

Digital Democracy: Social Media and Public Participation

Outline

Introduction

Defining the key word "Digital Democracy"

a) Definition

b) Evolution

How has Digital Democracy strengthened Public Participation via Social Media

A) Brings like-minded people in a single platform

B) Opportunity to launch virtual political campaigns

case in point: case study of Pakistan

C) Shapes public opinion about political culture

case study of Taiwan

D) Provides equal political opportunity to all leaders

case in point: US mayors election - New York

E) Challenges the authoritarian regimes
case in point: Arab Spring; Nepal Protests)

F) Ensures inclusive political participation
of all segments of society
case in point: Indian democracy

G) Provides platform to campaign
against political and economic corruption
case in point: Nepal

H) Promotes Transparency and
meritocracy
case in point: online trial of leaders

I) Provides an opportunity to
political dissent to carry out
their activities
case in point: Bangladesh under Sheikh Hasina)

The Challenges to Digital Democracy in Ensuring Effective Political Participation:

A) Inadequate access to
digital tools
case in point: Report of WEF

b) Governments crackdown on political dissent on false grounds
case in point: PECA Act

c) Excessive Propaganda by non-state actors against state
case in point: A case study of Pakistan

Pragmatic Measures to Strengthen Digital Democracy and Political Participation via Social Media:

A) Promoting digital awareness through education

B) Ensuring effective legislation to promote digital democracy

C) Working on capacity building of state institutions

Conclusion

The recent mayoral election in the New York city were not in between Democrats and Republicans, but in between the young muslim leader, Zohran Mamdani,

verses the rich and powerful oligarchs of US. Despite vast resources, institutional backings, mass propaganda and extensive political ~~backing~~ campaigns, they failed to defeat the social media sensational leader Mundani. The

reason behind Mundani's victory was effective digital democracy influenced by great political participation via social media.

It can be safely asserted that digital ~~media~~ ^{democracy} strengthens public participation by providing a single platform to like-minded people, an opportunity to launch virtual campaigns, and shape public opinion about diverse issues of the society. Moreover, political participation via social media serves as an effective tool to challenge authoritarianism, promote transparency and meritocracy, and ~~not~~ expose political and economic corruption. However, despite its great benefits, it also creates several challenges, such as silencing of political dissent in false cases and the use of social media by non-state actors against the state.

Nonetheless, it creates several questions in a critical mind: can digital ^{democracy} ~~media~~ survive in future? Will it be an effective tool to promote public participation or just another platform for the powerful rulers to manipulate public opinion? Hence, digital democracy has played a vital role in promoting public political participation via social media, and it can further be improved if certain pragmatic measures are taken.

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