DETERMINANT OF DEMOCRATIC PARTY AFFILIATION

Abbas Khanzada

Abstract

This study examines how socio-demographic and economic factors influence Democratic Party affiliation. Using data from the GSS 1972-2022 Cumulative Datafile, the analysis reveals that women, older individuals, and Black respondents are more likely to support the Democratic Party. Additionally, increased resource allocation to curb crime correlates with stronger Democratic support. These findings provide insights that can inform voter engagement strategies and policy development.

Introduction

This study aims to uncover insights on the impact of social demographic and economic factors on the affiliation to the Democratic Party. Understanding the factors that are associated with strong political affiliation towards the Democratic Party will be crucial in information on the political policy, voter engagement, and strategies. Some of the research conducted in this area has highlighted the significance of social economic and demographic factors on party affiliation. This study seeks to contribute to the discourse on policy prioritization, voter engagement, and political ideology within the Democratic Party.

By analyzing patterns in party affiliation, this study aims to provide insights into voter behavior, policy priorities, and engagement strategies. Specifically, we examine whether social and economic characteristics contribute to stronger Democratic support and how these insights can be used to refine political outreach and policy initiatives.

Background

Understanding the factors that are associated with political affiliations among individuals is crucial for policymakers, party political strategists, and other various stakeholders. The aim of this study is to shed light and extract insights on the social demographic, and economic characteristics among others that contribute to a strong leaning of individuals towards being a strong supporter of the Democrat party. This will form a strong basis for informing the political strategy, policy formulations, and how the party engages with the voters.

The findings from this study can be utilized by the Democratic Party campaign team to tailor their messaging and efforts to specific social demographic groups that are more likely to resonate with the party. The party can also use the findings from this study to design policies that address the concerns and priorities of the people expanding its voter base.

Previous studies that explored the nature of the association between demographic factors and political affiliation have highlighted that factors like age, gender, income, education level, race, and marital status have a significant impact on political leaning. The specific impact of these factors on political leaning has not been extensively covered warranting a further investigation where in this context we are looking at the Democratic Party.

The understanding of the intersections of factors like household income, personal income, and education level with political leaning can provide important insights into the role of education and economic disparities in shaping political ideologies. Examining the impact of race on political affiliation can lead to discussions on racial equality within the political space.

Understanding the impact of the perception of the individual on the amount of resources allocated to address crimes, drugs and improvement of the marginalized community can form debate on the party's position on policy safety, social welfare, and healthcare.

Data and Methods

This study used the GSS 1972-2022 Cumulative Datafile. The dataset contains 162 variables and 3544 observations. The data measures demographic, political views and behaviors, religion and beliefs, health and wellbeing and social economic status among others.

This study focused on the following variables: Political affiliation, age, sex, household income, personal income, education level, race, marital status and amount of resources allocated to curb drugs, crime, and marginalization.

Table showing the variable with their descriptions

Variable	Description
age	age of respondent
sex	respondents sex
income	total family income
rincome	respondents income
degree	respondents highest degree
race	race of respondent
natcrime	Resource to halt rising crime rate
natdrug	Resource to deal with drug addiction
nateduc	Resource to improve nations education system
natrace	Resource to improve the conditions of blacks
marital	marital status
partyid	political party affiliation

The variables picked from the main data will measure the political leaning. They will indicate the amount of variation of political leaning to a particular party that is explained by them.

This study will use a multiple linear regression model to determine the specific impact of age, sex, household income, personal income, education level, race, marital status and amount of resource allocated to curb drugs, crime, and marginalization on political leaning. A multiple linear regression model is the most appropriate method since the dependent variable 'partyid' was measured using an ordinal scale and there were more than one independent variable.

Results

Univariate

Tables showing the summary statistics of sex and race

Variable	Group	Frequency	Percent
Sex	Male	418	49.11%
	Female	433	50.88%
Race	Black	115	13.52%
	Other	103	12.10%
	White	633	74.38%

Table 1

Based on the results from table 1 above, 49.11% (n=418) of the individuals were male while 50.88% (n=433) were female. A majority of the participants who were involved in the study were white (74.38%, n=633). There were almost equal numbers of blacks (13.52%, n=115) and other races (12.10%, n=103) who were involved in the study.

Table showing the summary statistics of age, income and education level

| | vars | n | mean | sd | median | trimmed | mad | min | max |
	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>
age	1	851	44.26	14.98	42	43.66	17.79	18	81
income	2	851	11.60	1.45	12	11.96	0.00	1	12
rincome	3	851	10.88	2.45	12	11.55	0.00	1	12
degree	4	851	1.99	1.26	1	1.95	1.48	0	4

Table 2

The average age of the participants who were involved in the study was 44.26 years with the oldest being 81 and the youngest being 18 years. The average income of the respondents was between $20,000 and $24,999. The average household income was between $15,000 and $19,999. The study shows that the average level of education for people who participated in the study was associate/junior College.

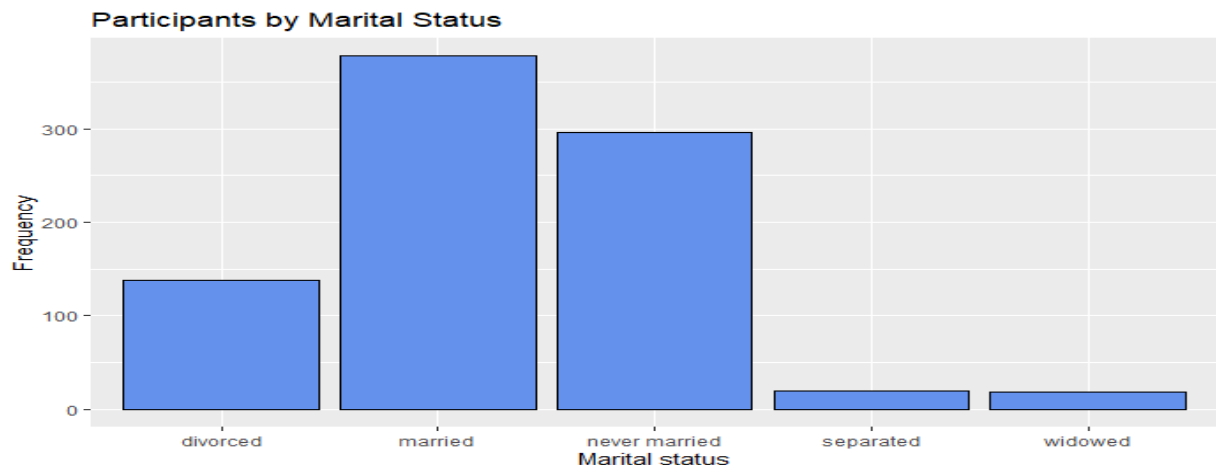Figure showing the distribution of participants by marital status

Figure 1

Based on the results from figure 1 above, a majority of the respondents who were involved in the study were married (44.42%, n=378). There were also a significant number of people involved in the study who were never married (34.78%, n=296) or divorced (16.22%, n=138). There were very few respondents who were separated or widowed.
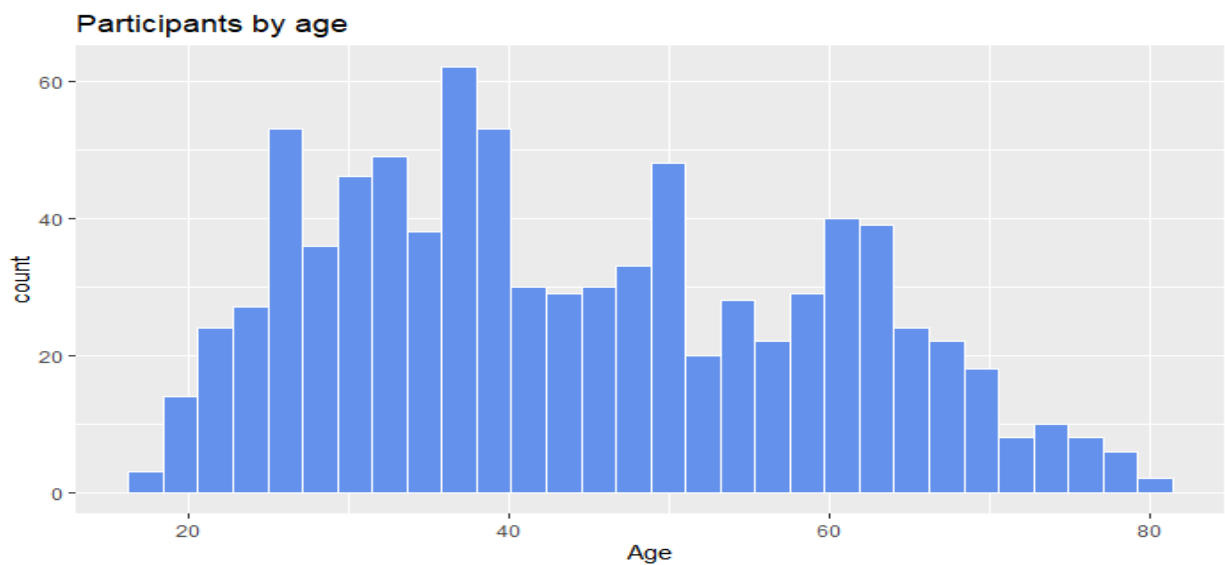
Histogram showing distribution of age

Figure 2

Based on the results from figure 2 above, the age of the people who were involved in the study was normally distributed. This is because the age of the participant takes a belly-shaped nature in the histogram above. A majority of the people who were involved in the study were between 20 and 65 years.

Bivariate
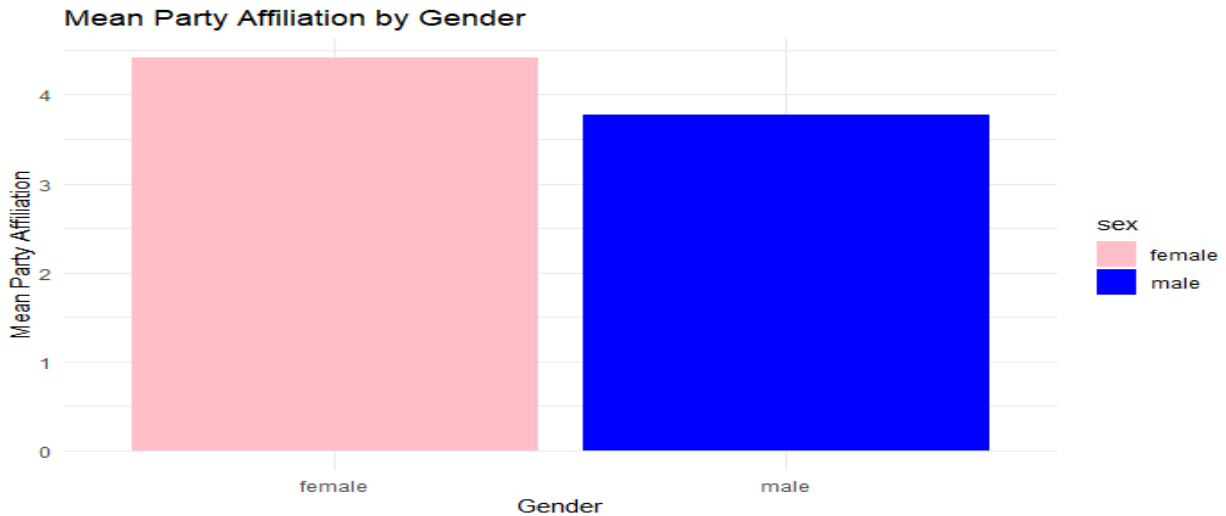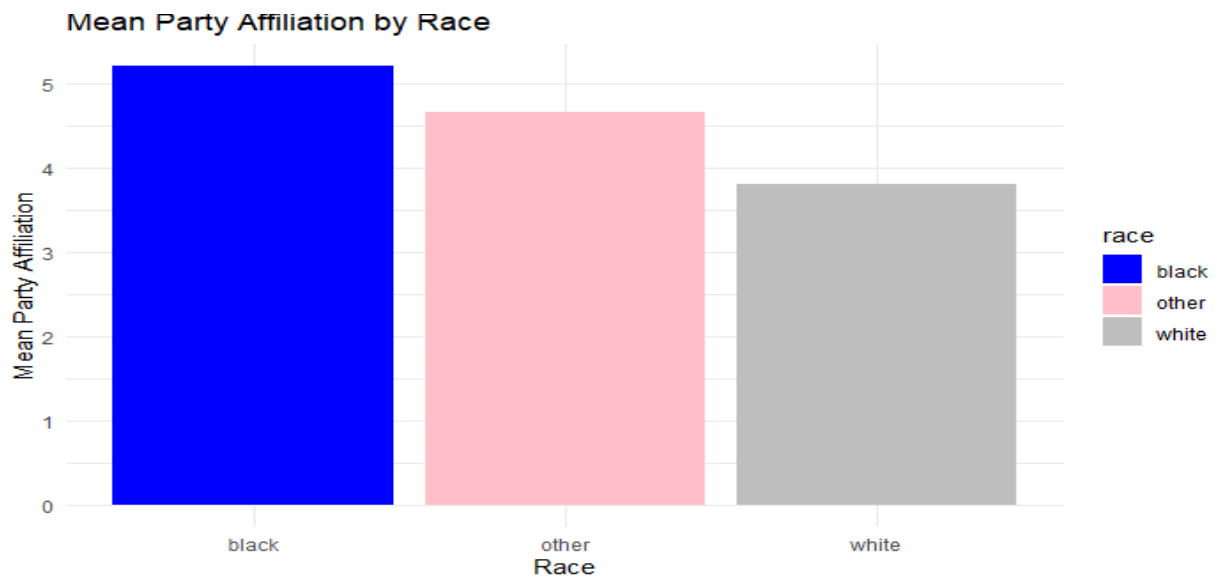
Relationship between party affiliation and gender

Figure 3

Based on the results from figure 3 above, the average party affiliation to the democratic party was higher among females compared to men. Many women had stronger support for the democrat party than men.

Relationship between party affiliation and race

Based on the results from figure 2 above, the average party affiliation to the democratic party was higher among black people followed by other races and lowest among the white people.

Multivariate Analysis

Regression

```
Call:
lm(formula = partyid ~ ., data = df)

Residuals:
    Min      1Q  Median      3Q     Max
-5.6165 -1.2862  0.1709  1.3465  4.7433

Coefficients:
                     Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)          6.363507   0.639683   9.948  < 2e-16 ***
age                  0.015579   0.004934   3.158 0.001647 **
sexmale             -0.408694   0.130329  -3.136 0.001774 **
income              -0.037045   0.054344  -0.682 0.495633
rincome             -0.003723   0.031961  -0.116 0.907294
degree               0.193080   0.052736   3.661 0.000267 ***
raceother           -0.262280   0.251985  -1.041 0.298245
racewhite           -0.954074   0.194421  -4.907 1.11e-06 ***
natcrime             0.306399   0.102023   3.003 0.002751 **
natdrug             -0.223133   0.112831  -1.978 0.048304 *
nateduc             -0.279510   0.117603  -2.377 0.017692 *
natrace             -1.011037   0.100995 -10.011  < 2e-16 ***
maritalmarried      -0.225011   0.187819  -1.198 0.231249
maritalnever married 0.082253   0.209884   0.392 0.695234
maritalseparated    -0.131169   0.440160  -0.298 0.765775
maritalwidowed      -0.498097   0.450338  -1.106 0.269023
---
Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Residual standard error: 1.825 on 835 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared:  0.2665,    Adjusted R-squared:  0.2533
F-statistic: 20.22 on 15 and 835 DF,  p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

Table 3

The adjusted R squared of the model was 0.2533. This indicates that age, sex, household income, personal income, education level, race, marital status and amount of resource allocated to curb drugs, crime, and marginalization accounts for 25.33% of the variation in party affiliation.

The coefficient estimate of age on supporting Democratic Party was 0.02. This indicates that for a unit increase in the age of a person, the support for Democratic Party increased by 0.02.

The coefficient estimate of degree on supporting Democratic Party was 0.19. This indicates that for a unit increase in the education level of a person, the support for Democratic Party increased by 0.19.

The coefficient estimate of gender on supporting Democratic Party was -0.41. This indicates that for male respondents, the support for Democratic Party decreased by 0.41.

The income of the person, marital status and household income did not have a significant impact on party affiliation, $p > 0.05$. This indicates that the way affiliated to a party was not determined by income and marital status.

Advancing the policy to increase resources to fight drug addiction and improve the education system had a small negative effect on party affiliation. Increase in resources to fight crime was associated with an increase in people supporting Democratic Party.

Conclusion

The empirical analysis revealed some key interesting insights regarding the factors that influence the affiliation towards the Democratic Party. The regression model used to approximate the impact of age, gender, education level, race, marital status, and resources allocated to address societal issues explained approximately 25.33% of the variation in party affiliation. This shows the significance of the social demographic and economic factors in shaping political loyalty.

It was evident that older individuals and those with a higher education level were more likely to lean toward Democratic ideologies. Gender showed a negative effect where male respondents tended to show less support for the Democratic Party compared to female respondents.

From this study, we also conclude that income both personal and household, and marital status does not shape the political allegiances as we had previously assumed. The impact of resource allocation was noteworthy. An increase in resources to curb crime was associated with higher support for the Democratic Party.

Recognizing the disparity in party affiliation due to gender, the Democratic Party could implement campaign policies that are more appealing to male voters and that address the concerns of male constituents.