

MORALITY IN DIGITAL DEMOCRACY

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Abstract

During the COVID-19 pandemic in almost all countries of the world, human activities were physically completely paralyzed and replaced by new ways through the help of technology and digitalization. Starting from work, school, and other communication needs to be carried out online, the delivery of opinions and aspirations related to the government is also carried out through online methods. Through the digital world, especially on social media platforms, discussions about a policy or new hope for government can be carried out by anyone and at any time, of course, this is an ease in realizing democracy. But unfortunately, behind this convenience, there are several problems that arise due to too easy communication through the digital world. These problems include the misuse of social media as an opinion-raising tool for certain parties, widespread fake news with invalid sources, rampant use of inappropriate language in digital communication, and other forms of unlimited freedom that no one can contain when communicating digitally. The inadequacy of internet users creates a lack of ethics in the use of communication technology. Through this article, the author will examine the phenomenon of digital democracy in terms of morality. The research was conducted using the literature review method, and it is expected that the results of this research will have an impact on internet users, especially for policy making.

Keywords: digitalization, democracy, morality

INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic that occurred at the beginning of 2019 made various changes in the order of human life. This change is felt starting from changes in behavioral habits which are mostly carried out directly to be online, such as school, work, and activities that can be moved online.

One of the media used to keep in touch is social media. Through social media, a two-way conversation took place and took place effectively. Through

social media, the aspirations of the public are often voiced and trended. So this behavior makes it a habit in the digital world.

Digital democracy refers to the use of digital technology to facilitate and enhance democratic processes, such as voting, political deliberation, and civic engagement. The idea is to use the Internet and other digital tools to make the democratic process more inclusive, transparent, and accessible to all citizens.

Examples of digital democracy in practice include online voting systems, digital platforms for political discussion and deliberation, and social media tools for promoting political engagement and activism. These tools have the potential to increase citizen participation in the democratic process, particularly among groups that have traditionally been underrepresented, such as young people, marginalized communities, and those with disabilities.

However, there are also concerns about the impact of digital technology on democracy, such as the spread of misinformation, the risk of hacking and cyberattacks on election systems, and the concentration of power in the hands of a few tech companies. To ensure that digital democracy is effective and beneficial for all citizens, it is important to have robust regulations, security measures, and ethical guidelines in place.

The ease of technology as a medium of interaction is directly proportional to the ease of access that anyone has in expressing opinions and causing several impacts that need to be considered. Based on data from the Ministry of Communication from 2018 to mid-2021, it handled 3,640 cases of hate speech based on Ethnicity, Religion, Race and Intergroup (SARA) in the Digital Space. The number of cases of violence that occur in the digital world is increasing¹ as technology develops.

Through this article, the author will examine the phenomenon of digital democracy in terms of morality.

¹ Press Release No. 143/HM/KOMINFO/04/2021 regarding *Hate Speech Reports*

Problem Statement

The formulation of the problem in this study is:

1. How is the morality the people after pandemic ?
2. How is the impact of people's morality after the pandemic on digital democracy?

Research Method

This research uses the literature review method, which is a type of library research with a qualitative descriptive approach.² Literature review is a research method that collects and evaluates various sources of literature related to the research topic being conducted. In a literature review, researchers analyze literature sources that are relevant to the research topic, such as journals, books, and scientific articles.³ This method is used to obtain valid data from the literature and can be used as reference material in making scientific papers.

DISCUSSION

Morality of people after pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic that occurred in 2019 made lockdowns have to be set in all countries. Throughout the lockdown, activities that were normally physically performed had to be converted into online activities. For example, school, work, and any regular activities that are carried out.

The use of online media facilitates the continuity of activities, relying only on the internet network and tools such as gadgets or laptops, everyone can enjoy diving and doing activities in the digital world. This convenience is enjoyed and over time becomes a routine that is usually done. After the pandemic, eLearning learning is no longer a foreign thing, instead it is an

² Firmansyah, Deri, and Dede. 2022. "Teknik Pengambilan Sampel Umum Dalam Metodologi Penelitian: Literature Review". *Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Holistik (JIPH)* 1 (2):85-114. <https://doi.org/10.55927/jiph.v1i2.937>.

³ Windy. 2021. *Penggunaan Metode Sistematis Literatur Review dalam Penelitian Ilmu Sosiologi*. *Jurnal PTK dan Pendidikan* 7(2):124-133. DOI : 10.18592/ptk.v7i2.5632

alternative learning method, agreeing with schools, work methods are likewise. Work From Home is one of the new methods in completing work. This is considered part of the positive side of the pandemic effect that optimizes technology to become part of life.

Digitalization has brought about major changes in people's lives, including in their behavior. Digitalization offers ease and speed of access to information, communication, and transactions, affecting the way people interact with each other, make purchases, and seek information. Digitalization also has positive and negative impacts on human habits and behaviors, such as facilitating mobility and remote work, but it also poses problems such as dependence on technology and lack of social interaction.

Another positive side is the optimization of the internet which is considered a "medium of life" in this era, starting from shopping through e-commerce, food delivery as a choice of how to meet food needs without having to leave the house, optimization of e-learning, and the use of social media as a place for social interaction between people without having to meet face to face.

This change in the way of life apparently made a moral change in the social interaction of society. With the existence of a medium that can connect humans in all types of interactions, there are also changes that occur both from culture, moral ethics, and norms.⁴

Q2 2022 Regional Pulse index from *data.ai* in the State of Mobile 2023 research which shows countries in the world with the highest screentime duration, Indonesians are ranked first in the duration of mobile phone screen time in the world with the average person spending their time staring at the phone layer for 5.7 hours a day, followed by Brazil and Saudi Arabia with average screentime of 5.3 hours a day, followed by Singapore and South Korea with an average of over 5 hours per day. Based on this data, the attachment of

⁴ Anang S Cahyono, *The Influence of Social Media on Social Change in Society in Indonesia* (Vol. 9 No, 1 Journal Publiciana), 140

gadgets to humans is no longer separated, especially the effects of the lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic.⁵

Morality is an aspect of personality that a person needs in relation to social life in harmony, justice, and balance. Moral behavior is necessary for the realization of a life order full of order, balance, order, and harmony.⁶

As human dependence on digital technology increases, the morality displayed in the digital world is different from the real world. In the digital world, people tend to be more courageous in expressing their opinions, this is because the digital world facilitates the mobilization of interaction between people without having to meet. Individualist attitudes have mushroomed in this era.

The ease of activities carried out digitally, over time gives rise to new habits. Content is a designation for the main material that is created as an object in everyday life. Either be an object of comfort or a topic of discussion across communities. Content that is being discussed or discussed will become trending material in certain circles, it will certainly grab the attention of most circles of society.

Through this opportunity, political activity is no less a part. Political actors are getting ready to ride the opportunity to create content to become trending and viral as an effort to penetrate democracy for their political interests. The emergence of a political buzzer to dominate the campaign often appears. Through this opportunity, there are many clues to strategic political moves and things related to their respective interests in the name of democracy.

⁵Rachel Regar, *Indonesian Ranked First in Mobile Screen Time Duration in the World, High-Level Addiction Category?*, Tempo.co, <https://tekno.tempo.co/read/1682287/orang-indonesia-peringkat-pertama-durasi-screen-time-ponsel-di-dunia-kategori-kecanduan-tingkat-tinggi>, (accessed February 4, 2023)

⁶Khabib Lutfi, *Indonesian Society and the Responsibility of Morality (Analysis, Theory, and Perspective of the Development of Morality in Society)*, (Bogor: Guepedia, 2018), 14, https://books.google.co.id/books?hl=id&lr=&id=UnZ7DwAAQBAI&oi=fnd&pg=PA13&dq=moralitas&ots=eQg7R9uRkx&sig=MrnGfprSr2w_k3ZgRa01Dvk7RZ4&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=moralitas&f=false. (accessed February 4, 2023)

When studied, changes in behavioral morality in the digital world after this pandemic are influenced by several factors, namely cultural and habitual factors. The cultural factor is the cultural change from the use of traditional to modern media in the process of implementing democracy, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic which requires optimal use of digitalization. This change seems to simplify complicated things so that people tend to support by themselves enjoying the convenience of digitalization. The habit factor has a big hand when people are used to repeating an activity into a habit. The government's new normal adaptation motto indirectly agrees with this.

There are several factors that can contribute to changes in moral values and behavior in digital democracy:

1. The anonymity of online interactions: The anonymity of online interactions can lead to a breakdown of social norms and a reduction in accountability, which can result in people engaging in unethical behavior they may not engage in face-to-face interactions.
2. The spread of misinformation: The ease with which information can be shared and spread online can contribute to the spread of misinformation, which can have a negative impact on public opinion and moral values.
3. The influence of algorithms: Algorithms used by social media platforms can influence what information people see and how they see it, potentially shaping their beliefs and attitudes.
4. The impact of polarization: The polarizing nature of online discourse can contribute to a breakdown of social cohesion and the fragmentation of moral values, as people become more entrenched in their beliefs and less likely to engage in respectful dialogue with those who hold different views.
5. The pressure to conform: The pressure to conform to the opinions and behaviors of online communities can also contribute to changes in

moral values and behavior, as people adopt the views of their peers and try to fit in with the crowd.

It's important to note that these factors can have both positive and negative impacts on moral values and behavior in digital democracy, and the overall impact is likely to be complex and nuanced.

Morality in Digital Democracy

The virtual space offered in this digital era is utilized optimally for various things including in carrying out politic life. For example, in the implementation of elections as a tangible form of democracy, there are important parts starting from campaign strategies and the future wave of public opinion, as digital technology has succeeded in changing governance.⁷

The democratic space was successfully expanded, and the people's contribution to political life became easier. However, in fact, digital democracy in Indonesia does not always have full support, some researchers say this practice is nothing more than political turmoil. For example, in the online commentary room, virtual reality is exactly the opposite, where some natural characters appear in commenting activities. For example, deviations from the culture of rational discussion, the exchange of factual and consensual positions, which the author describes as considered phenomena; Ignoring civility in communication, especially the culture of mutual respect between the intended individuals. All this indicates the presence of dietic phenomena; and the decline of human-oriented social relations, a dehumanization phenomenon.⁸

Another opinion says seeing the phenomenon of negative campaigning occurs at such political moments as the 2014 Presidential Election and the 2017 Regional Election. The use of online media, particularly social media

⁷Nur Hidayat Sardini, *Democracy and Digital Democracy in Indonesia: Opportunities and Challenges* (Wahid Hasyim University: Proceedings of the 1st POLHI National Seminar 2018 Vol.1 No.1:) 122

⁸Asep Gatara, *Democracy Nothing Critical of the Concept of Cyberdemocracy Practice*, Journal of Public Policy. Edition 22 (Jakarta: Ministry of Communication and Informatics, 2016) 6

where you should be part of the political intelligence of citizens, but from then on. In fact, it is still colored by political practices full of hate speech and even negative campaigning. The main Analysis of the arrival of digital democracy drives constructively and productively if basic requirements such as literacy and media literacy of citizens tend to increase. Because that is, the success or failure of the practice of cyber democracy in Indonesia, it is very important Efforts to encourage citizens to be critically aware. that the practice of digitizing democracy has both positive and negative sides.⁹

So, the author draws a common thread that morals in the practice of digital democracy are a crucial change and must be observed. The greatness of the media is about acceleration, transparency and ease of exchanging information but on the other hand surveillance and unlimited access can be a boomerang rather than an ease.

As an illustration, during the campaign that colored the 2019 Presidential Election with candidates for two pairs of candidates who competed fiercely, namely Jokowi's camp with Prabowo, both of them often took advantage of the SARA issue with their respective proportional levels because the issue was very sensitive to influence voter behavior in the 2019 Presidential Election.¹⁰

Based on the method of retrieving data using the Application Programming Interface (API) on twitter. The UGM Fisipol Big Data Analytics Laboratory detected many negative issues played out in the 2019 elections. ¹¹ Conversations related to negative issues can be interpreted in two ways, namely: 1) tweets that do speak about negative issues, or 2) tweets that counter negative issues. With conclusion First, the mapping of negative issues in the 2019 elections during the period from April 12 to April 22, 2019, resulted in 15,486 tweets related to negative issues related to candidate 01, candidate

⁹ Ibid. 125

¹⁰ Indonesian Survey Institute (LSI), *Voter Behavior Survey for the 2019 Presidential Election*,

¹¹ Wegik Prasetyo, *Negative Issues in the 2019 Elections: Their Impact on Legitimacy and Social Segregation*, Journal KPU (Research Centre for Politics and Government (PolGov), Department of Politics and Government, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Gadjah Mada University.) 12

02, and KPU. Second, not all tweets related to the negative issue have a location identity, but of those who have been identified by their location, most tweets are from Java, especially West Java (1,031) and Jakarta (856). Third, the distribution of negative issues was most found post-election (13,030 tweets) compared to before the election (1,743 tweets). On polling day April 17, 2019, there were 709 tweets related to negative issues. Fourth, all actors involved in the election, namely candidate 01, candidate 02, and KPU, are the targets of negative issues¹²

The impact of digital democracy on moral values and behavior can be both positive and negative:

Positive impacts:

1. Greater access to information: Digital democracy can provide greater access to information and perspectives, which can broaden people's understanding of different cultures and beliefs, and foster greater empathy and respect for diversity.
2. Increased civic engagement: Digital democracy can increase civic engagement by providing new platforms for people to participate in political discourse, engage in activism, and express their opinions.
3. More democratic decision-making: Digital democracy can promote more democratic decision-making by giving people a voice in the political process, and by enabling greater transparency and accountability in government.

Negative impacts:

1. Spread of misinformation: Digital democracy can also contribute to the spread of misinformation and the erosion of truth, which can undermine public trust and reduce the quality of public discourse.
2. Online harassment and bullying: The anonymity of online interactions can also lead to greater instances of harassment and bullying, which can have serious impacts on people's well-being and moral values.

¹² Ibid. 14

3. Polarization and division: The polarizing nature of online discourse can also contribute to greater division and the fragmentation of moral values, as people become more entrenched in their beliefs and less likely to engage in respectful dialogue with those who hold different views.
4. Decreased privacy: The increasing use of technology in digital democracy can also result in decreased privacy, as people's personal information is collected and used by tech companies and governments.

In conclusion, the impact of digital democracy on moral values and behavior is complex and multifaceted, and it's important to carefully consider the potential positive and negative impacts as we move forward in this digital age.

It is certain that we must normalize the role of digital as a medium for distributing democracy, but the important thing that must be anticipated is how the challenges ahead in using digital media as a forum for implementing democracy because at this time Indonesia is still classified as a toddler to implement digital democracy, the journey is still long. Realizing democracy through digitalization must be carefully conceptualized, the use of online media as a literacy media that educates the nation must be optimized not misused.

Conclusion

Digitalization facilitates the implementation of democracy by the public and the government, the impact of digital democracy, political activities such as pre-election campaigns, political education from the government, and supervision by the people can also be done by giving direct advice and criticism to accounts available from the government only through devices or laptops. On the other hand, the ease of expressing opinions through digital means is directly proportional to the ease of spreading crime through online media, such as the spread of hoaxes, cyberbullying, the use of buzzers to lead

opinions and black campaigns. Therefore, this change should be accompanied by the moral mental readiness, and self-control of democratic actors as well as the readiness and preparedness of law enforcement in a preventive and repressive manner in the face of the upcoming wave of digital democracy, so that digital democracy is not a matter of concern and becomes an entry point for new crimes because the challenges of digital democracy are much greater and more unexpected than traditional democracies.

Suggestion

As policymakers, it's important to recognize the profound impact that digital technology is having on our political systems and our society as a whole. Digital democracy offers many exciting opportunities but also presents significant challenges that must be addressed. In order to promote a healthy and thriving digital democracy, it's critical to develop policies that ensure the responsible use of technology, protect citizens' privacy and rights, and foster greater transparency and accountability in government. This will require collaboration between policymakers, technology experts, and the public and a commitment to staying informed about the latest developments in digital technology and their implications for our society. By working together, we can build a digital democracy that promotes ethical values, protects fundamental rights, and serves the best interests of all citizens.

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