

Chapter 6

Civic Duties and Social Participation



6.1 Participation in Elections (Political) and Exercising Voting Rights . . .

Table 6.1a: Voters Registration for the Period 1991-2001 by Age

Year	Aged 18 – 19	Aged 20 - 29	Total Number of Registered Voters Aged 18 -29 (By Year)
1991/92	1546	8722	10268
1993	1750	9673	11423
1994	1153	9724	10877
1995	2562	16211	18773
1996	2762	18934	21696
1997	2158	19786	21944
1998	950	19196	20146
1999	921	18390	19311
2001	3865	23461	27326

Source: Public Administration and Civil Services Bureau, 2002, p.120.

In 2001, the highest number of registered voters was recorded by the 18-29 age group, with the figure standing at 27,326 persons. In 1991/1992, there were only 10,268 registered voters, being the lowest number ever recorded.

Table 6.1b: Registered Voters Aged 18-29 by Sex (March 2004)

Age	Male	Female	Sub Total
18	155(1.2)	213(1.9)	368(1.6)
19	437(3.6)	531(4.7)	968(4.2)
20	356(3.0)	382(3.4)	738(3.2)
21	1387(11.7)	1241(11.0)	2628(11.4)
22	1147(9.7)	1087(9.7)	2234(9.7)
23	1034(8.7)	981(8.7)	2015(8.7)
24	1037(8.8)	982(8.7)	2019(8.7)
25	967(8.2)	1009(9.0)	1976(8.6)
26	1251(10.6)	1112(9.9)	2363(10.2)
27	1361(11.5)	1120(10.0)	2481(10.7)
28	1262(10.7)	1254(11.2)	2516(10.9)
29	1455(12.3)	1332(11.8)	2787(12.1)
Total	11849(100)	11244(100)	23093(100)

Figures in parentheses represent percentages in respect of the total in each specific age group.

Source: Public Administration and Civil Services Bureau, 2004.

According to the statistics available in March 2004, amongst registered voters aged 18-29, those at the age of 29 made up the highest proportion across all age groups in that range, with 2,787 persons and accounting for 12.1% of the total number of registered voters in the age groups. The lowest percentage was recorded by the 18 age group, with only 368 persons and accounting for a mere 1.6% of all registered voters aged 18-29. Male registered voters in the age range outnumbered female voters by 605; the percentages of male and female registered voters being 51.3% and 48.7 of the total respectively. For both sexes, the highest number of registered voters was recorded at age 29, accounting for 12.3% and 11.8% of the total respectively.

Table 6.1c: Attitude of Young People Towards Registering as Voters, Running in Elections and Casting Votes in Legislative Assembly Elections (2004)

Attitude Towards Election/Voting	Definitely Will/Will		Won't/ Definitely Won't		Don't Know/ Hard to Say		Decline to Answer		Total No. of Respondents
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Register to be Voters	835	75.1	137	12.3	138	12.4	2	0.2	1112
Cast Vote in Legislative Assembly Elections	694	62.4	223	20.1	176	15.8	19	1.7	1112
Stand for Legislative Assembly Elections	150	13.5	702	63.2	242	21.8	18	1.6	1112

Source: Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.29.

Table 6.1d: Attitude of Young People Towards Registering as Voters, Running in Elections and Casting Votes in Legislative Assembly Elections By Sex (2004)

Attitude towards Election/Voting	Number=1099		Male (n=524)				Female (n=575)									
	Definitely Will/Will		Won't/ Definitely Won't	Don't Know/Hard to Say	Decline to Answer	Definitely Will/Will	Won't/ Definitely Won't	Don't Know/Hard to Say	Decline to Answer							
Register to be Voters	394	75.2%	62	11.8%	66	12.6%	2	0.4%	432	75.1%	74	12.9%	69	12%	0	0%
Cast Vote in Legislative Assembly Elections	329	62.8%	102	19.5%	85	16.2%	8	1.5%	357	62.1%	117	20.3%	90	15.7%	11	1.9%
Stand for Legislative Assembly Elections	86	16.4%	304	58.0%	126	24.0%	8	1.5%	62	10.8%	390	67.8%	111	19.3%	12	2.1%

Source: Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.30.

Three-quarters of the young people interviewed say they intend to “register to be voters”. Gender does not seem to have any influence on the desire to register, with the percentages of male and female respondents intending to register standing at 75.2% and 75.1% of the total respectively. (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.28)

Over 60% of the young people interviewed say they intend to “participate and cast vote in the Legislative Assembly Election”. Gender does not seem to have any influence on the desire to vote, with the percentages of male and female respondents expressing intention to vote standing at 62.8% and 62.1% of the total respectively. (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.29)

Only 13.5% of the young people interviewed say they would “stand for the Legislative Assembly Election”. Male youths are more interested in running for Legislative Assembly seats than female (16.4% vs 10.8%). (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.29)

6.2 Participation in the Community (Including Voluntary Service)

Table 6.2a: Participation in Community Activities in the Past Month (2004)

Community Activity	Number N=1112		Never		1-2 times		3-4 times		5-6 times		7-8 times		9times		Decline to Answer	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Helping out on Flag Days and Charitable Activities	863	77.6	223	20.1	17	1.5	1	0.1	2	0.2	0	0	6	0.5		
Keeping Track of Events and Affairs in the Community	917	82.5	164	14.7	17	1.5	2	0.2	2	0.2	4	0.4	6	0.5		
Voluntary Service	938	84.4	111	10.0	37	3.3	15	1.3	2	0.2	2	0.2	7	0.6		
Community Recreational Activities	943	84.8	143	12.9	11	1.0	5	0.4	2	0.2	2	0.2	6	0.5		

Source: Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p. 26.

Note: (1) All respondents are youths aged between 13 and 29, totalling 1,112 persons.

(2) Respondents may choose more than one answer.

Table 6.2b: Participation in Community Activities in the Past Month by Sex (2004)

Community Activity		1-2 times		3-4 times		5-6 times		7-8 times		9times	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Helping out on Flag Days and Charitable Activities	No.	90	130	1	12	0	1	2	0	0	0
	%	17.2	22.6	0.2	2.1	0	0.2	0.4	0	0	0
Keeping Track of Events and Affairs in the Community	No.	67	93	9	8	2	0	1	1	0	3
	%	12.8	16.2	1.7	1.4	0.4	0	0.2	0.2	0	0.5
Voluntary Service	No.	47	62	11	26	4	11	0	2	2	0
	%	9.0	10.8	2.1	4.5	0.8	1.9	0	0.3	0.4	0
Community Recreational Activities	No.	70	70	5	6	1	4	1	1	0	0
	%	13.4	12.2	1.0	1.0	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.2	0	0

Source: Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p. 27.

Note: (1) All respondents are youths aged between 13 and 29, of which 524 are male and 575 are female.

(2) Respondents may choose more than one answer.

The most popular form of community activities young respondents took part in was “helping out on flag days and charitable activities”, followed by “keeping track of events and affairs in the community”, and “voluntary service”. Amongst all activities, “voluntary service” was the only category in which 5% of the respondents indicated having participated three times or more in a week. (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.25)

The greatest difference between males and females was observed in the two categories of activities: “helping out on flag days and charitable activities” and “keeping track of events and affairs in the community”. In both cases, the participation rate of young females was higher than that of young males. (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.27)

Table 6.2c: Participation in Community Activities in the Past Month by Age Group (2004)

Community Activity	Age Group																	
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Helping out on Flag Days and Charitable Activities	No.	24	29	33	26	23	14	8	22	9	13	2	10	8	7	6	8	6
	%	40.0	31.2	31.1	21.8	20.4	14.7	9.8	24.7	17.0	31.0	5.1	27.0	15.7	21.9	21.4	28.6	13.0
Keeping Track of Events and Affairs in the Community	No.	6	24	17	24	18	15	14	25	13	8	3	4	6	2	7	9	3
	%	10.0	16.1	16.0	20.2	15.9	15.8	17.3	28.1	24.5	19.0	7.7	10.8	11.8	6.3	25.0	32.1	6.5
Voluntary Service	No.	7	17	15	25	27	13	11	18	10	4	1	4	6	3	3	1	3
	%	11.7	18.3	14.2	21.0	23.9	13.7	13.6	20.2	18.9	9.5	2.6	10.8	11.8	9.4	10.7	3.6	6.5
Community Recreational Activities	No.	7	17	20	26	25	12	7	17	7	4	3	4	5	0	0	5	3
	%	11.7	18.3	18.9	21.8	22.1	12.6	8.6	19.1	13.2	9.5	7.7	10.8	9.8	0	0	17.9	6.5
Total No. in Age Group		60	93	106	119	113	95	81	89	53	42	39	37	51	32	28	28	46

Source: Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.28.

Note: (1) All respondents are youths aged between 13 and 29.

(2) Respondents may choose more than one answer.

For the category “helping out on flag days and charitable activities”, the three age groups with the highest participation rates were: age 13 (40%), age 14 (31.2%) and age 15 (31.1%), whilst the three age groups with the lowest participation rates were: age 23 (5.1%), age 19 (9.8%) and age 29 (13.0%). As for “keeping track of events and affairs in the community”, the three age groups with the highest participation rates were: age 28 (32.1%), age 20 (28.1%) and age 27 (25.0%), whilst the three age groups with the lowest participation rates were: age 26 (6.3%), age 29 (6.5%) and age 23 (7.7%). For the category “voluntary service”, the three age groups with the highest participation rates were: age 17 (23.9%), age 16 (21.0%) and age 20 (20.2%), whilst the three age groups with the lowest participation rates were: age 23 (2.6%), age 28 (3.6%) and age 29 (6.5%). Among those “participating in community recreational activities”, the three age groups with the highest participation rates were: age 17 (22.1%), age 16 (21.8%) and age 20 (19.1%), whilst the three age groups with the lowest participation rates were: age 26 (0%), age 27 (0%) and age 29 (6.5%).