



Family's Impact on Individual's Political Attitude and Behaviors

Erol Turan* Özlem Tıraş** ¹

¹ *Associate Professor, PhD, Kastamonu University, Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences, Department of Politics and Public Administration, Kuzay Kent, Kastamonu, Turkey, e-mail: eturan@kastamonu.edu.tr

** Kastamonu University, Erasmus Coordinatorship, Kuzay Kent, Kastamonu, Turkey, e-mail: otiras@kastamonu.edu.tr

Abstract

Political behavior can be defined as the actions and activities that an individual makes as an autonomous choice and the decisions he or she makes to influence political decision makers or those in their possession. There are many social factors that affect the political attitude and behavior of the individual in this frame. Education, gender, occupation, family, etc. Some of them. The "family", one of these factors, is the most important institution in which all social and political processes are inherited since the birth of the individual. A lot of research reveals that the family of an individual adopts and maintains political attitude.

In the light of these explanations, the main purpose of this study is to show the effect of "family" on the individual's political attitude and behavior. The study was carried out according to the literature review and it was examined from the findings of the studies related to the subject that the effect of the family in the voting preference of the individual is in the direction of the effect. In this context, a comparative analysis was made with other factors considered to be influential in political attitudes and behaviors.

Keywords : Political attitude, political behavior, voting behavior, family impact

Introduction

Political behavior; What the individuals who constitute the society think about the political events, the approaches, thoughts and tendencies in the face of the present events. In this frame, the reactions that the individual and the individuals come together to the society, the political events, and the actions they take in relation to such events can be evaluated as political behavior.

The formation of political attitudes and behaviors of individuals; Theories about choosing a particular party or candidate tend to focus on the individual's decision-making process, and while trying to explain it, they analyze and analyze these theories in the context of sociological, psychological, and rational choice.

The approach that attempts to explain the formation of political attitudes and behaviors from sociological point of view rejects the individualism that economic and psychological approaches particularly emphasize and tends to focus on group bases. Individuals' attitudes and values systems emphasize their political behavior and this approach focuses more on religion, family, socio-economic status, place of residence, belonging groups (primary or secondary) and so on. Factors are at the forefront. Thus, the main theme of the sociological approach is not the individuals but the political groups, the parties and the sociological constructs in which the basic approach is thought to affect the political behavior of the individuals. One of the main features of these structures is that their norms are found and that members can be punished in various ways if they are not followed. In this direction, the individual may want to avoid being in conflict with the norms of the group and not face possible penalties in his political behavior (Kalender, 2000, p.51).

One of the theories explaining political attitudes and behaviors is the psychological approach or the identification with the party with the common name. The essence of this model is the love, commitment and admiration of the individual towards a political structure. This supporter can be thought of as holding a soccer team. This model carries data rather than personal actions, rules about behavior rather than moral sermons. So, the basic assumption of the approach is that the partisan preferences of the individual depend on the direction and power of the elements that encompass a field of psychological forces. The measurement of

the direction and intensity of attitudes is used in the estimation or calculation of most political behaviors.

According to the model of identification with the party the individual is turning towards political affairs before reaching the age of voting, and this orientation strongly reflects his social environment. Identification with the party takes place within the family at a young age, and stronger psychological loyalties to a particular party occur in the children of parents who are intensely interested in politics.

Another model that explains political attitudes and behaviors is the rational choice approach. The basic assumption of this model is that the individual is well aware of his own interests, evaluates a candidate or a party that will best serve those interests, and as a result is the most appropriate candidate or party orientation.

In the light of these explanations, this study evaluates the formation of political attitudes and behaviors of the individuals, the effects of these attitudes and behaviors on the individual's political participation activities and the "family" factor, which is thought to be an important effect on the political attitudes and behaviors of the individual.

Political Area and Participation

There is no single and common definition agreed between politicians and social scientists on the concept of political participation. Some thinkers explain the impossibility of a common and universal description by linking three basic escapes. Namely; (1) Part of the reason for this is that participation is accepted as a process involving efforts to make democracy work in both developing and developed industrial societies. (2) Another problem arises from the identification of participation with democracy, the participation being regarded only as a phenomenon specific to democracy. (3) Another reason why there is no common definition and theory is the more practical application of today participation (Turan, 2017, p.197).

In this respect, functional definitions are made at different fields and levels, such as national, local or working life, which are appropriate for their own purposes, their structure and the nature of their relations. Thus, the normative, procedural, and behavioral aspects of participation practices are limited to the area in which they are located, thus preventing both universal recognition and the development of a common theory. On the other hand, it is becoming more difficult to reach a common understanding as the reason for the application is to examine the theoretical framework in which participation is addressed within its own variables (Uysal, 1984, p.109-134).

On the concept of political participation, as mentioned above, due to the descriptive and institutional diversity, the efforts to define the concept can be examined in three main groups in terms of their basic characteristics. In the literature, it is seen that the concept of political participation is considered as a concept that includes some types of behavior, some political attitudes and orientations to affect political decision makings in some definitions as well as behavior. Another political participation in this framework is the view that is based on attitudes and behaviors, and the concept is considered within the framework of authority relation and decision-making process.

If the definition of the concept of political participation as a kind of behavior is first considered as "the choices and actions that the person makes as an autonomous decision and the actions and actions they make in order to affect those who are present in political decisions as a result of their decisions or decisions made by them, , An opinion that evaluates any kind of behavior that is likely to affect political decision-makers or influence those who

are held in the hands of these authorities as political participation. Again, according to this definition, it does not matter whether the behavior is legal or illegal in this respect. If the individual is illegal, he or she is considered to have achieved political participation with all its activities aimed at the purpose (Özbudun, 1975, p.4). On the other hand, with this definition, a person who strives to persuade the translators for a political party vote, a person who has voted for a certain political party, who donates money to a certain political party, who is involved in campaigns and rallies of that political party, It can be argued that the individual who committed political murder is also involved in political participation or action. Assassinatedly, the person who participated in the government coup d'état, the rebellion and the revolution can be considered to have participated in political life if it participates in the influence of others, with voluntary preference (Kalaycıoğlu, 1983, p.22). So, according to this view, there are two basic conditions for accepting legal action or illegal action as political participation. The main purpose of these is to influence the political decision makers and the second is the activity or behavior that the individual engages with his or her decision, even if it is about the influence of others. A similar approach to political participation is defined as "legal action by citizens to elect government officials and to directly and indirectly influence the work they do". Contrary to the notion that political participation in the first definition here is unconstitutional, as opposed to the notion that illegal actions are included in the concept of participation, political participation is considered as a behavior, but only political activity is included within the scope of legal actions.

Another definition that sees the concept of political participation as behaviors to influence political decision makings is "to engage in successful or unsuccessful legal or illegal actions designed by themselves or others to affect the staff or decisions of central and regional state bodies" (Ozbudun, 1998, p. 48) In other words, in defining this political participation, it is seen that all behaviors involve political participation without making legal and illegal discrimination similar to the above first definition.

The second group of political participations is a definition that assesses the attitudes and orientations of individuals as well as their behavior in terms of political participation. According to a definition that can be included in this group, "political participation is a concept that determines the attitudes and behavior of people in the community (citizens) against the political system. Thinking this to be just voting with elections would be an incomplete and misunderstanding. Participation encompasses a broad range of attitudes and activities, ranging from simple remoteness to intensive action (Kapani, 2005, p. 131). In this sense, it is pointed out that the political attitudes of the individuals can also be regarded as political and many levels of political participation will be determined in this respect. Another author, by a similar approach, emphasizes that they are lacking in two fundamental ways by criticizing the behavior-based explanations of political participation. According to this article, this type of perception is inadequate in that the first person does not have events related to participation, such as the level of interest in politics, the feeling of political efficacy, confidence in the people around him, and the second, neglecting the types of symbolic participation that are not aimed at a certain purpose (Turan, 1991, p. 47). This view underscores the fact that the understanding of the political phenomenon will be achieved by adding the political interests, knowledge and attitudes of people to the definition of political participation in order to overcome these deficiencies.

According to Daver (1993, p. 203), who is also explaining political participation in terms of behavior as well as attitudes and orientations, political participation defines "the state of the individual as opposed to the political system as a concept of attitude and behavior". Some social scientists deal with political participation in a slightly different way than the two

definition groups attempted above, and examine the concept of political participation in terms of decision making process and authority relationship. According to them, "the process of participating in decision making and control processes of the system is a process related to decision making from the point of view of the individual in order to ensure system continuity; In the political system, an authority relation with inequality and hierarchical differentiation among the participating parties in terms of controlling and influencing the elite of the individual. Thus, participation will be the process of influencing the decisions of a party in the top position "(Uysal, 1984, p.109-134).

Therefore, the concept of political participation associated with a decision process is tried to be explained as an authority relation on the other hand. From this point of view, political participation and participation in authority relate to the sharing of the power of order that the political authority has in political participation, expressing the relation between the rules which are the power of command and other systems, and the people who have to perform these rules with the system that connects the society (Uysal, 1981, p.62-73).

In this framework, the ways in which individuals participate in political life are as follows (Birch, 1993, p.81).

- Voting in national elections
- Participation in direct democracy methods like referendum
- Participating in propaganda or other campaigns in elections
- Active membership of a political party
- To take part in political demonstrations, industrial strikes and similar activities aimed at changing public policies
- To take part in various forms of civil disobedience such as refusing to pay taxes, opposing compulsory military service
- To take part in the advisory units of local or central government
- Become a member of various institutions that consumer rights
- Intervention in the implementation of social policies by various means
- To take part in various forms of social actions related to conjuncture such as environmental problems, housing acquisition

In other words, it can be seen that the concept of political participation cannot be limited only by behavior and it is closely related to various attitudes such as political interest and political activity. Therefore, given the close connection between political attitudes and behavior, it can be considered as a concept expressing all the activities and behaviors that are aimed to influence the decisions taken by the individuals in the political system, the attitudes and orientations they have regarding the system and the authority authorities related to the functioning of the system. However, the attitudes and stances of the individuals against the political system and political events will not be the same. It is necessary to think in terms of the dimensions that Milbrath (1965) has developed that participation at different levels will be the subject of discussion. According to this, the members of the society are in three groups against the political events. These are the most difficult groups of gladiatorial activities, transitional activities, and spectator activities (Milbrath, 1965, p. 18-23).

Actions such as serving in a public or political party, nominating for a mission, funding for political purposes, joining or participating in an important meeting of political parties, or spending time in political campaigns are gladiatorial actions. Participation in a rally

or meeting, financial aid for a party or press group, and communication with public officials or political party leaders are transitional actions. Finally, actions such as moving a party or candidate badge, trying to persuade a person to take political action in a particular way, and keeping him open to political spikes are spectator activities (Milbrath, 1965, p.27-30).

Looking at the other views, which try to explain the levels of political involvement dealt with in the main lines on the basis of various criteria, it is seen that almost all the common characteristics of the society have changed according to the social and human structure of the political system of that society, especially in comparative researches, according to the concept of "political culture". For this reason, it is necessary to consider the possibility that these qualities may differ when the levels of political participation of societies are determined. Because the aforementioned factors determine the level of political participation, their positions with definite and prioritized effectiveness are determined. It is therefore impossible to determine a level of political participation, which is valid for all societies, separated by strict boundaries.

There are many factors that affect political participation. Education, gender, age and family are some of them. The family factor is an important factor that the individual has been in since he was born.

Political Participation and Family Factor

The individual gets acquainted with the first social life in the family establishment where it is a natural member from the moment of birth. Basic values, attitudes, norms, and belief patterns are the family environment for the child who has met with the family, especially until the school period, and the unrestricted information source of determination is unlimited. From this point of view, the family conveys certain decision-making patterns with concrete social relations as well as with the social values and norms of the child through the conscious socialization process. For this reason, the family has a socio-political significance as an element of both selection process and behavior (Uysal, 1984, p.116).

The family may not directly convey the political attitudes, values, norms and beliefs to the child. However, what children learn from their families may have political consequences. Authoritarianism is a good example of this kind of phenomenon. Those who are authoritarian tend to be obedient to those who are higher than themselves, that they should not be criticized, and those who are in the subordinate tends to think that they should not resist orders. The method of raising children leads to the identification of the authoritarian personality, which may include political value judgment and attitudes, such as disturbing political competition, being hierarchically organized, thinking that everyone has a certain place in society (Turan, 1991, p. 56).

When the influence of the family on the political participation is examined, it can be said that the child carries more or less the influence of the attitudes and choices in the family in the future, especially on the party selection, the level of political interest. The child may be exposed to the effects of his parents in deep emotional ties at an early age, so that he or she can identify party preferences, for example, in accordance with or similar to that of his father (Kalaycıoğlu, 1983, p.22). Researches on political elections also show that they come from families who are more interested in politics (Turan, 1991, p.56). Therefore, it is important to note that, in terms of political participation, the family is quite important in terms of creating a political and social model for the individual, while the effect of the family's dependence on the individual is dependent on various factors.

Political participation has an important psychological role in addition to the economic, cultural and social aspects of the family. The fact that the choices and decisions of the people

are supported by family members is reflected in the political life as well as the social life. The people they support are more interested in politics and strive to be more active.

The family is an underlying influence on children's emotional attachment to a political party. According to some researchers, in the process of political socialization of children, in the grafting of political party identity, family is the biggest factor. The exchange of political information between parents and children in the family increases the likelihood that children will be elected as political parties at a young age as well as the political party supported by the parents of the chosen party (Karakoç, 2000, p.39).

If there is harmony between the mother and the father, the child is naturally more likely to support the same party. A research shows that; In France, the exchange of information between children and parents rarely occurs, so % 28 of the French adopts the identity of the same political party as their father. However, this ratio reaches % 82 in the USA. As a result, it is possible to talk about strong interaction and stability between generations in terms of political party loyalty in the United States (Karakoç, 2000, p.39).

Children are generally interested in the identity of the party that their parents prefer. This identity will be a feature that the child will bear for life. Political stability in that country is also important in the formation of the identity of the party. In places where there is no political stability, the choice of party is constantly changing.

When you look at other countries, you can see how your political identity is. For example, voters in France express their political preferences in the form of right-left rather than party identity, and so on to their children. Research shows that the political choice expressed in the right-left form is more permanent than that expressed in the form of party identity (Ventura, 2001, p.668).

Looking at the Netherlands, it also shows different parties in the same ideology than standing on one party. Children in the Netherlands are close to the parties on the same ideology line even if they do not vote the same party with their parents in their political preferences (Ventura, 2001, p.668).

It is influential in political preferences as well as leaving an impression on every behavior by factors such as having an institution that has been in existence since the birth of the family member and sharing common culture and having a common past. The person learns the political thought first of all in the family. The idea that his parents are interested, voted, supported. When we look at the research done, we can see that the family is directly related to political interest and political participation. The individual trained in a family with a political interest will want to take part in more politics.

Conclusion

When the family is considered as a social factor affecting political attitudes and behavior, the structure of the families affects the political attitude and behavior of the individual. Although the structure of the family is a factor that determines the type of the society, the broader, patriarchal family members are less involved and less interested in politics at all levels than the individuals of the core families. Because the political cultures of the families of these families are weakening their tendency to participate in politics.

As a result, the levels of the individual's political attitudes and behavior are influenced by their families. The family institution plays an important role in the life of the individual. When a person makes a political decision, the family can be influenced and oriented according to their immediate surroundings like a friend.

References

- Birch, A.H. (1993). *The concepts and theories of modern democracy*, London: Routledge
- Daver, B. (1993). *Siyaset bilimine giriş*. Ankara: Siyasal Kitapevi
- Kalaycıođlu, E. (1983). *Karşılaştırmalı siyasal katılma: siyasal eylemin kökenleri üzerine bir araştırma*, İstanbul: İ.Ü. SBF. Yayınları.
- Kalaycıođlu, Ersin (1984). *Çağdaş siyasal bilim: teori, olgu ve süreçler*, İstanbul: Beta Yayınları.
- Kalender, A.T (2005). *Siyasal iletişim: seçmenler ve ikna stratejileri*, Konya: Çizgi Yayınları.
- Kapani, Münici (2005). *Politika bilimine giriş*, Ankara: Bilgi Yayınevi.
- Milbrath, Lester W. (1965). *Political Participation: How and why do people get involved in politics?* Chicago: Rand McNally
- Özbudun, Ergun (1975). *Türkiye’de sosyal değişme ve siyasal katılma*, Ankara: Ankara Üniversitesi Yayınları.
- Özbudun, E. (1998). *Türk anayasa hukuku*, Ankara: Yetkin Yayınları.
- Turan, Erol (2017). *Siyaset, Konya: Palet Yayınları*.
- Turan, İ. (1991). *Siyasal Sistem ve Siyasal Davranış*, İstanbul: Der yayınları.
- Uysal, B. (1981). *Siyasal otorite, laiklik, katılma*, Amme İdaresi Dergisi, 14(4).
- Uysal, B. (1984). *Siyasal katılma ve katılma davranışları üzerinde ailelerin etkisi*, Amme İdaresi Dergisi, 17(4), 61 - 74
- Ventura, R. (2001), Family Political Socialization in Multiparty Systems, *Comparative Political Studies*, 34 6.