and with different technological preferences could take part in the research, contributing to a more comprehensive dataset. In terms of cost-effectiveness, the online survey method proved advantageous. It eliminated the need for physical materials, postage, or fieldwork expenses, making it a financially efficient option for researchers with budget constraints. This allowed for the allocation of resources to other aspects of the research, enhancing the overall feasibility of the project. Efficiency and timeliness were also notable benefits. The automated nature of Google Forms streamlined the data collection process, allowing for swift and convenient responses. This efficiency was particularly crucial in ensuring a large and diverse pool of respondents within a reasonable timeframe. Structured data collection was facilitated by the variety of question formats offered by Google Forms, including multiple-choice, open-ended, and Likert scales. This ensured consistency in responses and simplified the subsequent data analysis phase. Researchers could easily categorize and code the collected data, enhancing the reliability and validity of the findings.

The data collected through the Google Forms survey offers a rich tapestry of insights that can be analyzed and related to several influential political theories. By examining the respondents' motivations, perceptions, and behaviors in the context of direct democracy, we can gain a deeper understanding of the intricacies involved in political decision-making. In this discussion, we will delve into the relevance of the data to six key political theories: Rational Choice Theory, Social Identity Theory, Cognitive Dissonance Theory, Downs' Theory, Mobilization Theory, and the Theory of Deliberative Democracy.

Rational Choice Theory posits that individuals make decisions based on a rational calculation of costs and benefits. Applied to the referendum engagement data, respondents' choices to participate or abstain can be scrutinized through the lens of rational decision-making. Factors such as the perceived importance of the referendum issue, individual preferences, and the anticipated impact on the political landscape may have influenced respondents' rational choices. Analyzing the data in this context allows us to uncover patterns that align with the principles of Rational Choice Theory. Additionally, Social Identity Theory asserts that individuals categorize themselves and others into social groups, and their behaviors are often influenced by a desire to enhance the positive distinctiveness of their group. In the dataset, respondents' demographic information, including gender, age, marital status, and education level, can be analyzed in relation to their referendum participation. By exploring how social identity may have played a role in shaping individuals' attitudes and decisions within the political context, we can gain insights into the intricate interplay of personal identity and political engagement.

Cognitive Dissonance Theory suggests that individuals strive for internal consistency and may experience discomfort when faced with conflicting beliefs or behaviors. Within the political context, respondents who expressed dissatisfaction with democracy but still participated in the referendum may experience cognitive dissonance. Examining the reasons behind such decisions provides a nuanced understanding of how individuals reconcile conflicting political attitudes. This analysis can shed light on the psychological processes at play in political decision-making. Along with this, Downs' Theory, associated with the concept of rational choice in voting behavior, proposes that voters aim to maximize their utility by supporting the political party or position that aligns most closely with their preferences. The data can be examined to understand how respondents aligned their preferences with the referendum options. By exploring the application of Downs' Theory in the direct democracy context, we gain insights into how individuals strategically approach decision-making within the framework of their political preferences.

Mobilization Theory emphasizes the role of political actors and organizations in mobilizing individuals to participate in political activities. Analysing the data allows for the identification of factors that mobilized respondents to engage in the referendum. This includes examining exposure to political information through various channels, such as social and religious groups. Understanding how mobilization efforts influenced participation provides

valuable insights into the dynamics of political engagement. Likely, The Theory of Deliberative Democracy underscores the importance of reasoned discussion and public deliberation in democratic decision-making. Examining respondents' attitudes toward the democratic process, their satisfaction levels, and their views on the impact of their votes provides insights into the extent to which the data aligns with the principles of deliberative democracy. This analysis allows us to evaluate the role of informed and thoughtful discourse in shaping political opinions and decisions.

Results Achieved in the Research Work:

The research embarked on a nuanced exploration of citizen engagement in direct democracy, focusing on the comparison of Italian referendums with those in the UK and Canada. The extensive investigation unfolded multifaceted insights into the dynamics of citizen participation, shedding light on various factors influencing their engagement and attitudes toward direct democratic processes.

Italy: Unravelling Historical, Legal, and Societal Dynamics

In Italy, the research delved into historical overviews, legal frameworks, and societal contexts surrounding referendums. The analysis spanned referendums on constitutional reforms, European Union membership, and other pivotal issues. Historical records were scrutinized to discern shifts in political landscapes and societal attitudes over time. The legal framework governing referendums, with a focus on constitutional and legislative contexts, was examined to understand the rules shaping citizen engagement (Cooper, 2019).

Quantitative analyses, including voter turnout rates and demographic profiles of participants, provided a quantitative lens on citizen involvement. The study incorporated a qualitative dimension through content analysis of campaign materials and media discourse. This dual approach aimed to uncover patterns and trends in citizen engagement, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of Italy's journey with direct democracy.

United Kingdom: Constitutional Implications and Evolving Political Landscape

The UK dataset encompassed referendums on EU membership, devolution, and transformative issues. The historical overview contextualized the evolution of direct democracy within the British political landscape. The legal framework governing referendums was analyzed, emphasizing constitutional implications and the regulatory environment. Similar

to Italy, quantitative analyses explored voter turnout rates, demographic patterns, and regional disparities, providing a comparative perspective on citizen engagement. Qualitative analyses of campaign materials and media discourse unraveled the narratives shaping public perceptions and influencing referendum outcomes. This approach allowed for an in-depth exploration of the strategies employed by campaign stakeholders and the dynamics of public discourse surrounding referendums in the UK (Geißel, Krämling, & Paulus, 2019).

Canada: Constitutional Changes and Regional Autonomy

In Canada, the research focused on referendums related to constitutional changes and regional autonomy. The historical overview traced the country's experiences with direct democracy, highlighting key moments and transformations. The analysis delved into Canada's legal framework governing referendums, emphasizing the federal structure and its implications for citizen participation. Quantitative analyses of voter turnout rates, demographic dynamics, and regional variations provided insights into patterns and variations in levels of involvement across different referendums. The content analysis of campaign materials and media coverage in Canada offered qualitative insights into the strategies employed and the narratives framing public discourse during referendums.

Further, below are the results as per theories.

The results of the research provide a comprehensive understanding of citizen engagement in direct democracy, offering valuable insights into the intricate dynamics influencing referendum participation in Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada. The identified themes resonate with several prominent political theories, enriching our comprehension of the multifaceted factors shaping democratic processes.

Civcity as a Participation Catalyst: The research underscores the significance of civcity as a catalyst for increased referendum participation, aligning with Social Capital Theory and the Civic Voluntarism Model. Social Capital Theory posits that strong social networks and shared norms foster trust and cooperation, contributing to civic engagement. The findings highlight that areas or groups with higher civciness, characterized by social belief and reciprocity, are more likely to participate in referendums. This emphasizes the crucial role of community involvement in encouraging democratic participation, in line with the Civic Voluntarism Model's emphasis on voluntary civic engagement. Strengthening social ties and fostering

community bonds emerges as a key strategy for enhancing citizen participation in direct democratic processes.

Importance of Internal Efficacy: The research illuminates the role of internal efficacy in influencing voters' perceptions of their power to bring about political change, aligning with Political Efficacy Theory. According to this theory, individuals are more likely to participate in political activities when they believe their actions can influence outcomes. The emphasis on boosting people's confidence in their abilities to shape political outcomes resonates with the core principles of Political Efficacy Theory. Civic education programs are identified as crucial tools to enhance citizens' sense of efficacy, emphasizing the need for educational initiatives that empower individuals to view referendums as legitimate avenues for political influence.

Democratic Dissatisfaction: The multifaceted nature of dissatisfaction with the functioning of democracy and its impact on referendum participation aligns with Disaffection Theory. This theory suggests that dissatisfaction with political institutions can drive citizens to engage in alternative forms of political participation, such as referendums. The research findings highlight the complexity of this relationship, emphasizing that policymakers need to address fundamental concerns while simultaneously fostering trust in the democratic system. Effectively managing and responding to citizens' dissatisfaction emerges as a key strategy for promoting sustained democratic engagement.

Citizens' Decision-Making Preference: The research resonates with Deliberative Democracy Theory, emphasizing the preference for inclusive decision-making processes involving ordinary citizens. Deliberative Democracy posits that encouraging locals to participate in referendums enhances their role as decision-makers in the democratic process. The findings underscore the importance of empowering citizens to perceive themselves as crucial decision-makers, aligning with the principles of Deliberative Democracy. Initiatives that prioritize inclusive decision-making and emphasize the impact of individual voices in the democratic process are essential for promoting citizen engagement.

Influence of Issue Salience: The emphasis on the perceived relevance of the referendum question, defined as issue salience, aligns with Agenda-Setting Theory. According to this theory, the media plays a crucial role in shaping public perceptions of issue importance. The research findings suggest that effective discussion and framing of referendum issues are critical

in influencing citizens' views of issue salience. This resonates with Agenda-Setting Theory's emphasis on the media's role in determining which issues are perceived as important. Policymakers and advocates should prioritize effective communication strategies to highlight the relevance and significance of referendum themes, thereby encouraging greater citizen participation.

Trust in National Politicians Is Important: The linkage between trust in national politicians and referendum participation aligns with Trust in Government Theory. Higher levels of trust in political leaders and institutions are associated with greater citizen engagement, as suggested by Trust in Government Theory. The research underscores that lower levels of confidence in politicians are linked to a lower likelihood of voting in referendums, highlighting the critical role of political trust in democratic participation. Efforts to recover and maintain people's confidence should prioritize transparency, accountability, and ethical behavior among political leaders and institutions.

Referendum Mechanisms Influence Perceptions: The comparison of referendum systems in different countries and their impact on citizens' perceptions aligns with Institutional Design Theory. This theory emphasizes the impact of institutional structures on political behavior. The research findings suggest that differences in the ease of starting and participating in referendums, as well as the binding nature of referendum conclusions, significantly influence individuals' impressions of the democratic process. This aligns with Institutional Design Theory's focus on the role of institutions in shaping political outcomes. Policymakers should critically analyze and, if necessary, adjust referendum systems to ensure accessibility, clarity, and the direct impact of citizens' opinions on policy decisions.

5.1. Findings:

The previous four chapters' research has revealed a range of crucial results that highlight the complex processes driving people's involvement in referendums, with implications for direct democracy as a whole. These results provide valuable insights into the varied character of democratic participation, shedding light on aspects that enable or inhibit citizens from participating in determining policy choices via referendums.

Civcity as a Participation Catalyst: Civcity, defined as social belief, reciprocity, and civic involvement within a community, has emerged as a compelling stimulus for increased referendum participation. The empirical evidence, which is supported by results from Italy, the

United Kingdom, and Canada, emphasises that areas or groups with higher levels of civicness are more likely to participate in direct democratic procedures such as referendums. Civicity is not just a by-product of democratic participation; it is also a determinant of it. This research emphasises the importance of civic education programmes, social capital development, and community involvement in encouraging democratic engagement. By encouraging civic engagement, societies may establish an environment that encourages active citizen involvement in referendums and other forms of direct democracy.

Importance of Internal Efficacy: Internal efficacy, or voters' perceptions of their power to influence political change, appears as a crucial factor favouring referendum participation. Higher levels of internal efficacy are related with a higher likelihood of voting in referendums. This conclusion emphasises the need to boost people's confidence in their abilities to do business via political means. Civic education programmes and campaigns should prioritise infusing individuals with a feeling of effectiveness, enabling them to see referendums as legitimate avenues for political influence.

Democratic Dissatisfaction: Dissatisfaction with the functioning of democracy is a multifaceted issue that determines referendum participation. While some citizens are encouraged to participate in referendums as a means of expressing their dissatisfaction, this dating is complicated and context-dependent. The specific issue at hand, as well as the perceived consequence of the referendum final results, might influence the course of this connection. Policymakers must pay attention to the multifaceted nature of discontent, addressing fundamental concerns while selling trust in the democratic system.

Citizens' Decision-Making Preference: The preference for people as decision-makers within a democratic framework is closely linked to increased participation in referendums. People are far more inclined to engage in direct democracy initiatives when they demonstrate a preference for ordinary folks making major decisions over elected authorities. This location emphasises the significance of accepting as real within the collective knowledge and judgement of the larger populace. Encourage locals to participate in referendums by including their status as decision-makers.

Influence of Issue Salience: The perceived relevance of the referendum question, defined as issue salience, emerges as a critical driving element of participation. Citizens are more inclined to participate in referendums when they view the topic to be large and relevant to their lives. Effective discussion and framing of referendum issues are critical in shaping citizens' views of

issue importance. To encourage participation, policymakers and advocates should emphasise the relevance and significance of referendum themes (Korkea-Aho 2015).

Trust in National Politicians Is Important: Trust in national leaders is critical to referendum participation. Lower levels of confidence in politicians are linked to a lower likelihood of voting in referendums. This demonstrates the deep influence of political belief on democratic participation. To recover and maintain people's confidence, political leaders and institutions should prioritise openness, obligation, and ethical behaviour.

Referendum Mechanisms Influence Perceptions: A comparison of referendum systems in Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada revealed that differences in the ease of starting and participating in referendums, as well as the binding nature of referendum conclusions, had a major impact on individuals' impressions of the democratic process. Referendums' institutional form may either stimulate or discourage participation. Policymakers must analyse and, if necessary, change referendum systems to ensure accessibility, clarity, and the direct impact of citizens' opinions on policy decisions (Avenier & Thomas, 2015).

5.2. Strengths and Weaknesses of the Thesis:

As with any scholarly endeavor, the thesis on citizen engagement in direct democracy, comparing Italian referendums with those in the UK and Canada, exhibits both strengths and weaknesses. A critical examination of these aspects provides valuable insights into the study's contributions and areas for potential improvement.

Strengths:

Comparative Approach: One of the primary strengths of the thesis lies in its comparative approach. By examining direct democratic processes in Italy, the UK, and Canada, the research offers a broad and multifaceted understanding of citizen engagement. This approach allows for the identification of commonalities and disparities, enriching the analysis with diverse perspectives.

Multidimensional Analysis: The thesis adopts a multidimensional analytical framework, incorporating historical, legal, quantitative, and qualitative analyses. This comprehensive approach ensures a holistic exploration of citizen engagement, considering not only the

numerical aspects but also the socio-political and cultural contexts. The inclusion of both quantitative and qualitative data enhances the robustness of the findings (Geissel, 2017).

In-Depth Case Studies: The thesis delves deeply into each case study, providing historical overviews, legal frameworks, and detailed analyses of referendums. This depth allows for a nuanced understanding of the unique dynamics within each country, acknowledging the complexity of direct democracy within distinct political and cultural landscapes.

Identification of Varied Factors: The research identifies and explores a range of factors influencing citizen engagement, including legal frameworks, historical contexts, and demographic patterns. By recognizing the multifaceted nature of participation, the thesis contributes to a more holistic comprehension of the dynamics shaping democratic practices.

Weaknesses:

Sample Size Discrepancies: One notable weakness is the discrepancy in sample sizes across the three case studies. While Italy's larger sample size may offer more robust insights, the smaller samples from the UK and Canada could limit the generalizability of findings. Future research could strive for more balanced samples to ensure a fairer comparison.

Potential Response Bias: The reliance on self-reported data introduces the possibility of response bias. Participants may provide answers that align with societal expectations or perceived norms, affecting the accuracy of responses. Employing additional methods, such as interviews or focus groups, could complement self-reported data and offer a more comprehensive understanding of citizen perspectives.

Limited Exploration of Cultural Nuances: While the thesis acknowledges the distinct political cultures of Italy, the UK, and Canada, there is a relatively limited exploration of the cultural nuances shaping citizen engagement. Cultural factors play a crucial role in influencing political attitudes, and a more in-depth analysis of these aspects could enhance the thesis's explanatory power.

Digital Landscape Dynamics: The thesis does not extensively explore the influence of the digital landscape on citizen engagement, especially in the context of modern communication platforms and social media. Given the evolving nature of information dissemination, future

research could delve into the impact of digital technologies on shaping public discourse and political participation (Altman, 2019).

5.3. Future Recommendations for Improvement:

Balanced Sampling: Future research endeavors could focus on achieving more balanced sample sizes across the selected countries. This would enhance the generalizability of findings and provide a more equitable basis for comparison.

Cultural Dimensions: A more explicit exploration of cultural dimensions influencing citizen engagement could contribute to a richer analysis. Understanding how historical legacies and cultural values shape political behaviours would add depth to the comparative study.

Digital Landscape Analysis: Given the prominence of digital platforms in contemporary political discourse, future research should consider incorporating an analysis of the digital landscape's impact on citizen engagement. This includes exploring the role of social media, online campaigns, and digital information dissemination in shaping public opinions (Goldberg, Lanz & Sciarini, 2019).

Recommendations:

The findings of this comprehensive study, which included civicness, inner efficacy, dissatisfaction with democracy, options for citizens as decision-makers, problem salience, trust in national politicians, and referendum mechanisms, provide a solid foundation for developing recommendations aimed at increasing citizen participation in referendums and fortifying the material of direct democracy. These proposals take into account the multidimensional character of democratic participation and the intricate interplay of individual, social, and institutional aspects.

Promoting civic engagement via education and community building: Given the importance of civic engagement in increasing referendum participation, it is critical to prioritise civic education and community-building initiatives. Policymakers, educational institutions, and civil society organisations must work together to expand and implement comprehensive civic education programmes. These apps should emphasise the ideals of social acceptance, reciprocity, and civic involvement, generating a sense of shared responsibility and community engagement. Community-building activities, such as volunteering at local businesses and

joining civic organisations, should be actively supported in order to improve civic life in society.

Citizen Empowerment via Internal Efficacy: Governments and academic institutions should engage on programmes aimed at fostering a sense of political efficacy in individuals in order to boost their inner efficacy and view of their potential to induce political change. Civic education programmes must include modules that teach individuals on the democratic process, the effects of their involvement, and strategies for successful civic engagement. Furthermore, mentoring and leadership development programmes may equip people to take active roles in crafting public policy, hence increasing their internal efficacy.

Addressing Democratic Dissatisfaction: Dissatisfaction with democracy should not be seen as a barrier to participation, but rather as an opportunity for productive debate. Policymakers should prioritise efforts to address the root causes of unhappiness, which include issues with representation, openness, and accountability. Implementing political changes, such as campaign finance reform, moral behaviour guidelines for politicians, and more responsiveness to public concerns, may aid in the rehabilitation of religion in the democratic system. Furthermore, public discourse and civic engagement platforms must be strengthened to enable people to express their concerns and participate to the development of changes.

Empowering citizens to make decisions: The urge for people to be decision-makers inside the democratic system should be welcomed and strengthened. Governments should strive to include citizens in policy decisions at multiple levels, beyond referendums, using methods such as citizens' assemblies and deliberative democracy procedures. Governments may strengthen the belief that every citizen's voice matters and that their aggregate expertise can steer the kingdom's course by actively engaging people in decision-making.

Problem Solving Communication Increases Salience: Effective communication and issue framing are critical for increasing difficulty salience and, therefore, referendum participation. Policymakers and advocacy organisations must invest in clear, accessible, and informative verbal communication tactics that express the importance and relevance of referendum topics. Public awareness campaigns, easily comprehensible information, and opportunities for individuals to participate in open debates about the issues at hand may all contribute to increased difficulty salience (Blum, & Zuber, 2016).

Rebuilding Political Trust: Trust in national leaders is a key factor in increasing referendum participation. Transparency, accountability, and ethical behaviour must be prioritised by

elected authorities in order to solve this. Mechanisms for dealing with corruption, conflicts of interest, and unethical behaviour must be strong and transparent. Politicians must actively connect with their materials, listen to their constituents' issues, and demonstrate a commitment to serve the broader public. Rebuilding belief is a lengthy-term endeavour that demands regular effort and genuine resolve.

Reforming Referendum Procedures: The institutional structure of referendums has a significant influence on voters' conceptions of democracy. Policymakers should consider altering referendum systems to improve accessibility, openness, and the binding character of results. To ensure that individuals are educated and empowered to participate, clear guidelines for initiating and conducting referendums must be established. In order to illustrate the influence of voter involvement, processes for converting referendum results into meaningful coverage modifications must be clearly specified.

Comparative Analysis and Knowledge Transfer: Based on the findings of a comparative study of referendum systems in Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada, international locations should participate in information exchange and cross-border cooperation. Policymakers may learn from best practises and innovations in referendum design and execution from other countries. This collaborative method has the potential to lead to the creation of more effective and inclusive direct democracy tactics.

Long-Term Investing in Democracy Education: Finally, a long-term commitment to democracy training is essential. Civic education should not be seen as a one-time event, but rather as a continuing system that transcends generations. Educational institutions, civil society organisations, and governments must allot resources and information to guarantee that democracy education remains an important component of a country's academic environment (Wike *et al.*, 2017).

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