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# Digital democracy: Social media and political participation

## Outline:

### I - Introduction

Thesis statement: Social media has played a vital role in digital democracy. It has increased political participation of public through easy access to information in political platforms.

### II - Understanding digital democracy

### III. Role of social media in digital democracy:

- A. Increased access to information
- B. Boosted up democratic process
- C. Promoted citizen engagement through different platforms
- D. Enhanced public and leader connectivity
- E. Tightened the check and balance on government policies

### IV. Political participation shaping the digital democracy:

- A. Increased diversity in the environment of digital democracy
- B. Created the democratic platforms

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### For Political participation

- C. Generated the new democratic ideas
- D. provided the exposure of participation to all genders
- E. Increased political tolerance and enhanced acceptance

### V. Suggested measures to strengthen the political participation in digital democracy through social media:

- A. Ensure the privacy of all participants.
- B. Avoid hetered and ethnocentric debates
- C. Regulations against Anti-state conversations

### VI- Conclusion

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Once a man was watching news on his mobile near a barber's shop. The barber has become suspicious as he saw <sup>the</sup> ~~to~~ weird scene. He asked the man about what he was watching. The man replied that he was watching the National Assembly's live conference on Facebook. The curiosity has arisen in the mind of barber and said that whether it was possible. The man said that in modern world everything has become digitalize. Therefore, democracy has not kept itself behind in this race. This anecdote <sup>has</sup> shown that in digital world access to information has become very easy even in the field of democracy. The digital world has also promoted the process of democracy which resulted the engagement of citizens. Further, it has enhanced the public and leader connectivity through different platforms which has lightened the check and balance on the activities and policies of government. Resultantly, this rise in social media usage has encouraged the political participation with the help of

diverse digital platforms which has generated the new democratic ideas throughout the world. Furthermore, it has also provided the exposure of participation in all genders in which the deprived one came on front page. It has also enhanced the political tolerance and acceptance among the people. However, it can be further strengthened by protecting privacy, avoiding hate speeches and regulating the anti-state narratives. In fact, social media has played a vital role in digital democracy. It has increased political participation of public through easy access to information in political platforms.

To begin with, social media has increased the access to information in the field of digital democracy. It has provided an opportunity to masses to get know how about the democracy. As like, just back in two decades, it was not such easy to get information ~~that~~ all about in the world, mostly in the aspect of democracy. On the contrary, it has been change the information is on the hand of people.

It has become possible through various platforms. For example Youtube has kept all the world information in it. The platform gives anything either live or videos to everyone. All the governmental activities through this can be traced. Therefore it has made a life very easy to get information. Hence social media has increased the reach out to information.

The reach out to information has boosted up democratic process. As the spread of information went to all corners of world the people has become aware all about that is happen in the world. For example the war on Gaza has been sensor in western media, in which they have not been showing the all realities, but the social media mostly the Instagram<sup>has</sup> shown all non-democratic activities of Israel in Gaza which has escalated the hatred against Israel due to her non-democratic behavior. Hence Therefore, the information boosted the real sense of democracy in the world. Hence the social media has increased the reach out of information to world.

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Additionally, social media has promoted the citizen's engagement through in digital democratic world. Most of the young generation has been using the social media which has engaged them to each other. This engagement has connected for them for any information that has been regarding the government and democracy, which has been shared in a platform. All the people has access to that platform where interaction with people increase. For example, Twitter has been a good source of official and democratic information. The people from all over the world has a same platform to know about their officials. Similarly, a country's all citizen engaged whenever they come to see the new information regarding their country. Therefore, social media has promoted the engagement citizen-to-citizen.

Moreover, social media has enhanced the public and leaders connectivity in digital democracy. In digital democracy people has an access to interact with their leaders

to tell their issues or development in their areas. However, before it has been hard for a leader to know about all corners of his country or it used to become compulsory to go directly to see regarding any issue or development. However, now it has now become easy through social media platforms where people can interact to their leader. For instance, in the floods of 2022 the Pirja bridge was damaged due to high floods. Its location is in between of mountains, so a man ~~was~~ recorded the damaged bridge and sent or mentioned it on Twitter for fixation to Chief Minister of Balochistan. As government saw it and machinery became active to rebuild it. So, this has made an easy interaction source with the leaders.

Following this, digital world has tightened the check and balance on government policies in with the help of social media, in digital democracy. The people or public has been tracing the government activities. For instance, the 26th Amendment in Pakistan

had been in the analysis of all mass. It has been checked and even criticised by the people. <sup>through social media.</sup> Therefore, any mispolicy of government has an eye to know and check it. So, this shows that how social media has tightened the check and balance.

To conclude, the social media has played a vital role in digital democracy. It has increased political participation of public through easy access to information in political platforms. However, it can be strengthened by ensuring the privacy, avoiding hate and ethnocentric debates and regulating the anti-state narratives. Further, the political tolerance and acceptance has been enhanced with the help of exposure in all genders which has generated the new democratic ideas. The democratic platforms has increased the diversity in political participation. It has also made a high check and balance and public-led connectivity. Furthermore, it has encouraged the citizen-to-

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Citizen engagement with the help of social media which has boosted up the sharing and access of information. Hence, it seems that social media has increased the political participation which has shaped the digital democracy in the world.