



PRINT ISSN: 2519-9781

ONLINE ISSN: 2710-1320

Investigating the Attitudes and Expectations of Undergraduate Students in Mogadishu, Somalia, toward the Upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026

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Abstract

This study aimed to assess the attitudes and expectations of undergraduate students in Mogadishu, Somalia, towards the upcoming One Person One Vote Election scheduled for 2026. The objectives of the study were to evaluate participants' knowledge and understanding of the election, measure their trust, engagement, and interest in the electoral process, and explore their perceptions of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states. A quantitative research approach was adopted, utilizing surveys and analysis of secondary sources. The findings indicated that Somali undergraduate students in

Mogadishu possess a good level of knowledge and understanding regarding the election, although there is room for improvement in their understanding of stakeholder roles. Participants expressed trust in the election and demonstrated a high level of interest in participating, but concerns were raised about the fairness and transparency of the process. The study also revealed that students perceive security, clan affiliations, and federal member states as significant challenges to the upcoming election. These findings highlight the importance of addressing students' concerns, promoting civic education, and ensuring transparency and security to foster informed and engaged participation in the 2026 election

Keywords: Attitudes, Expectations, One Person, One Vote Election, Somalia.

Introduction:

In a land marred by decades of political turmoil and strife, Somalia has embarked on a remarkable journey towards democratic transformation. A pivotal moment occurred on May 28, 2023, when the National Consultative Council, a confluence of federal and regional leaders alongside other influential stakeholders, unveiled a groundbreaking electoral reform. This historic agreement signifies a monumental departure from Somalia's enduring clan-based power-sharing model, paving the way for direct elections and the establishment of a presidential system.

At the heart of this transformative endeavor is the bedrock principle of "one person, one vote," poised to supplant the contentious "4.5" system that has dictated Somali politics since 2000. Under the "4.5"

system, the parliament was divided up into equal shares for four primary clans, while smaller clans collectively received a half-share. This divisive approach not only fomented political discord but also obstructed the nation's march towards inclusive governance. The advent of direct elections heralds the end of this divisive practice, offering every Somali citizen an equal voice in shaping the destiny of their homeland.

In the midst of these monumental changes, the aspirations and apprehensions of Somalia's youth, a pivotal segment of the populace, come to the forefront. This study seeks to illuminate the attitudes and expectations of Somali undergraduate students towards the upcoming 2024 electoral reform. Employing a comprehensive mixed-methods approach that melds quantitative and qualitative data analysis, this research endeavors to provide profound insights into the hopes, fears, and outlooks of Somali youth as they navigate this era of transformative political evolution.

Literature Review

In 1959, the citizens of Italian Somaliland (now Somalia) elected 90 deputies from 30 political districts using a closed-list PR system. In February 1960, Somaliland elected 33 deputies using the FPTP model. These two parliaments merged on July 1, 1960, to form the Somali Republic. During the civilian era from 1960 to 1969, the Somali Republic adopted a common electoral law based on closed-list PR, increased the number of political districts to 42, and successfully organized two more local and national elections in 1964 and 1969.

In 1968, the legislative assembly enacted a single electoral law that applied to both council and general elections. According to Halff, who compiled all the electoral bills produced by the country, the ruling party introduced a new threshold aimed at reducing or eliminating smaller political parties. Any party that didn't meet the required quota to win a seat was excluded from the competition, and the remaining seats were allocated to the winning parties (Halff,2016).

In 1969, the military overthrew the elected government and ruled the country for 21 years, followed by a 10-year statelessness era.

When the third republic of Somalia was established in 2000, a significant gathering of Somalis took place in Djibouti. During this gathering, they reached an agreement on a power-sharing arrangement based on tribal or clan affiliations. It's important to note that this arrangement was not based on a formal census. Under this formula, the four major clan groups (Darod, Digil & Mirifle, Dir, and Hawiye) were allotted an equal number of 61 seats, while many smaller clans received 31 seats. This arrangement is commonly referred to as the 4.5 clan-based power-sharing formula.

Despite the clan-based power-sharing agreement, the delegates in Djibouti established a democratic framework for the state. This meant that there was no guarantee of security for a governing administration once its mandate expired. While universal suffrage remained a distant goal, the practice of changing leadership through elections became a new norm in Somali politics. In alignment with the spirit of the Djibouti peace

process, Somalia has witnessed five different presidents since the year 2000 (Elmi,2021)

However, a debate on the choice of electoral system formally started in the summer of 2017.

On February 8, 2017, Somalia's two-chamber legislature, consisting of 329 members, elected Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, also known as Farmajo, as the president of Somalia. President Farmajo, who is of Somali-American descent, appointed Hassan Ali Kheyre, another diaspora politician from Norway, as his prime minister. Like his predecessors, President Farmajo faced several transitional tasks during his tenure, including the organization of an election. His prior experience as prime minister to President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed in 2010 provided him with insight into the complexity of this task.

Shortly after assuming power, President Farmajo established a technical committee to examine electoral systems. The Ministry of Interior led this multiagency committee, which consulted with experts and ultimately selected a closed-list proportional representation (PR) electoral system for the country. The committee then prepared a draft electoral law and submitted it to the Council of Ministers.

President Farmajo's administration faced criticism for its slow engagement with Somalia's political stakeholders. It took 16 months after coming to power in 2017 for the president to initiate meaningful negotiations on electoral reforms. In June 2018, a meeting was held in Baidoa involving the country's political leaders, including those from the Federal Government of Somalia, the presidents of five federal member

states, and the governor of Mogadishu. During this meeting, they announced their agreement on an electoral model, opting for the closed-list proportional representation (PR) system with just one national district (villasomalia,2018). This choice was seen as fair and straightforward, with advantages such as improved representation for women and minorities and ease of implementation. Importantly, it signaled a move away from the 4.5 clan-based power-sharing system that had been in place.

However, the Baidoa agreement fell apart within three months. In September 2018, the presidents of the federal member states convened in Kismayo and issued another communiqué. They accepted the closed-list PR system but rejected the idea of having just one national district. Instead, they advocated for a multi-district closed-list PR system, where regions would serve as political districts (Warsame,2018). This concept wasn't entirely new, as Somalia had previously used multi-member districts and the closed-list PR system in the 1960s, with 42 political districts electing 123 members of parliament (MPs). However, rather than engaging in negotiations or dialogue with the federal member states and other stakeholders, the government chose to ignore their input and concerns.

The Council of Ministers approved a draft electoral bill that incorporated elements from the Baidoa agreement and presented it to the parliament. One notable aspect of the government's proposed bill was a significant change to the presidential election process. Historically, and as per the constitution, Members of Parliament (MPs) elected the

president, who would then appoint a prime minister. However, without amending the constitution, the draft electoral bill approved by the cabinet sought to alter this process. It proposed that the leader of the political party or coalition that won the most seats in parliament would automatically become the president, a departure from the previous practice. Despite widespread opposition from various segments of the political class, including political parties, regional leaders, and civil society members who argued that this change was unconstitutional, the government presented the bill to the legislators (BBC, 2019).

Following the presentation of the draft electoral law to the parliament, the speaker of the first chamber, Mohamed Mursal, appointed a 15-member special ad hoc committee on July 20, 2019, to review the cabinet's proposal. This committee rejected the draft electoral law and instead embraced the clan-based power-sharing system, asserting that it was the foundation of Somali society. They insisted on maintaining the 4.5 clan-based power-sharing formula and removed provisions that contradicted the constitution, maintaining that the two chambers should elect the president. Additionally, the ad hoc committee abandoned the closed-list proportional representation (PR) system and proposed the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) model, dividing the country into 275 clan constituencies (BBC, 2019).

Crucially, the parliamentary committee's report emphasized that a one-person, one-vote election would not be feasible until several conditions were met, including a review of the constitution, national unity, the preparation of a citizenship law, completion of a census, and

demarcation of district and regional boundaries. The committee argued that, despite claims by the Independent Election Commission, universal suffrage was not practically achievable in 2020. The lower house of the parliament accepted all the committee's recommendations and drafted a new electoral law, which was enacted on December 28, 2019, thereby establishing a new electoral framework. The upper chamber also approved this draft electoral law, which was subsequently signed into law by the president in February 2020 (Goobjoog News, 2019).

On May 16, 2022, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was re-elected as the President of Somalia, regaining the presidential power he previously held between 2012 and 2017. This election marked a historic moment in Somalia's turbulent history, as it was the most competitive election the country had experienced, going into a third round of voting (Al Jazeera, 2022).

May 28, 2023, Somalia initiated a significant overhaul of its political system. An agreement was signed between the government and the federated states, paving the way for the introduction of direct universal suffrage and a transition to a presidential system. This agreement was the result of a four-day meeting of the National Consultative Forum, which brought together key figures such as Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre, and leaders from the federated states, with the notable absence of the President of Puntland, Said Abdullahi Deni, who did not sign the agreement.

The agreement, which requires parliamentary approval, aims to realize the long-standing but previously unfulfilled promise of

conducting elections based on the principle of "one person, one vote," starting with local elections scheduled for June 30, 2024. Subsequently, elections for regional parliaments and presidents are set to take place on November 30, 2024 (AfricaNews,2023).

This paper is seeking to explore and analyze the attitudes and expectations of Somali undergraduate students in Mogadishu regarding the 2026 electoral reform. This research employs quantitative research approach with the goal of gaining the youth's perspectives on the proposed political changes and their hopes and concerns for Somalia's future. The findings from this research hold academic and practical significance, shedding light on the political awareness of Somali youth and providing insights for policymakers and electoral bodies working toward fostering an inclusive and democratic future for the nation.

Objective:

1. to assess participants' level of knowledge and understanding of the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026
2. to measure participants' level of Trust, engagement, and interest in the upcoming election.
3. to explore participants' perceptions of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states.

Methodology:

Research Design: The study employed a quantitative research approach to collect data. It involved conducting a survey and analyzing secondary sources like news articles, official statements, and reports. The

purpose was to investigate the attitudes and expectations of undergraduate students in Mogadishu, Somalia, regarding the electoral reform scheduled for 2026.

Data Collection:

Comprehensive Survey: A structured survey was designed to collect quantitative data from Somali undergraduate students. The survey included questions aimed at assessing their opinions, knowledge, and expectations regarding the electoral reform planned for 2026.

Secondary Data Sources: The study also utilized secondary sources such as news articles, official press releases, and reports that were relevant to the 2026 electoral reform and its implications.

Sample Procedure:

The research plan outlined the criteria and methods for selecting a representative sample of Somali undergraduate students. The researcher chose to survey 347 students from Mogadishu University, Somali National University, SIMAD University, and City University in Mogadishu.

Data Analysis:

Quantitative Analysis: The data collected from the survey will be analyzed using appropriate statistical methods and software. Descriptive statistics, including frequencies, means, and percentages, will be used to summarize the survey responses and also used Kruskal-Wallis test to determine if there are statistically significant differences between Responds, the analysis conducted using SPSS software.

Ethical considerations:

Ethical considerations were taken into account throughout the research process. Informed consent was obtained from participants, ensuring they are fully informed about the research objectives and their rights before agreeing to participate. Anonymity and confidentiality were upheld, with measures in place to protect the privacy of survey respondents. Data was anonymized and any identifying information was kept confidential

Results

Data Analysis

Gender

As shown in Table 1, the majority of participants were male (n = 190, 54.8%), while 157 participants (45.2%) were female. The total sample size was 347.

Table 1. Frequency Distribution for Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	190	54.8
Female	157	45.2
Total	347	100.0

Age

As shown in Table 2, the largest age group was 18-24 years (n = 311, 89.6%), followed by 25-30 years (n = 31, 8.9%), and 31 above years (n =

5, 1.4%). The smallest age group was 31 above years ($n = 5$, 1.4%), The total sample size was 347.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics for age group in the sample

Age	N	%
18-24	311	89.6
25-30	31	8.9
31 above	5	1.4
Total	347	100.0

University

As shown in Table 3, the majority of participants were Mogadishu University ($n = 275$, 79.3%), followed by 29 participants (8.4%) were City University and 24 participants (6.9%) were Somali National University, the smallest group 19 (5.5%) were from Simd University.

Table 3. Frequency Distribution for educational level

	Frequency	Percent
Mogadishu University	275	79.3
Simad University	19	5.5
City University	29	8.4
Somali National University	24	6.9
Total	347	100.0

Faculty

Table 4 shows the largest representation of the faculties was observed in the "Economics" faculty, with 93 participants of 26.8% of the total sample. Following "Sharia and Law" comprised 69 participants (19.9%), while "Health Sciences" encompassed 64 participants (18.4%) "F. Political Sciences and Public Administration" accounted for 39 participants (11.2%), "Education and Humanities" included 40 participants (11.5%), and "Social Science" comprised 28 participants (8.1%). The faculty with the least representation was "Medicine," which consisted of 14 participants, representing 4.0% of the total sample size of 347.

Table 4. Descriptive statistics for faculty in the sample

Faculty	Frequency	Percent
Political Sciences and Public Administration	39	11.2
Sharea and Law	69	19.9
Economics	93	26.8
Social Science	28	8.1
Education and Humanities	40	11.5
Health Sciences	64	18.4
Medicine	14	4.0
Total	347	100.0

Objective One: to assess participants' level of knowledge and understanding of the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026

Descriptive statistics Table 5 for level of knowledge and understanding reveal an overall mean score of 3.955 ($SD = 0.708$). This shows a students have knowledge and understanding of the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026. Amongst the respondents. The first item had the highest mean value, indicating that the students are well-informed about the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026.

Table 5. Descriptive statistics for participants' level of knowledge and understanding of the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
1.	I am well-informed about the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026.	347	4.10	.988
2.	I am familiar with the voting process and procedures for the upcoming election.	347	3.79	1.016
3.	I understand the significance and potential impact of the upcoming election on Somalia's future.	347	4.00	.969
4.	I actively seek out reliable sources of information to stay updated on election-related developments.	347	3.90	1.003

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
5.	How well do you understand the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in the One Person One Vote Election in 2026 (e.g. voters, election officials, political parties)?	347	3.73	1.141
6.	How important is it for every eligible citizen to participate in the One Person One Vote Election in 2026?	347	4.06	1.105
7.	How important is it for the government and other organizations to provide education and information about the One Person One Vote Election in 2026?	347	4.11	1.016
	Total	347	3.9551	.70885

Objective Two: to measure participants' level of Trust and engagement in the upcoming election in 2026.

Descriptive statistics for Table 6 for participants' level of Trust and engagement in the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026 reveal an overall mean score of 3.8225 ($SD = 0.85346$). This shows a students have Trust and likes to vote in the upcoming elections. The first item had the highest mean value of 4.06 ($SD = 1.067$, indicating that the students are interested in participating in the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026

Table 6 . Descriptive statistics for participants' level of Trust and engagement in the upcoming election in 2026

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
1.	Would you be interested in participating in the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026?	347	4.06	1.067
2.	What is your perspective on the potential impact of the implementation of a one-person, one-vote election system in bringing positive changes to the country?	347	3.91	1.135
3.	To what extent do you trust that the upcoming one-person, one-vote election process?	347	3.63	1.189
4.	How likely are you to vote in the upcoming election?	347	4.05	1.127
5.	How confident are you that the upcoming election will be fair and transparent?	347	3.46	1.263
	Total	347	3.8225	.85346

Objective Three: to explore participants' perceptions of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states.

Descriptive statistics Table 7 for participants' perception of challenges of the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in

2026 reveal an overall mean score of 3.8629 ($SD = .74783$). This shows a student's believe high challenges come from security, clan affiliations, and federal member states towards upcoming elections. The second item had the highest mean value of 3.98 ($SD = 1.071$), indicating that the students believe clan affiliation power-sharing will pose as an obstacle in the upcoming 2026 election.

Table 7. Descriptive statistics on the challenges related to security, clan affiliations and federal member states.

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
1.	How worried are you about security challenges for the upcoming election of 2026 in Somalia?	347	3.69	1.279
2.	To what extent do you believe clan affiliation power-sharing will pose as an obstacle in the upcoming 2026 election?	347	3.98	1.071
3.	To what extent do you anticipate that federal member states will pose challenges to the smooth conduct of Somalia's upcoming 2026 election?	347	3.86	1.153
4.	How optimistic are you about the future of Somalia on upcoming election of 2026?	347	3.78	1.145
5.	The current security situation poses challenges to the successful conduct of the upcoming election.	347	3.86	1.011

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
6.	Ensuring the security of candidates is a major concern in the upcoming election.	347	3.79	1.076
7.	How likely do you believe that Somalia would overcome its present challenges if a one-man, one-vote election were held?	347	4.08	1.110
	Total	347	3.8629	.74783

Kruskal-Wallis Test

Table 8, the Asymp. Sig. values for level of knowledge and understanding and level of Trust and engagement of the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026 are reported as .147, .108, respectively. These values indicate that there is no statistically significant difference in undergraduate students' level of knowledge and understanding and level of Trust and engagement of the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026, as the p-values are greater than 0.05. However, there is a statistically significant difference in perceptions of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states ($p = .042$).

Table 8. Kruskal-Wallis Test

	PChallenges	Lknowledge	LTrust
Kruskal-Wallis H	8.190	5.362	6.075
df	3	3	3
Asymp. Sig.	.042	.147	.108

The Mann-Whitney test conducted to compare the mean ranks between two Universities Mogadishu University and Somali National University

Table 9 presents the results of the Mann-Whitney test conducted to compare the mean ranks and sum of ranks between two Universities (Mogadishu University and Somali National University) regarding their perceptions of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states. The Mann-Whitney test is a non-parametric statistical test used to determine if there is a significant difference between two independent groups.

In this case, the mean rank represents the average rank of perceptions of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states within each University. For the Mogadishu University, the mean rank is 153.73, indicating a relatively highest perceptions of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states compared to other Universities. On the other hand, the Somali National University has a lower mean rank of 107.21, suggesting a lower perceptions of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states.

The sum of ranks is the total sum of the ranks assigned to the perceptions of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states. For the Mogadishu University, the sum of ranks is 42277.00, while for the Somali National University, it is 107.21. These values reflect the overall ranking of perceptions within each University,

with a higher sum of ranks indicating a higher perceptions of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states.

Table 9. Mann-Whitney test

Ranks				
What is your University?		N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
PChallenges	Mogadishu University	275	153.73	42277.00
	Somali National University	24	107.21	2573.00
	Total	299		

Table 10 shows that the p-value is less than 0.05, suggesting a highly statistically significant difference in perceptions of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states between the two Universities.

Table 10. Test Statisticsa

	PChallenges
Mann-Whitney U	2273.000
Wilcoxon W	2573.000
Z	-2.533
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.011

Mann-Whitney test conducted to compare mean ranks between City University and Somali National University

Table 11 presents the results of another Mann-Whitney test conducted to compare the mean ranks and sum of ranks between two Universities (City University and Somali National University) regarding their perceptions of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states. The mean rank for City University is 32.55. This value suggests that, on average, respondents from City University perceive challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states to be relatively higher compared to Somali National University.

For Somali National University, the mean rank is 20.29. This indicates that, on average, respondents from Somali National University have a lower perception of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states compared to City University. For City University, the sum of ranks is 944.00. This value reflects the overall ranking of perceptions within City University, with a higher sum of ranks indicating a higher perception of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states. For Somali National University, the sum of ranks is 487.00, this value reflects the overall ranking of perceptions within Somali National University, with a lower sum of ranks indicating a lower perception of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states.

Table 11. Mann-Whitney test

Ranks				
What is your University?		N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
PChallenges	City University	29	32.55	944.00
	Somali National University	24	20.29	487.00
	Total	153		

Discussion of Findings:**Objective One: Assessing Participants' Knowledge and Understanding**

The findings from Objective One indicate that Somali undergraduate students in Mogadishu generally possess a good level of knowledge and understanding regarding the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026. The mean score of 3.955 (SD = 0.708) suggests that students are well-informed about the election. This is a positive sign, as informed citizens are more likely to make informed voting decisions.

The highest mean score was associated with the statement, "I am well-informed about the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026," which implies that students have a substantial awareness of the election. However, there is room for improvement in understanding the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in the election, as this statement received a lower mean score.

Objective Two: Measuring Trust and Engagement

Objective Two reveals that participants generally express trust in the upcoming election and show interest in participating. The overall mean score of 3.8225 (SD = 0.85346) suggests that students have a positive attitude towards the election process. The statement, "Would you be interested in participating in the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026?" received the highest mean score, indicating a high level of interest among students.

However, there is some concern regarding the perceived fairness and transparency of the election, as the statement, "How confident are you that the upcoming election will be fair and transparent?" received a lower mean score. This suggests that while students are interested in participating, there may be doubts about the fairness of the election process that need to be addressed.

Objective Three: Exploring Perceptions of Challenges

Objective Three highlights the challenges perceived by participants related to the upcoming election. The overall mean score of 3.8629 (SD = 0.74783) indicates that students believe that challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states could pose obstacles to the 2026 election.

The highest mean score was associated with the statement, "To what extent do you believe clan affiliation power-sharing will pose as an obstacle in the upcoming 2026 election?" This suggests that students view clan affiliations as a significant challenge to the election process. Security concerns also ranked high, indicating that students are worried about potential security challenges.

Comparative Analysis: Universities

The Kruskal-Wallis test and Mann-Whitney tests were conducted to compare the responses of students from different universities. The results show a statistically significant difference in perceptions of challenges related to security, clan affiliations, and federal member states between the universities.

Mogadishu University students, on average, had the highest perceptions of challenges, while Somali National University students had lower perceptions of these challenges. City University also showed higher perceptions of challenges compared to Somali National University.

Conclusion:

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that Somali undergraduate students in Mogadishu possess a good level of knowledge and understanding regarding the upcoming One Person One Vote Election in 2026. They are generally well-informed about the election, which is a positive sign for informed voting decisions. However, there is room for improvement in understanding the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in the election.

The study also reveals that participants express trust in the upcoming election and show interest in participating. Students have a positive attitude towards the election process, indicating a high level of interest. However, there are concerns about the perceived fairness and transparency of the election, which need to be addressed to ensure confidence among students.

The study further highlights the challenges perceived by participants related to the upcoming election. Students believe

that security, clan affiliations, and federal member states could pose obstacles to the 2026 election. Clan affiliations and security concerns are particularly viewed as significant challenges.

Recommendations:

Based on the results, the following recommendations can be made:

1. **Enhancing Stakeholder Education:** Efforts should be made to improve students' understanding of the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in the election process. Providing educational programs and materials can help enhance their knowledge and engagement.
2. **Ensuring Fairness and Transparency:** To address concerns about the fairness and transparency of the election, measures should be taken to strengthen the transparency of the electoral process. This can include initiatives such as transparent voter registration, monitoring mechanisms, and effective communication of electoral procedures to instill confidence among students.
3. **Addressing Security Concerns:** Given the perceived challenges related to security, it is important to prioritize security arrangements for the election.
4. **Promoting Civic Education:** Civic education programs should be implemented to raise awareness and understanding of democratic processes, political participation, and the importance of an informed electorate. This can empower students to actively engage in the electoral process and contribute to a more vibrant democracy.

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