

16 / 9 / 2024

Day: Monday

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# "Digital Democracy: Social Media And Political Participation"

## Outline:

### 1- Introduction

Thesis statement: Digital democracy has fostered through social media by increasing political engagement of public, amplifying masses' voices, political awareness, inclusivity, accountability and justice system, however, democratic stability is also jeopardized by misinformation and political polarization in social media, which can be controlled by regulatory mechanisms.

Good try to break into short sentences

### 2- How Digital Democracy Flourished Through Increased Political Participation In Social Media?

2a- Promoting freedom of expression of all segments of society  
(MeToo, Black lives matter movements)

2b- Augmenting political awareness through quality political content  
(YouTube journalism)

2c- Increasing participation of public in policy making (OECD quotation)

2d- Fostering direct communication of citizen with political leaders (Hitler account of all authorities)

2e- Bolstering democratic ideals through upending authoritative rules (Turkey coup attempt 2016)

2f- Establishing civil societies for global activism (Arab Spring 2011)

2g- Reinforcing accountability and transparency of government (Zainab rape case)

2h- Stimulating inclusivity and representation of public in politics

2i- Providing justice to marginalized segments of society (Mahsa Amini's case 2022)

2j- Encouraging human development through e-governance (UNESCO Report)

2k- Increasing tolerance through cultural diversity (Hashteh My Culture My Pride)

Good Shahbasha

Well organised and relevant

### 3- Threat To Democracy Due To Unchecked Use Of Social Media

3a- Spreading false narratives and misinformation

(US Election 2016)

3b- Fueling political polarization through identity politics

(How democracies die by Daniel Ziblatt and Steven Levitsky)

3c- Skewing public opinion through echo chambers in social media

### 4- Ways To Regulate The Nefarious Uses Of Social Media For Political Agendas

4a- Promote digital literacy through incorporating it in education system

(Case study of Finland's extensive system of digital literacy)

4b- Strengthen cybersecurity and regulatory framework

### 5- Conclusion

## "Digital Democracy: Social Media And Political Participation"

Online platforms have become tiny town squares all around

In the age of digital revolution, the town square has moved online.

From viral hashtags to Twitter debates, social media has become the new battleground where political ideas are exchanged, alliances are forged and revolutions are born. Millions of people are now engaged in this digital democracy worldwide. It has profoundly reshaped the landscape of political participation. Therefore, social media has become a powerful tool in uplifting democracy. It has significantly amplified the unheard voices of societies, particularly, the voices of downtrodden segments of society. It needs to understand deeply how digital democracy is strengthened by increasing use of social media by masses. Moreover, the downside of social media in sabotaging the democratic stability

~~also needs to be discussed.~~ Undeniably, digital democracy has fostered through social media by increasing political engagement of public, amplifying masses' voices, political awareness, inclusivity, accountability and justice system; however, democratic stability is also jeopardized by misinformation and political polarization in social media, which can be controlled by regulatory mechanisms.

As Barack Obama, former US President, rightly said:

“In this age of hyperconnectivity, the challenge for democracy is to harness the power of social media for good, without letting it become a tool for division”

### Good shahbash

Starting with the role of social media in fostering political participation, it has bolstered the freedom of expression of almost all segments of society. Resultantly, it played

pivotal role in promoting digital democracy by encompassing people regardless of their gender, class, caste, ethnicity and race. Its glaring example is social media movements such as MeToo and Black Lives Matter.

Such movements include the marginalized and subjugated segments of society. Social media allowed these people to raise their voice and mobilise international response for their fundamental rights. It was not possible before the advancement of social media. Here, it provides clear evidence that social media increased digital democracy through freedom of expression.

Try to write more assertive statement

Expanding on this idea, social platforms increased political awareness by allowing people freely posting their opinion about politics. It overshadowed the biased political narrative disseminated through

traditional media. Many credible journalists have successfully transitioned to YouTube, maintaining their professionalism and providing in-depth analyses about political issues. **Plz exemplify or solidify your arguments** behind the scene insights and constructive debates on politics. In this way, through spreading quality content, political awareness has widely prevailed among masses. In return, it elevated digital democracy.

Building on the previous discussion, public participation has greatly forged due to social media, particularly in policy making. According to Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, "White House utilizes social media platforms to engage citizens in discussions and gathers public input on policy issues" It underscores that social media

is changing trajectory of digital democracy by integrating large scale public inclusion in policy making. It will contribute in alleviating public trust deficit on government and bridge the gap between them. Hence, it provides clear evidence that **Good** social media has enhanced digital democracy.

To illustrate this further, the communication gap between government authority leaders and citizens also reduced due to social media platforms. Political parties and their leaders now have Twitter accounts, helping them to directly connect with public. For instance, almost all Pakistan's political leaders have Twitter accounts. They use this platform to spread their political ideology among masses. It fostered their understanding of public resentment and grievances



on national issues. It was previously impossible for leaders to internalize their publics' emotions. Therefore, social media is a blessing in disguise to promote digital democracy.

While public inclusivity is upheld by social media, it averted rule of many despotic rulers and saved democracy. The successful roll back of Turkey coup attempt in 2016 is its stark example. The Turkish military attempted to grab power in a bid to overthrow the democratically elected government of Tayyip Erdogan. Nevertheless, president Erdogan appealed the citizens through live stream social media message to come out into the streets to save democracy. Within no time, Turkish people proved to be unsurpassable barrier against the coup-malcers. These armless brave souls sandwiched the anarchists,

who had loaded weapons. Consequently, they successfully pushed military coup back and saved democratic government. It reflects the power of social media in protecting democratic ideals.

Good all the best luck

Plz enhance length of your essay