

# Digital democracy: Social media and political participation

## 1) Introduction:

Social media plays a crucial role in digital democracy through political participation, but it also exhibits some drawbacks that can be eliminated through some measurements to make it smooth.

## 2) What is digital democracy?

## 3) How social media plays part in digitalization of democracy

i) People got awareness about their fundamental rights through social media.

**Example:** Women's Strike campaign in 2017 for their rights.

ii) Legislature is making policies according to the rights and needs of people.

**Example:** Zainab Alewi Bill.

iii) Government is becoming more responsive towards people.

**Example:** Motorway rape case.



#### 4) How political participation is active through social media

i) Politicians are using online platforms to convey their messages.

**Example:** Imran Khan is conveying his messages from jail through recorded videos.

ii) The protest methods has been transferred from physical to digital system.

**Example:** Trends like:  
#ReleaseImranKhan.

iii) Facebook, Twitter, Instagram are being used to spread political manifestos of parties.

#### 5) Benefits of Digital democracy through social media

i) People can get justice easily through social media.

**Example:** Noor Muqadam case

ii) Crime rate has been limited.

**Example:** Number of kidnapping and rape case has been reducing.

iii) There is a decrease in domestic violence.



## 6) Drawbacks of digital democracy through social media

i) fear of hybrid warfare

**Example:** Propaganda of parties and even countries against each other.

ii) un-necessary freedom of expression

**Example:** chances of Blasphemy.

Character assassination of a person

iii) Media platforms are being controlled by Governmental Institutions.

**Example:** Installation of Firewall.

## 7) Way forward:

i) Increase the literacy rate.

ii) Educate the mass (in backward areas) about their rights.

iii) There should be less interference of Governmental officials.

iv) Steps should be taken to avoid hybrid warfare.

## 8) Conclusion



In modern world, social media has become a mean of communication. It is used by the common man for contacting purpose to their friends and families. Businessmen are using it for marketing of their products. And even, politicians are using this for their political agendas. The online trends have become common. This is actually called the digital democracy in which the online platforms are used to approach a common citizen of the country. People are raising their issues of social media apps like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc. And in result the justice system, government institutes have become more alert and responsive. Although, it is a fact that social media has started a hybrid war. The dignities of people are not safe anymore. Everyone is trying to take advantage of digitalization of world in bad ways. However, social media has also proved a useful and helpful tool for welfare of humans. Through digital democracy people used to know about their basic rights. Now it has become difficult for people and even governments to maneuver the fundamental rights of people. Digital voting system has



increased the number of voices.  
Everyone has got the freedom  
of speech.

### Conclusion:

Collectively it has been seen that digital democracy has proved a useful step towards a peaceful world. It has more advantages than disadvantages. It has been proved helpful in limitation of crimes and violation. With some check and balances from the government it can be improved.