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Talat Fatima

Essay - Test 02.

Online Test Series.

Digital Freedom without Digital Responsibility
: A New Challenge For Pakistani Society

Outline:

1 - Introduction

i - Transition from The "Gutenberg Galaxy" to The "Digital Universe".

ii - The paradox of empowerment.

Thesis Statement: While digital freedom is essential prerequisite for a modern democracy, its exercise in Pakistan, accompanied with digital literacy and civic responsibility, has catalyzed social polarization, Threatend national security.

2 - The Conceptual framework: Freedom vs responsibility

Defining digital freedom under

i - Article 19 of the constitution.

3 Manifestation of digital irresponsibility in Pakistan.

i - The disinformation epidemic

ii - The threat to social cohesion -

iii Gender base cyber violence

iv -

4- Factors fueling the crisis

- i- Literacy Connectivity Gap: high smart phone penetration vs low critical thinking.
- ii- Online disinhibition effect: The psychology of anonymity
- iii- Algorithmic radicalization: how platform prioritize outrage for profit.

5- The State's response and its limitations

6- Comparative analysis of global models of digital governance.

7- The way forward: Towards digital citizenship

8- Conclusion.

Essay:

The dawn of 21st century announces the "Digital Renaissance" in Pakistan, promising to dismantle the traditional hierarchies of information. From bustling streets of Karachi to remote valleys of Gilgit Baltistan, the smart phone has become the ultimate equalizer, granting millions the "freedom" to speech. However, this liberation has arrived with a profound cost. In a society where pulse of technology is far more speedy than education, digital freedom

Challenge The Fabric of State: The absence of digital responsibility ~~defied~~ has turned the digital frontier into a landscape of anarchy.

One of the most visible manifestations of digital irresponsibility is the systematic spread of fake news. Politically motivated misinformation, doctored videos and unverified claims circulate widely, particularly during elections, protest and security crises. The disinformation has deepened political polarization, eroded trust in democratic institutions and weakened informed civic participation.

Digital platforms have increasingly become tools for digital arson, where inflammatory content ignites real world violence. The Jaranwala incident stands as stark example how unverified online allegation can trigger mob violence, destruction of property and loss of human dignity. In such cases, social media acts not as mirror but as a matchstick,

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Women in Pakistan face disproportionate harm in digital spaces. The misuse of deep fake technology, online harassment and character assassination campaigns have created an atmosphere of fear and silencing. Digital freedom instead of empowering women, has often been weaponized against them, reinforcing patriarchal control via virtual means.

Another trend is the rise of digital vigilantism, where online mobs act as self-appointed judges. Accusations, often baseless, lead to public shaming, professional destruction and even physical threats.