

# Digital democracy: Social Media and Political Participation

## The thesis statement:

Social media is shaping digital democracy by increasing political participation. It has done so by providing political awareness, facilitating political parties and increasing the voters turnout. However, in this regard more is required to reduce the negative impacts of social media on political participation.

## I. Introduction

## II. Digital Democracy - an overview

## III. Social media - the evolution and the present reach

## IV. Political participation as a result of social media:

### A. The positive aspects:

1. Political awareness
2. Easier for political parties to manage campaigns
3. Direct communication with political leaders
4. Easier for people to have a voice in government
5. Public interest in government's policies
6. Formation of public opinion on unbiased basis
7. Workers active online participation in political concerns

8. An effective check on undemocratic acts of government

9. Technology for liberation

10. An increase in voters turnout

### B. The negative aspects:

1. Rumors and fake news

2. Political harassment

3. Foreign interference

### v. Ways forward for better political participation through social media:

A. Proper knowledge and training of the users

B. Sophisticated legislation to check hate speeches

C. Accountability of the social media handlers

### vi. Conclusion