

Digital Freedom WITHOUT DIGITAL RESPONSIBILITY: A NEW CHALLENGE TO PAKISTAN SOCIETY:

Outline:

1 Introduction

Digital freedom without digital responsibility becomes a Frankenstein's Monster for Pakistan impacting the socio-political, economic and security environment of Pakistan. Hence comprehensive policy recommendations are needed to address the multifaceted digital technology drawbacks.

2 Conceptualizing Digital Freedom

right to have universal access to technology and information with right to privacy, but also freedom of expression, opinion, and the right to innovation, creativity as well as Creativity.

3 Conceptualizing Digital Responsibility

Obligation of people to use and share technology in a responsible ethical and safe way.

- No privacy intrusions
- No harassments
- No fake news.

4 Digital Freedom without Digital Responsibility becomes a Frankenstein's Monster for Pakistani Society.

a) Source of Hate Speeches and Extremism

Hate speech against C.J of Supreme Court after granted bail to Ahmadi in late 2024.

b) Transition of digital spaces into Echochambers

i) The culture of Rapid Reaction

PGC (Punjab Graduate college case)

ii) Blasphemy and Mob Violence

(Swat blasphemy incident)

c) Legal gaps in digital non responsibility

i) Weak Data protection laws

⇒ NAORA Data leaks (2024-25)

⇒ Regulatory Gap in platform Accountability, PECA Limitation

d) Ineffective enforcement bodies in matters involving cross Border Financial Frauds

- Lack of bilateral cyber extradition treaties

- The FIA capacity crises

Date: _____

③

Day: _____

e- Non Cooperation of Global Technologies.

- Non removal of Blesphemous and Antistate Content from global sites.
- leads to internet shutdown and firewall protection-

f- Exploitation of computer and Internet users for financial gains due to digital literacy gap.

Verification skill gap - 1 among every 10 digital user can verify the truth of a programme.

g- Digital platforms are weaponized against female public figures to silence them.

- i) Azma Bukhari case (2024-25)
- ii) Maryam Nawaz Case (2025)

5 IMPACTS OF INADEQUATE DIGITAL REGULATION ON PAKISTAN:

a) Digital Authoritarianism as a barrier to digital freedom.

- Surveillance and Censorship

(77 incidents during the period of 2016-24)

- PECA ACT

b) Trust deficit between the government and the citizens.

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Day: _____

c) Digital Harrassment leads to difficult women lives.

Character assassination of Imsha Rehman (TikTok) on release of her nonconsensual recordings in late 2025

d) Proliferation of fake news and information cause social polarization

→ 2023 Jaranwala Incident

→ Campaigns against minorities, sects

e) Disinformation leads to economic destabilization

- In 2023, unverified rumours regarding economic policies caused sharp declines in KSE-100 Index - panics

- Currency depreciation

- Drops Investors confidence.

f) Negative image perception around the world

- Disinfo lab, fake Indian propaganda

- distortion of Pakistani Image

- mirroring as Terrorist state

6. Policy Recommendation for Regulating Digitalization in Pakistan.

7 Conclusion:

Essay:

The words of David Wong, "New technology isn't good or bad in itself, It is all about how people choose to use it," reflecting the idea that science provides power; but human choice determines if it brings progress or destruction. In similar fashion, the digital technology of today's era works. Ideally, the freedom of expression, opinion, creativity, innovation and development, associated with digital technology, seems a perfect blend of a free and progressive society; however, the limitations in the form of privacy breaches, harassments and disinformation threatens the social fabric, political environment and economic stability of society. For a development country like Pakistan, digital freedom without digital responsibility is a significant challenge to address. Digital freedom in Pakistan has become a source of hate speeches and extremism where digital spaces are converted into echochambers. Along with legal gaps in legislation and ineffective enforcement bodies, the non compliance of global technologies also aggravate the already tensed environment. Moreover,

digital harassment of women and exploitation for financial gains through cyber attacks accounts another misuse of digital freedom. This irresponsible use of digital freedom results in digital authoritarianism against digital freedom in Pakistan; and enhanced trust deficit between the government and its citizens. Added to that, lives of women have become miserable and economy of Pakistan is also showing a grim picture. Not only that, the disinformation campaign of hostile neighbors also distort the image of Pakistan at International level. In short, digital freedom without digital responsibility becomes a Frankenstein's Monster for Pakistan, impacting the socio-political, economic and security strata of Pakistan. Hence, comprehensive policy recommendations are needed to address the digital technology drawbacks.

(220 words)

Digital freedom is the word derived from digital technology use, which means the right to have universal access to technology and information, with right to privacy. Digital technology includes all the materials of knowledge and communication available on internet.

Forexample Facebook, twitter, Whatsapp and other programming and gaming apps. With universal access, digital freedom also ensures its users freedom of expression, freedom of opinion, innovation, creativity and development. - On this platform, every individual is free to express ~~or use~~ ^{ones} ideas before the world. Thus, freedom of digital technology ensures individual right to access information of any kind.

With freedom, there comes responsibility, as freedom travels on the bedrock of responsibility. In digital world, digital responsibility means the obligation of people to use and share technology in a responsible, ethical and safe way. For instance, there may not be any privacy intrusion, no cyber bullying, no harassment or no fake news. - These acts arise serious ~~as~~ ethical and moral issues subjected to punishments by state's law. - For instance PECA laws of 2025^{ACT} in Pakistan opines that if anyone is found to post unethical or blasphemous content on social media will be fined 2 million along with imprisonment. Hence, the success of digital technology lies in its responsible use.

section)
(2bA)

Digital freedom without Digital responsibility has become a Frankenstein's Monster for a development country like Pakistan. The disinformation decemented^{ing} become a source of extremism and hate speeches that is posing a serious challenge to the national security of Pakistan. The extremists groups target people through these digital platforms by hacking their devices and trapping them in false blasphemy allegation. After that, as occurred in South Waziristan, they are forced to take extremist acts. Similarly, in late 2024, when bail was granted to an Ahmadi^(Mubashir Ali), social media platforms were used as a tool to spread hate speeches against ^{the} Chief Justice of Supreme Court, Justice Faiz-Usa. Thus, the unlimited digital freedom is responsible for the recruitment of extremists as well as dissemination of hate speeches.