

# International Journal of Advanced Research

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## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56539

Title: From Online Spaces to Urban Governance: Political Socialization via Social-Media among University Students,

### Recommendation:

**Accept after minor revision**

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓,		
Techn. Quality		✓,		
Clarity	✓,			
Significance	✓,			

Reviewer Name: Dr Abdul Haseeb Mir

### Detailed Reviewer's Report

The article titled "From Online Spaces to Urban Governance: Political Socialization via Social-Media among University Students" offers a rigorous quantitative exploration into the shifting landscape of civic engagement within the digital age. By focusing on university students, the author identifies a demographic at the forefront of technological adoption, effectively arguing that social media has transitioned from a mere communication tool to a primary agent of political socialization. The research is timely, addressing the critical question of whether online political consciousness translates into substantive offline action, particularly within the context of urban governance and city administration.

The methodology is a significant strength of the paper, utilizing a quantitative approach with a robust sample size of 375 undergraduate and graduate students. This data provides a statistically significant foundation for the study's conclusions regarding political efficacy and engagement. The use of survey data to measure the correlation between online activity and offline political processes allows for a nuanced understanding of "digital citizenship." The finding that a strong sense of political agency is positively correlated with internet engagement is particularly insightful, suggesting that social media serves as a "virtual training ground" where students build the confidence necessary to participate in physical political spaces.

The theoretical framework successfully bridges the gap between digital communication and traditional political science. The author effectively demonstrates that the "online-offline" divide is increasingly porous. Social media platforms are not just echo chambers; they are active environments where political

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knowledge is synthesized and where students develop their identities as political actors. The emphasis on "urban governance" adds a specific and practical dimension to the study, as it highlights how digital socialization can impact local administration and municipal decision-making. This focus distinguishes the paper from more general studies on digital politics by grounding the theory in the immediate, lived environment of the city.

However, the manuscript would benefit from minor refinements to further enhance its academic contribution. While the quantitative results are clear, the paper could be strengthened by a brief discussion on the "quality" of political information encountered online. Given the prevalence of misinformation and algorithmic bias, exploring how students navigate these challenges would add a necessary layer of critical analysis. Additionally, while the study shows a positive correlation between online and offline activity, a more detailed look at the types of offline activities (e.g., voting versus attending protests or community meetings) would provide a clearer picture of what "offline engagement" specifically entails in the current urban context.

Furthermore, the author might consider addressing the potential for "slacktivism"—where online engagement provides a sense of fulfillment that actually discourages more demanding forms of offline participation. Contrasting the data on "political agency" with actual participation rates in municipal elections would offer a more balanced view of the limitations of social media as a socialization agent. From a structural perspective, the inclusion of a few more visual representations of the data, such as a path analysis model or a correlation matrix table, would make the statistical findings more accessible to the reader.

### **Recommendations for the editor:**

The writing is clear, professional, and well-aligned with the standards of contemporary political sociology. The bibliography is extensive, citing key works on electronic participation and social network sites, which places the study within a broad and relevant academic conversation. The conclusion effectively summarizes the transformative role of digital platforms, correctly identifying them as a vital component of the modern democratic process. By addressing the minor points regarding the quality of online information and the specific nature of offline actions, the author will further solidify this paper's standing as an important contribution to the study of youth political behavior.