

# Essay · Digital democracy: Social media and Political participation

## Outline

### 1 Introduction

Social media has become robust platform for political participation. It has both positive and negative impact for democracy. But ~~by~~ ~~the~~ taken effective measures, social media can further support ~~further~~ democratic process.

### 2 What is digital democracy

### 3 How social media connect with political participation

### 4 How social media can strengthen political participation

- a) Social media can connect with representatives
- b) It creates awareness for their rights
- c) It exposes corruption
- d) It creates unity among citizens
- e) It contributes citizen's assent in policy making
- f) It helps in checks and balances on political leadership

In modern world, every thing is digital. Digital branch is

Social media is a vast platform of any dynamic. It has also potential to rise any voice on every forum. Social media is easy way of connectivity across the world level. This robust platform has made unlimited thoughts about current challenges. Social media is developing new blocs among political leadership. Not only this but also it is constructing new mindset of new generation by building new vibrant ambition. So, social media is playing big role in political participation. It is a good sign of democracy. There are several examples of social media in the favour of political process for democracy. Social media is a potential to connect people with representative by ~~and~~ creating awareness. It is a suitable way to expose corruption. However, it develops unity among citizens for policy making. Leadership's activities

can be checked by social media with access of everyone. On the other hand, social media has several negative impacts towards democratic process. Social media spreads unauthentic information due to lack of checks and balances. It also provokes extremist groups against institution of country. It develops propaganda base thoughts against public opinion. However, social media can be used for right direction. Government should take effective measures by strong checks and balance. Political leaders should create friendly environment. Digital education can play role in right use of social media. Social media has become robust platform for political participation. It has both positive and negative impact on democracy. But by taken effective measures, social media can further support in democratic process.

Digital democracy refers to the use of technologies and platforms to enhance democratic process. It also ~~er~~ creates various new way to representation for the masses. Social media has revolutionized the way ~~the~~ citizen access information and political causes. It contains various platforms like online voting, e-petition and deliberation. There are a lot of Applications which are used for the purpose of political participation.

Social media is providing various ways to accelerating political activities. New generation is using social media for political purpose. The relation between ~~among~~ social media and political participation is clear because of pervasive usage of social media for political participation. There are several examples which shows strengthening and weaknesses of social media in political work. Social media has potential to support any fragile groups to ~~powerful~~ make powerful.

Social media connects people with representatives. People can convey their voices through Facebook, Whatsapp and Youtube. Before social media, people were worried about their basic challenges and needs but now with the help of social media they can convey their voices through Facebook. There are so many people which are using Facebook for their issue. Facebook provides such conducive environment which every person can gain advantages by using this application. Peoples messages are transferred towards political leadership then political leaders solve peoples issues. Similarly, Whatsapp is a best way of connection. Masses send their advices and suggestion towards their representatives. Due to busy life of representatives, they are unable to listen every person but with the Whatsapp application they can communicate with people. Every person is try to transmit ~~personal~~ <sup>personal matter</sup> ~~person~~ to representa issues.

lives. Digital applications are supporting in political participation through Whatsapp. In addition, Youtube is another channel for connectivity. People have potential to post their writings towards their representatives through youtube. Youtube is conveying their videos within unprecedented time. There are so many youtuber which are gaining this facility for their personal will. Therefore, Facebook, Whatsapp and Youtube are pervasive platforms for connectivity.

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Not only connection advantageous but also social media creates awareness in people for their rights. Social media highlights representatives' responsibilities and their works in areas. Political leaders ~~forget~~ forgets their duties after elections. They do not look within five years but social media try time to time expose their works in concern areas. Even today so many leaders which hide after gain seat in government.

they enjoy their personal ~~use~~ protocols and huge budget. Social media helps to dismantle their behaviours. Many representatives face their negligence ~~there~~ after backing from government. In contemporary world, the youth has understood ~~exp~~ tactics of politicians. ~~These~~ all things has ~~been possible~~ by social media.

~~After~~ ~~the~~ After these results, politician are inclining towards people for their personal interest but as a resulting democratic process is benefiting, from such activities. Due to strong network of social media, politician feels fear from people. Therefore, social media is supporting in political participation by creating awareness to basic rights.

Moreover, social media exposes corruption by different ways. Social media highlights original work in construction and duties. There are somany ~~people~~ project which

destroyed after no long ago. Politicians have received amount from government but either they did not ~~const~~ ~~section~~ <sup>fulfil</sup> ~~effective~~ or neither do they complete the project nor they have shown any willingness to complete them. Social media dismantles their corrupt scandals resulting politicians unwillingly or willingly ~~can~~ try to fulfil infrastructure. Social media also supports in checks and balance in duty timing. There are several examples of social media which expose absentee employees from their duties. After this revolution, almost employee takes care about their ~~also~~ ~~duty~~ presence in duty place. Hence, social media is a biggest participant of democratic process which exposes corrupt activities and involvement of such activities. Social media has potential to strengthening democratic process through exposing scendle of corruption.



Social media develops unity among citizens to raise any agenda. People become ~~one unit~~ united on ~~any single~~ against undemocratic process. Like Karachi police incident and ~~motor~~ CPEC motorway incident. Social media providing evidence based information through videos and pictures which supports in authentic information. After authentic information people determine against undemocratic process which ~~help~~ help in democratic network. Karachi Recently, in Karachi, Deputy Superintendent of police broke into <sup>a house</sup> ~~any~~ someone without any legal permission then he took some money from house. After some moment, when social media played important role with all evidence ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> by ~~starting~~ sharing information. ~~As a result~~ ~~consequence~~ Consequently, DSP was dismissed by Inspector General of police (IG). So, this act ~~was~~ is a good step towards democratic participation. Moreover, few years ago, Lahore motorway incident ~~were~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~caused~~ <sup>caused</sup> due to

Social media as a result alleged was punished by law enforcement institutions.

Hence, these all platforms more effective for political participation.

Therefore, ~~the~~ social media has potential to make people united against any single agenda.

Furthermore, social media is providing platforms where people can contribute their ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> assent in policy making. Common people share their ~~some~~ <sup>some</sup> advices ~~through~~ for policy making through social media. Policy makers take care about people's will ~~is~~ with any policy. Citizens share their public, ~~or~~ private, ~~or~~ social, religious assent through social media. It is a big platform for citizens ~~which~~ <sup>where</sup> they can convey their message about policy making across country and provincial level. Policy makers are aware <sup>to</sup> from ~~such~~ <sup>such</sup> platforms people assent through social media.

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Even the government take care about people's will by social media. Social media provides convenient environment for government in making foreign policy. Pakistan does not accept Israel because it know about unspoken threat which have been share anger ideas against the country. So, social media is a very beneficial platform for political participation. Therefore, it is suitable platform which people can play role in policy making.

On the other hand, social media posing dangerous threat for real democratic participation. Because it spreads misinformation material which creates new challenges for political participation. Due to lack of check and balance, there are several examples of disauthentic information which poses threat to direct and indirect democratic process. The indication

of misinformation of social media, are signs of clashes among people. Due to misinformation people are busy in denouncing to each other political and religious groups. They also use fragile sources to defend their stance which always is anti state. Therefore, social media poses ~~negative~~ threat to political participation.

Moreover, social media provokes extremist groups among people. There are several social media accounts which always use extremist processes. There are some political and religious groups which spread extremist material. Extremist groups have been criticized on public and private institutions. Incident of 9 May is a result of such extremist base information which often are spreaded ~~on~~ by social media. So, these

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all things posing great risk towards political participation. Therefore, misinformation spreading by social media is increasing violence.

Moreover, social media ignites people against institutions.

~~Due to~~ ~~over~~ There are several accounts which consistently spread anger knowledge against institution as a result they ~~are~~ can not ~~be~~ able to proper work in their institution. Recently, social media is provoking ~~misinf~~ extremist knowledge ~~ab~~ against judiciary. As a result commission was made for look forward to such activities. These all propagandas are not in the favour of political participation. Therefore, social media ignites people against institution.

Therefore, government should effective measures against such a groups. Government, political and institutions can reduce negative impact of social media. They also make it more beneficial for political participation. Government should ensure robust steps towards those people who use this platform for negative purpose. Political leadership also can play important role in reducing such elements. Not only this but also institutional awareness can make it more beneficial for political participation. Therefore, government, political and institution should take suitable measures against negative users of social media.

To conclude, social media has both positive and negative impact for political participation. Social media creates connectivity for people and it also creates awareness to right. Not only this but also social media exposes corruption scandal. ~~There~~ On the other hand social media has negative impact for political process by ~~the~~ spreading misinformation. Therefore, with the suitable measure can be taken more advantageous from social media.