A Study on Political Dissatisfaction

Ekiji Ryuen
(Professor of political science)

METHODS

1) The respondents:
   Parents with son or daughter of university student
   Ages: 40s or 50s (with relatively stable political attitudes at these ages)
   Sex: Men & women
   Investigating date: April-May in 2000

2) Sample: 266 examples

3) Response rate: 52%

4) Number of variables (i.e. questions): 33 ; ( Among them only 5 variables were adopted eventually.)

5) Measurement: All variables are quality variables measured with nominal or ordinal scales.

6) Analysing methods: Correlation analysis, multi-regression analysis, and path- analysis
RESULTS

(1) Searching for the relevant variables(X_i) for Explaining the Political Dissatisfaction(Y)

Among 33 variables surveyed, the 12 variables(X) are correlated significantly (P<0.05) with the dependent variable, i.e. the political dissatisfaction(Y): i.e. All variables are measured as perception degrees of the respondents. The following 6 variables showed relatively high degrees of correlation coefficients:

- Reflection of the popular will on politics (X_3): i.e. poor reflection of popular will on politics leads to political dissatisfaction (r=0.286).
- Out of Government’s consideration for the people (X_4) tends to make people dissatisfied (r =0.390).
- Desire for political changes(X_1): Strong desire for political changes tends to lead to the political dissatisfaction(r=0.326).
- Vested interest of incumbent leaders (X_4): the respondents who feel it tend to have political dissatisfaction. (r=0.221)
- Distrust of political parties and politicians (X_2) : The respondents who distrust them tend to have political dissatisfactions. (r=0.406)

However I have chosen the only 4 variables as bellow. They are chosen from theoretical and statistical viewpoints:

Y: Political dissatisfaction
X_1: Desire for political changes(r=0.326)
X_2: Distrusts of political parties and politicians(r=0.406)
X_3: Out of Government’s consideration for people(r=0.390)
X₄: Vested interest of incumbent leaders (r=0.221)

Among these five variables the Path Diagram Model is hypothetically possible to be built up for explaining the political dissatisfaction as shown in the bellow: *(see the Path Diagram)*

(2) Model-Building of Political Dissatisfaction

![Path Diagram 1: The Model of Political Dissatisfaction](image)

\[ Y = a_1X_1 + a_2X_2 + a_3X_3 + a_4X_4 + A \]
\[ X_1 = b_1X_2 + b_2X_3 + b_3X_4 + B \]
\[ X_2 = c_1X_3 + c_2X_4 + C \]

**Assumptions:**

(1) As we can see in the above, I assume the relationships among the variables are linear and additive, and moreover they are asymmetric, hence the arrows run from the left to right only.

(2) The variable \( X_4 \) and \( X_3 \) are assumed to be exogenous variables,
thus they are not supposed to be influenced by the variables within the Model.

(3) Data are standardized to make variances of the variables 1, and average of each variable 0.

(4) a, b and c coefficients are equivalent to beta coefficients, showing strength of influence of the each variable.

(3) Model-Testing of Political Dissatisfaction

As shown above, the Path Diagram Model has been corroborated empirically: The widths of each arrow on the path diagram show relative
strengths of influence from left variable to right one: (However, the two arrows (the arrows from $X_3$ to $X_1$, and $X_4$ to $X_1$) are negligible contrary to the hypotheses, therefore omitted from the path diagram2.)

(4) Conclusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent Variables</th>
<th>Independent Variables</th>
<th>Direct effects</th>
<th>Indirect effects</th>
<th>Total effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distrust of political parties and politicians ($X_2$)</td>
<td>Out of Government's considerations ($X_3$)</td>
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<td>.000</td>
<td>.403</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vested interests of incumbent power ($X_4$)</td>
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<td>.000</td>
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<td>Desire for political changes ($X_1$)</td>
<td>Distrusts of political parties and politicians ($X_2$)</td>
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<td>Political dissatisfactions ($Y$)</td>
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<td>Vested interests of incumbent power ($X_4$)</td>
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<td>.037</td>
<td>.139</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Direct & Indirect & Total Effects

Moreover, as shown on the Table 1, the independent variable of Out of Government's considerations ($X_3$) has demonstrated to be the strongest one to exercise a influence upon "the (Y), i.e. Political Dissatisfaction" with the total effect of .349, thereafter came Distrusts of Political Parties and Politicians ($X_2$) with .299: and Desire for Political Changes ($X_1$) with the total effect of .253.
REFERENCES: