

## Pre-service teachers' and teachers' attitudes towards political participating education

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### Abstract

Political participation is vital to democratic countries. It expresses people's interests, preferences and needs. Through political participation, citizens decide who will hold national and local office and who will take part in decision-making. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, democratic countries have witnessed a decline in voting numbers both at the national and local levels. Israel is no different from the rest democratic countries. Some of the Israeli reasons are: lack of trust in political system, lack of interest in politics and parties weakening, no free day in local elections, lack of transparency and separating local election from national election from the same day. This article will focus in another aspect of the phenomenon, of low political participation: the contribution of high schools in implementing the value of participation among teenagers. The article analyses the citizenship orientation of Israeli students in high schools regarding their understanding of political participation in particulars elections. This qualitative study explains that teenager students do not show interest in political participation and hardly understand the meaning, value of elections and participation. The research conducted in 2013 nearby the Israeli national elections. It included 20 teachers and 20 students from social science and citizenship studies. The results provides assumption that the citizenship orientation is low and there is less emphasis on the value of democracy and elections. This phenomenon of lack of robust citizenship orientation at high school might contribute to decline of voter turnout.