

Reception of Political Digital Content on X and Its Effects on Algerian Politicians' Behavior



Khamissi Baroudi*

Mohamed Khidher University-Biskra

khamissi.baroudi@univ-biskra.dz

Mohamed Taha Fraidja

Mohamed Khidher University-Biskra

mohamed.fraidja@univ-biskra.dz

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Abstract:

This study investigates how political digital content circulating on the platform X is received and how such exposure influences political participation among Algeria's young political elite. Contemporary media ecosystems actively funnel political messages toward all social strata, yet youth remain the most responsive group, displaying noticeable optimism about fostering a modern, dynamic political landscape. Digital platforms exploit this responsiveness, moving beyond their informational function to shape users' views—positively and negatively—while offering specific gratifications tied to their use.

To address the study's questions and objectives, we adopted the social survey method; the questionnaire served as the primary instrument for data collection. Findings indicate that X has become a pivotal venue for exchanging and debating political issues, stimulating youth engagement in various political activities, including formal participation. Recent months reveal an intensified presence of diverse party representations on X. Nonetheless, such visibility has not yet translated into a consistently direct or decisive influence on politicians' orientations, nor has it secured robust, active political participation aligned with public interest.

key words: reception, digital platforms, political participation, x platform, the effects.

Introduction:

The accelerated evolution of media and communication technologies has generated a substantive shift that permeates every sphere of life,

* Corresponding Author

reshaping social structures and organizational routines in immediate and often unmistakable ways. Social-networking platforms rank among the most consequential of these technologies: they introduced a qualitative leap that transcends interpersonal exchange and now exerts a concrete influence on daily experience. By enabling users to transmit information almost instantaneously across borders, these platforms supply unprecedented access to political knowledge. What originated as socially oriented networks has gradually acquired a distinctly political complexion, as they became privileged sites for circulating news about public affairs. X (formerly Twitter) sits at the forefront of this trend.

Political participation, by contrast, constitutes a foundational political right and a salient form of societal engagement in the political order. It bundles information, experience, skill, and attitude, and it has become a pressing necessity dictated by the contemporary environment. Through the digital content diffused on X, Algeria's political elite can articulate their preferences regarding leadership. X, alongside comparable platforms, has simplified the task for governments and political actors who seek to reach the electorate—especially its elite segment—by facilitating the formation of virtual parties and caucuses that motivate this audience to engage in elections, casting their votes for preferred parties according to the messages circulated within these networks. From the elite's vantage point, such dynamics prompt the central research question of this study: **How do specialized political digital contents on X influence the political-participation behavior of Algeria's political elite?**

To address the main question, three subsidiary questions guide the research:

1. What motives drive Algerian political elites to use X?
2. Which levels and forms characterize their political engagement with the platform?
3. What specific political gratifications does X offer to Algerian elites?

the methodological and conceptual aspect of the problem

Significance of the Study:

The importance of this topic stems chiefly from the strategic position of the elite itself. As an influential human resource within the social body, the elite warrants meticulous scrutiny, including analysis of every factor that shapes its conduct. The extensive reach of media across elite circles demands empirical assessment, so that its influence may be channeled in ways that serve the wider community. Moreover, the study tackles a political issue of immediate relevance—namely, political participation.

Beyond that, the research promises to enrich scholarly work in media and social sciences, particularly for students of communication and for specialists investigating digital platforms. It is hoped that the present inquiry will encourage further exploration of the dynamics of these media environments, thereby contributing to the gradual accumulation of empirical and conceptual knowledge.

Conceptual Framework:

1. **Reception** – *operational definition*. Reception marks the moment when specific political meanings become clear to the audience. It is the ongoing production and interpretation of political sense on X by the political elite, deliberately aimed at spurring participation in political activities.
2. **Digital Content** – *operational definition*. Any digital material—textual or audiovisual, structured within a database or left unstructured—qualifies as digital content. In practice, this includes every electronic document, online or offline, that conveys political data or news via platforms such as X.
3. **Political Digital Content**. All online material—websites, webpages, e-books, audio tracks, political videos, and so forth—when situated in a political context. Whether produced inside or outside the Arab world, any written, spoken, or visual artefact located in the digital sphere that addresses public affairs or carries an identifiable political source fits this label. The term thus embraces all political items posted on social media in general, and on X in particular, whether issued formally by official bodies or informally by private users.
4. **Platform X** – *operational definition*. In this study, X denotes the social-network site where politically engaged elites read, post, and respond to messages limited to 140 characters. The platform is treated as a media tool capable of prompting or mediating political participation; it grants individuals access to information—political material foremost—so they may exercise their rights within the political sphere.
5. **Political Participation** – *operational definition*. An activity in which individuals monitor candidates and their campaigns through social networks such as X, ultimately casting a vote or selecting a preferred office-holder. It covers citizens' determination to exercise their political rights, from electoral voting to public commentary, including membership in legally recognized parties or other sanctioned political organizations (Saada,p 98).
6. **Political Elite**
 - *Etymology*. The term *nukhba* originates in the verb *intakhaba* (“to choose”); *safwa* conveys a similar sense of “the selected few.”
 - *Operational definition*. The political elite constitutes a distinct social segment whose members possess attributes unavailable to most citizens and wield the resources necessary to shape public policy and major political decisions. Through strategically crafted posts on X, they energize the political machinery

that sustains state institutions and determines the country's socio-economic and diplomatic standing.

Motivations and Characteristics of Elite Political Participation

- **Action** – sustained collective movement oriented toward explicit objectives.
- **Voluntarism** – citizens devote effort freely, guided by a strong sense of social responsibility for collective goals, uncoerced by material or moral pressure.
- **Choice** – participants retain the right to support, withhold support from, or disengage from political leaders and causes, whether locally, regionally, or nationally.
- **Right and Duty** – participation is simultaneously an individual entitlement and a civic obligation. Every citizen may deliberate public issues, elect representatives, or stand for office; democratic health relies on this engagement (Al-Din 2011, p. 15).
- **Psychological Fulfilment** – participation satisfies personal and psychological needs. Allport viewed it as a route to self-realization; Stone argued that self-realization requires purposeful relations with others; Adler and many later psychologists maintained that evolving social interest and participation are prerequisites for mental health.
- **Expression of Political Consciousness** – individuals who engage politically deem the act a patriotic responsibility. Awareness of the significance of participation, comprehension of prevailing political realities, and commitment to communal welfare all drive involvement.

Study Type:

This research is descriptive. It gathers and organizes information on social networks—chiefly X—and their impact on elite political participation. Descriptive studies map the dimensions and variables of a phenomenon by specifying its essential features (Mukhtar 2015-2016, 45).

Methodological Framework:

We adopt the social-survey method, defined as a systematic review of events, actors, trends, and aims. The approach dissects the phenomenon into elements, traces reciprocal influences, and employs quantitative and qualitative techniques to link it with related variables (Brouy 1977, 60). Surveying a targeted sample allows us to capture attitudes and behaviours with enough precision to reach valid conclusions.

Data-Collection Tool:

Digital research now relies on digital tools. As social life moves online, such tools overcome geographic barriers and reduce time and logistical costs (Aboub 2022, 22). We therefore use an online self-administered questionnaire—often labelled a web survey—through which respondents transmit answers via computers, tablets, or smartphones (Deliou 2015, 170). The format efficiently reaches dispersed elite users and yields the large-scale evidence required for a politically oriented analysis.

Study Population and Sampling Strategy:

The research population comprises Algeria's political elite who monitor, comment on, and amplify political content on X. Surveying every member of that community is impracticable; consequently, a sample had to be extracted. A sample, in strict methodological terms, is a segment drawn from the full population whose internal composition mirrors that population's key attributes. Purposive sampling furnished the most direct route to the desired respondents. This technique selects units deliberately, guided by the researcher's knowledge of the field and by criteria that serve the study's objectives, rather than by random inclusion (Tamar 2017, 98). The present investigation therefore targeted 145 politically active X users who demonstrably publish or react to posts on electoral participation and its implications. Their sustained engagement and visible influence positioned them as a credible proxy for the broader elite cohort.

The Empirical Findings

A — Sample Distribution by Gender

Table 1. Gender Distribution	Frequency	Percentage
Male	102	70.34 %
Female	43	29.66 %
Total	145	100 %

Men clearly dominate X usage within the elite cohort, accounting for just over 70% of the sample.

B — Sample Distribution by Age

Table 2. Age Distribution	Frequency	Percentage
20–25	28	19.31 %
25–30	52	35.86 %
Above 30	65	44.82 %
Total	145	100 %

Nearly 45% of respondents are older than thirty; this group is the most active in posting and reading political material on X, a pattern consistent with their deeper immersion in public life.

C — Sample Distribution by Educational Level

Table 3. Educational Level	Frequency	Percentage
Secondary	32	22.06 %
University	97	66.90 %
Post-graduate	16	11.04 %
Total	145	100 %

Two-thirds of users hold university degrees. Secondary-school graduates form the second-largest segment, while postgraduate degree-holders appear least often—perhaps a consequence of tighter schedules and a preference for keeping political views private.

Section I. Motives for Using X in Political Activity (Elite Sample)

Variab le	Category	Follo w event s <i>n</i>	%	Acqui re cultur e <i>n</i>	%	Track candida tes <i>n</i>	%	Tot al <i>n</i>	%
Gende r	Male	50	34.4 8	4	2.75	48	33.1 0	102	70.34 %
	Female	28	19.3 1	8	5.51	7	4.82	43	29.65 %
Subtotal		78	53.7 3	12	8.27	55	37.9 3	145	100
Age	20 – 25	23	29.4 8	3	25.0 0	17	30.9 0	28	29.65 %
	25 – 30	31	39.7 4	4	33.3 3	26	47.2 7	52	42.06 %
	Above 30	24	30.7 7	5	41.6 6	12	21.8 1	65	28.27 %
	Subtota l	78	53.7 3	12	8.27	55	37.9 3	145	100%
Educati on	Seconda ry	21	14.4 8	7	4.82	14	9.65	32	28.96 %
	Univers ity	45	31.0 3	3	2.07	28	19.3 1	97	42.06 %
	Post-	12	8.27	1	0.69	13	8.96	16	17.93
	Subtota l	78	53.7 3	12	8.27	55	37.9 3	145	100%

A close reading of Table 4 reveals three consistent patterns.

Gender. Male respondents dominate political use of X: just over one-third (34.48 %, *n* = 50) log in chiefly to follow unfolding events. Their least common motive—cultivating political literacy—barely reaches 2.75 % (*n* = 4). Female elites show a different profile: the plurality (19.31 %, *n* = 28) focuses on political news, while 5.51 % (*n* = 8) pursue civic culture. The figures affirm a broader male presence in digital politics, reflecting both a drive to diversify knowledge and a habitual engagement with public affairs; women’s lower share may indicate distinct informational priorities rather than disinterest.

Age. Motivation shifts with life stage. The 25-to-30 cohort supplies the highest share of event-followers (47.27 %, *n* = 26) and one quarter (25 %, *n* = 4) of all knowledge-seekers. Participants older than thirty concentrate on both culture and events (41.66 %, *n* = 5; 30.77 %, *n* = 24) but are least inclined to track individual candidates (21.81 %, *n* = 12). Users aged 20-to-25 are active yet less specialised, with 29.48 % (*n* = 23) primarily watching event feeds. These gradients suggest that political engagement on X is anchored in early professional adulthood and deepens, rather than diminishes, after thirty.

Education. University graduates account for the bulk of political traffic: 31.03 % (*n* = 45) rely on X to monitor current events, whereas only 2.07 % (*n* = 3) use

it mainly for civic learning. Secondary-school alumni appear more interested in knowledge acquisition (4.82 %, $n = 7$) than real-time news (4.82 %, $n = 7$), while post-graduates split almost evenly between events (8.27 %, $n = 12$) and candidate tracking (8.96 %, $n = 13$). In short, the platform's political sphere is powered by degree-holders seeking timely information—a pattern that may ultimately shape decision-making climates and, by extension, policy outcomes.

Table 5. Level of Interest in Political Issues on X

Variable	Categor y	Hig h n	Hig h %	Mediu m n	Mediu m %	Lo w n	Low %	Tota l n	Tota l %
Gender	Male	57	39.31	26	17.93	19	13.10	102	70.34
	Female	14	9.65	17	11.72	12	8.28	43	29.65
	Subtotal	71	48.96	43	29.65	31	21.38	145	100
Age	20 – 25	11	8.96	10	6.89	8	5.51	28	19.31
	25 – 30	25	17.24	15	10.34	12	8.27	52	35.86
	Above 30	35	22.75	18	12.41	11	7.58	65	44.82
	Subtotal	71	48.96	43	29.65	31	21.38	145	100
Educatio n	Secondar y	12	8.27	19	13.10	18	12.41	32	22.06
	Universit y	45	31.03	22	15.17	13	8.96	97	66.89
	Post-graduate	14	9.65	2	1.38	0	0.00	16	11.03
	Subtotal	71	48.96	43	29.65	31	21.38	145	100

The figures on political interest by gender indicate that male respondents exhibit the highest level of engagement on X: 39.31 % ($n = 57$) declare strong interest in political matters, whereas only 13.10 % ($n = 19$) show low interest. Female respondents cluster mainly at a moderate level—11.72 % ($n = 17$)—with similar shares reporting high (9.65 %) and low (8.28 %) interest. Overall, the plurality of participants falls within the medium-interest category.

Age yields a sharper gradient. Individuals over thirty dominate the high-interest bracket at 22.75 % ($n = 35$), while only 7.58 % ($n = 11$) in that group report low interest. The 25–30 cohort concentrates at a medium level—10.34 % ($n = 15$)—and registers 8.27 % ($n = 12$) in the low-interest band. Respondents aged 20–25 rarely express strong concern (8.96 %) and gravitate toward limited engagement (5.51 %). These patterns suggest that sustained attention to national politics on

X emerges in the late twenties and intensifies after thirty, reflecting both life-stage priorities and economic standing.

Educational attainment reinforces the trend. University graduates account for the largest share of high interest—31.03 % ($n = 45$)—whereas only 2.07 % from that group report medium engagement. Secondary-school graduates lean toward moderate interest (13.10 %), while post-graduates, though fewer, concentrate almost exclusively in the high-interest tier (9.65 %, $n = 14$) and exhibit no declared apathy. Hence, advanced education correlates with a pronounced focus on political issues.

Taken together, political interest on X varies by gender, age, and education. Male users, older participants, and the highly educated display the most consistent engagement, likely reflecting both broader access to information and greater personal stakes in public affairs.

Table 6 | Using X to Keep Abreast of Political Conditions

Variable	Yes		No		Total	
Gender	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Male	97	66.89	5	3.44	102	70.34
Female	26	17.93	17	11.72	43	29.65
Subtotal	123	84.82	22	15.17	145	100
Age (years)						
20 – 25	21	14.48	7	4.82	28	19.31
25 – 30	46	31.72	6	4.13	52	35.86
Above 30	56	38.62	9	6.20	65	44.82
Subtotal	123	84.82	22	15.17	145	100
Education						
Secondary	20	13.79	12	8.27	32	22.06
University	87	60.00	10	6.90	97	66.90
Post-graduate	16	11.03	0	0.00	16	11.03
Subtotal	123	84.82	22	15.17	145	100

The table indicates a clear consensus that using X enhances awareness of current political conditions.

Gender. A decisive majority of male respondents—66.89 % ($n = 97$)—affirmed that X helps them follow political developments, while only 3.44 % ($n = 5$) disagreed. Among women, 17.93 % ($n = 26$) shared this positive assessment, whereas 11.72 % ($n = 17$) reported no such benefit.

Age. Respondents over thirty were the most convinced: 38.62 % ($n = 56$) answered “yes,” compared with 6.20 % ($n = 9$) who answered “no.” The 25–30 cohort followed, with 31.72 % ($n = 46$) agreeing and 4.13 % ($n = 6$) dissenting. In the 20–25 group, 14.48 % ($n = 21$) believed X improves political awareness, while 4.82 % ($n = 7$) did not.

Education. Every postgraduate in the sample ($n = 16$) stated that X informs them about political affairs. Among university graduates, 60.00 % ($n = 87$) concurred, whereas 6.90 % ($n = 10$) disagreed. Secondary-level respondents were split: 13.79 % ($n = 20$) said “yes,” and 8.27 % ($n = 12$) said “no.”

Overall, across gender, age, and educational strata, participants largely credit X with providing timely political information. Higher age and educational attainment correspond to stronger confidence in the platform's informational value, suggesting that experienced and academically trained users exploit X most effectively for political monitoring.

Question 7 – Does using X reveal current political conditions, and if so, how?

Most respondents replied “yes.” They explained that they are active on political pages, follow breaking news, and see that many X feeds are dominated by politicians and elites whose posts reverberate across the political sphere. X, they added, routinely carries the latest developments.

Those who answered “no” offered three main reasons: they distrust the accuracy of posts, they use X mainly to observe rather than to believe, or they feel the platform privileges social-cultural content and only incidentally covers politics.

In sum, the prevailing view is that X operates much like a live news outlet for politics, whereas a smaller contingent questions its reliability or relevance for sustained political monitoring.

Table8-Respondents' Evaluation of Their Political Engagement on X

Variable	Category	Positive n	Positive %	Negative n	Negative %	Mixed n	Mixed %	Total n	Total %
Gender	Male	74	51.03	13	8.96	15	10.34	102	70.34
	Female	17	11.72	8	5.51	18	12.41	43	29.65
	Subtotal	91	62.75	21	14.48	33	22.76	145	100
Age (yrs)	17 – 25	17	11.72	7	4.83	4	2.76	28	19.31
	25 – 30	31	21.38	11	7.58	10	6.90	52	35.86
	> 30	43	29.65	3	2.07	19	13.10	65	44.82
	Subtotal	91	62.75	21	14.48	33	22.76	145	100
Education	Secondary	17	11.72	3	2.07	12	8.27	32	22.06
	Undergraduate	58	40.00	18	12.41	21	14.48	97	66.90
	Post-graduate	16	11.03	0	0.00	0	0.00	16	11.03
	Total	91	62.75	21	14.48	33	22.76	145	100

Observation of Table 8 reveals three consistent patterns in how respondents engage with political topics on X.

Gender. Male respondents register the highest share of *positive* interaction—51.03 % ($n = 74$)—with only 8.96 % reporting exclusively negative reactions and 10.34 % describing a mixed stance. Among women, the most common response (12.41 %; $n \approx 18$) is “both positive and negative,” while similar numbers (≈ 17) note a strictly positive attitude.

Age. Each age band leans toward positive engagement, though the intensity rises with age: 17-to-25-year-olds contribute 11.72 % ($n = 17$) to the positive column; those aged 25-30 reach 21.38 % ($n = 31$); and participants over thirty account for 29.65 % ($n = 43$). Negative or mixed reactions fluctuate modestly across cohorts.

Education. University graduates dominate the positive category at 40 % ($n = 58$), followed by both secondary-school and postgraduate respondents, each at 11.03 %. Minor shares within every level report negative or ambivalent experiences.

Overall, respondents exhibit a markedly positive orientation toward political content on X, punctuated by occasional ambivalence. Engagement appears topic-dependent: when an issue resonates, elites respond enthusiastically—underscoring a high degree of trust in the platform’s political discourse.

Variable	Category	Political news n	%	New content from politician $s\ n$	%	Party / candidate updates n	%	Total n	%
Gender	Male	42	28.69	37	25.51	23	15.86	102	70.34
	Female	22	15.14	10	6.90	11	7.58	43	29.65
	Subtotal	64	44.13	47	32.41	34	23.45	145	100
Age (yrs)	17 – 25	11	7.59	8	5.51	9	6.20	28	19.31
	25 – 30	26	17.93	18	12.41	8	5.51	52	35.86
	> 30	27	18.62	21	14.48	17	11.72	65	44.82
	Subtotal	64	44.13	47	32.41	34	23.45	145	100
Education	Secondary	16	11.03	11	7.58	5	3.49	32	22.06
	University	49	33.79	23	15.86	25	17.24	97	66.90
	Post-graduate	13	8.96	2	1.38	1	0.69	16	11.03

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Subtotal	64	44.13	47	32.41	34	23.45	145	100

The data show that male users dominate every informational category. Among men, 28.69 % (n = 42) cite general political news and developments as their primary gain, 25.51 % (n = 37) highlight updates posted by politicians, and 15.86 % (n = 23) focus on party and candidate news. Women follow a similar pattern but at lower levels: their highest share, 15.14 % (n = 22), is tied to staying current with political events.

Age gradients are consistent. Respondents over 30 lead in tracking political news (18.62 %, n = 27), closely trailed by those aged 25–30 (17.93 %, n = 26). Participants aged 17–25 register the smallest yet still tangible share (7.59 %, n = 11). Within this youngest cohort, interest in politicians' posts and in party updates is roughly equal.

Educational attainment amplifies the trend. University graduates allocate 33.79 % (n = 49) to general news, with 15.86 % and 17.24 % respectively to politicians' content and party developments. Post-graduates cluster in the general-news category (8.96 %, n = 13) and contribute minimal responses elsewhere. Secondary-level respondents echo this focus, posting 11.03 % (n = 16) for news and negligible percentages for the remaining items.

Taken together, the results indicate that X supplies users—especially educated, older males—with a steady stream of political headlines, elite commentary, and election-related information. Respondents therefore regard the platform as a reliable conduit for real-time political awareness at both national and international levels.

Variable	Category	High supply n	High %	Low supply n	Low %	Total n	Total %
Gender	Male	99	68.27	3	2.07	102	70.34
	Female	32	22.06	11	7.58	43	29.65
	Subtotal	131	90.35	14	9.65	145	100
Age (yrs)	17 – 25	21	14.48	7	4.82	28	19.31
	25 – 30	47	32.41	5	3.44	52	35.86
	> 30	63	43.44	2	1.38	65	44.82
	Subtotal	131	90.35	14	9.65	145	100
Education	Secondary	23	15.86	9	6.20	32	22.06
	University	91	62.76	6	4.13	97	66.90
	Post-graduate	16	11.03	0	0.00	16	11.03
	Subtotal	131	90.35	14	9.65	145	100

From the above table, we observe the following: Male respondents overwhelmingly perceive X as a primary conduit for political information. Nearly seven in ten of the entire sample (68 percent; n = 99) report a high level of informational supply, whereas only three men regard the flow as limited. Among women, roughly one fifth (n = 32) describe the platform as

richly informative, while a smaller subgroup ($n = 11$) judges the supply to be modest. Gender, then, tilts sharply toward an affirmative appraisal, with men displaying the strongest confidence in X's political coverage.

Age amplifies this pattern. Users older than thirty constitute the single most reliant cohort: more than two fifths of the full sample (43 percent; $n = 63$) say the platform furnishes abundant political content, and virtually none of them rate the supply as low. The twenty-five-to-thirty group follows at one third of the sample ($n = 47$), again with only a handful citing informational scarcity. Even the youngest participants—those between seventeen and twenty-five—lean positive; fourteen percent ($n = 21$) report substantial benefit, while a minority ($n = 7$) remain sceptical. Evidently, reliance on X intensifies with age, peaking in the over-thirty bracket.

Educational attainment further accentuates confidence. Two thirds of university graduates ($n = 91$) and every postgraduate in the study ($n = 16$) rate X's political feed as rich. Secondary-school respondents are less emphatic yet still favour a positive verdict (16 percent; $n = 23$), with a small contingent identifying limited value. This distribution suggests that formal education correlates with a stronger conviction that X delivers timely and relevant political information.

Taken together, the data portray X as an indispensable news vector for older, highly educated men, though substantial segments of women and younger users also acknowledge its utility. The platform's dense mix of breaking news, elite commentary, and policy debate appears to satisfy the informational demands of Algeria's politically engaged users and, by extension, reinforces X's strategic role in the country's emerging digital public sphere.

Section II – Political Gratifications Derived from Receiving and Using X

Table 11 | Respondents' Ability to Express Their Political Opinions

Variable	Category	Yes <i>n</i>	Yes %	No <i>n</i>	No %	Total <i>n</i>	Total %
Gender	Male	88	60.69	14	9.65	102	70.34
	Female	35	24.13	8	5.51	43	29.65
	Subtotal	129	88.69	16	11.03	145	100
Age (yrs)	17 – 25	14	9.65	14	9.65	28	19.31
	25 – 30	41	28.27	11	7.58	52	35.86
	> 30	51	35.17	14	9.65	65	44.82
	Subtotal	129	88.69	16	11.03	145	100
Education	Secondary	13	8.96	19	13.10	32	22.06
	University	53	36.55	44	30.34	97	66.90
	Post-graduate	11	7.58	5	3.45	16	11.03
	Subtotal	129	88.69	16	11.03	145	100

The data in Table 11 show a clear gender gradient in perceived freedom to voice political opinions on X. Among men, 60.69 percent ($n = 88$) respond "yes," while only 9.65 percent ($n = 14$) say the platform does not permit expression.

Women reverse the balance: 24.13 percent ($n = 35$) deny having real scope to speak, although a modest share report the opposite.

Age moderates this pattern. Respondents aged twenty-five to thirty supply 28.27 percent ($n = 41$) of all affirmative answers, whereas users over thirty raise that figure to 35.17 percent ($n = 51$). In the youngest cohort (seventeen to twenty-five), positive and negative replies stand level at 9.65 percent each ($n = 14$).

Education amplifies confidence. More than one-third of university graduates (36.55 percent; $n = 53$) assert that X enables political expression. Secondary-school and postgraduate respondents register smaller but similar shares—8.96 percent and 7.58 percent respectively.

Taken together, the platform is viewed—especially by highly educated men in their late twenties and beyond—as a space that accommodates both endorsement and dissent. This perceived openness appears to sustain engagement, foster shared perspectives, and uphold the right to articulate political preferences.

Table 12 | Political posts that attract respondents' attention on X

Variable	Category	Images <i>n</i>	%	Videos <i>n</i>	%	Comments <i>n</i>	%	Total <i>n</i>	%
Gender	Male	17	11.72	53	36.55	32	22.09	102	70.34
	Female	9	6.20	20	13.79	14	9.65	43	29.65
	Subtotal	26	17.93	73	50.34	46	31.72	145	100
Age (yrs)	17 – 25	6	4.13	15	10.34	7	4.82	28	19.31
	25 – 30	11	7.59	23	15.86	18	12.41	52	35.86
	> 30	9	6.20	35	24.13	21	14.48	65	44.82
	Subtotal	26	17.93	73	50.34	46	31.72	145	100
Education	Secondary	13	8.96	13	8.96	6	4.13	32	22.06
	University	11	7.59	49	33.79	37	25.51	97	66.90
	Post-graduate	2	1.38	11	7.59	3	2.07	16	11.03
	Subtotal	26	17.93	73	50.34	46	31.72	145	100

The data presented in the above table indicate that video content is the most influential form of political post on X (formerly Twitter), particularly among male respondents. A significant 36.55% of male participants ($n = 53$) identified videos as the most attention-grabbing format, followed by comments (22.09%)

and images (11.72%). Female respondents displayed a similar pattern, though with slightly lower frequencies. This suggests a general preference across genders for audiovisual content in political communication.

In terms of age, the group aged over 30 years accounted for the highest proportion of respondents who reported being most influenced by videos, with 24.13% selecting this option. This was followed by comments (14.48%) and, to a lesser extent, images. The 25–30 age group also showed a notable preference for videos (15.86%), with comments ranking second. Meanwhile, the youngest group (17–25 years) expressed lower overall engagement across all formats, though videos still led within this category, confirming a consistent, albeit less pronounced, trend.

Educational level also appears to shape engagement with political content on X. Among university-level respondents, videos again dominated, with 33.79% selecting them as the most compelling format, followed by comments (25.51%). Those with secondary education showed equal preference for videos and images (each at 8.96%), but a lower engagement with comments. Participants with advanced degrees overwhelmingly favored videos (7.59%) and largely disregarded the other formats. These findings align with previous sections, which showed that highly educated users tend to seek immersive and substantive content.

Overall, the results suggest that videos constitute the most engaging and trusted format for political information on X. Respondents cited reasons such as the immediacy and realism that videos provide, compared to static images or comment threads, which are often viewed with skepticism or dismissed as potentially fabricated. This underscores the platform's strategic use of audiovisual media to convey political messages and shape public opinion in a digital environment increasingly dependent on visual communication.

Table 13 – Political Gratifications Provided by Platform X According to Study Variables

Variable	Gaining Valuable Political Knowledge		Freedom to Search and Express Political Views		Awareness of Political Developments and Updates		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Gender								
Male	20	13.80 %	27	18.62 %	55	37.93 %	102	70.34 %
Female	1	0.69 %	16	11.03 %	26	17.93 %	43	29.65 %
Total	21	14.45 %	43	29.65 %	81	55.87 %	145	100%

Age								
17–25	4	2.76 %	6	4.13 %	18	12.41 %	28	19.31 %
25–30	7	4.82 %	14	9.65 %	31	21.37 %	52	35.86 %
Over 30	10	6.90 %	23	15.86 %	32	22.06 %	65	44.82 %
Total	21	14.45 %	43	29.65 %	81	55.87 %	145	100%
Educational Level								
Secondary	4	2.76 %	13	8.96 %	15	10.34 %	32	22.06 %
University	17	11.72 %	28	19.31 %	52	35.86 %	97	66.90 %
Higher Education	0	0.00 %	2	1.38 %	14	9.65 %	16	11.03 %
Total	21	14.45 %	43	29.65 %	81	55.87 %	145	100%

According to the data in the above table, the most frequently reported political gratification among male respondents was the ability to stay informed about political developments, cited by 55 participants, representing 37.93% of the total sample. A smaller but still significant portion of males (18.62%) reported that the platform allows for freedom of political expression, while 13.80% stated that they use it to acquire valuable political knowledge. Among female respondents, the primary political gratification also centered on following political updates (17.93%), whereas only 11.03% mentioned freedom of expression, and a mere 0.69% reported gaining valuable political insights from the platform.

Age-based data shows that participants over the age of 30 were most likely to use X for keeping up with political developments (22.06%), followed closely by those aged 25–30 (21.37%). The youngest age group (17–25) registered the lowest percentage for this category (12.41%), though their use still pointed to interest in timely updates—likely reflecting engagement with political content shared via tweets from public figures. In contrast, fewer respondents across age groups indicated that the platform satisfies the need for political self-expression: 15.86% for the 25–30 group and 4.13% for those aged 17–25.

Regarding education, university-level participants were the most represented in all three gratification categories. Notably, 35.86% of this group used the platform primarily for tracking political updates. Respondents with secondary education followed at 10.34%, while those with higher education stood at 9.65%. When it came to the gratification of political expression, university participants again led (19.31%), followed by those with secondary education

(8.96%). However, the acquisition of in-depth political knowledge remained marginal across all levels—11.72% at the university level, 2.76% at the secondary level, and completely absent among those with advanced degrees.

Taken together, these findings underscore that Platform X has become a key source of political content for its users. Like other social media platforms, it serves informational needs, particularly in the political domain. The data suggests that X fulfills its users' desire to stay informed about political events and developments—a function consistently emphasized across respondent groups.

Question 14, which accompanied the item on political gratifications derived from Platform X, asked: *“If you have any additional gratifications, please specify them.”* The majority of participants were satisfied with the proposed options and did not provide further input. Only one respondent added that Platform X offers **psychological-political gratifications**, emphasizing that it consistently disseminates timely and meaningful political content. This suggests that the list of gratifications presented was comprehensive and clear enough to cover the experiences of nearly all respondents.

Table 15: The Contribution of Platform X to Respondents' Political Participation According to Study Variables

Variable	Yes (Freq.)	Yes (%)	No (Freq.)	No (%)	Total (Freq.)	Total (%)
Male	19	13.10%	77	53.10%	102	70.34%
Female	23	15.86%	26	17.93%	43	29.65%
Total	42	28.96%	103	71.03%	145	100%
Age						
17–25 years	12	8.27%	16	11.03%	28	19.31%
25–30 years	23	15.86%	29	20.00%	52	35.86%
Over 30 years	7	4.83%	58	40.00%	65	44.82%
Total	42	28.96%	103	71.03%	145	100%
Secondary	15	10.34%	17	11.72%	32	22.06%
University	22	15.17%	75	51.72%	97	66.90%
Postgraduate	5	3.44%	11	7.58%	16	11.03%
Total	42	28.96%	103	71.03%	145	100%

An examination of the above table reveals that 53.10% of the total sample (77 respondents) were male, among whom the majority responded "No" to the question regarding Platform X's contribution to political participation. Similarly, 17.93% of the total sample (26 female respondents) also denied any substantial political impact, suggesting that the platform either contributes minimally or not at all in this regard. In contrast, 13.10% of males and 15.86% of females considered Platform X to play an active role in fostering political engagement, primarily through political actors' posts and statements.

Age-wise, the majority of negative responses came from participants over 30 years old (40%, 58 individuals), followed by those aged 25–30 (20%, 29

individuals). The youngest group (17–25) exhibited the lowest proportion of negative responses. Conversely, affirmative responses were most concentrated among the 25–30 age group (15.86%, 23 individuals), followed by 17–25 (8.27%, 12 individuals), and finally over 30 (4.83%, 7 individuals), indicating a diminishing sense of political engagement through the platform with increasing age.

In terms of education, the majority of university-level respondents (51.72%, 75 individuals) believed that the platform does not contribute to political participation. Similar skepticism was observed among respondents with postgraduate education (7.58%, 11 individuals) and secondary education (11.72%, 17 individuals). However, a minority within each educational category expressed the opposite view: 15.17% from university level, 10.34% from secondary, and 3.44% from postgraduate believed the platform plays a positive role.

Overall, the data suggest that Platform X's current contribution to political participation remains limited. This may be attributed to the brevity and ambiguity of political content, often restricted to short tweets without elaboration. To genuinely foster political engagement, the platform would need to support more comprehensive and timely reporting, moving beyond superficial updates to facilitate informed public involvement.

Section III: Forms and Levels of Political Use of Platform X

Table 16: Forms of Using Platform X in the Political Domain According to Study Variables

Variable	Commenting on Political Posts		Promoting Electoral Campaigns		Posting and Debatin g Political Issues		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Fre q.	%
Gender								
Male	71	48.69 %	13	8.9 6%	18	12.41 %	102	70.34 %
Female	18	12.41 %	12	8.2 7%	13	8.96 %	43	29.65 %
Total	89	61.38 %	25	17. 24 %	31	21.38 %	145	100%
Age Group								
17–25	10	6.89 %	9	6.2 0%	9	6.20 %	28	19.31 %

25–30	21	14.48 %	12	8.2 7%	19	13.10 %	52	35.86 %
Over 30	58	40%	4	2.7 6%	3	2.06 %	65	44.82 %
Total	89	61.38 %	25	17. 24 %	31	21.38 %	145	100%
Secondar y	13	8.96 %	10	6.8 9%	9	6.20 %	32	22.06 %
Universit y	62	42.76 %	16	11. 03 %	21	14.48 %	97	66.90 %
Postgradu ate	14	9.65 %	0	0.0 %	2	1.38 %	16	11.03 %
Total	89	61.38 %	25	17. 24 %	31	21.38 %	145	100%

An analysis of Table 16, which presents the forms of political engagement with Platform X, reveals that the most prominent use among male respondents was commenting on political posts, accounting for 48.69% ($n = 71$) of the total sample. A smaller segment of male users, 12.41% ($n = 18$), indicated their involvement in publishing and discussing political issues, while only 8.96% ($n = 13$) reported using the platform to promote electoral campaigns—a comparatively marginal role.

In contrast, female responses displayed more balanced engagement across the three activities. Equal proportions of women—8.96% ($n = 13$) and 8.27% ($n = 12$)—engaged respectively in promoting campaigns and discussing political issues. The most reported activity among female respondents, however, remained commenting, marked by 12.41% ($n = 18$) of the total sample, suggesting this function is central to both genders' interaction with political content on Platform X.

Looking at the age variable, the 25–30 group emerged as the most politically active. Within this group, 14.48% ($n = 21$) primarily commented on posts, 13.10% ($n = 19$) engaged in discussing political issues, and 8.27% ($n = 12$) were involved in promoting electoral campaigns. The over-30 cohort showed a clear preference for commenting as well, with a notable 40% ($n = 58$) selecting this option. Meanwhile, the youngest group (17–25) showed equal and modest engagement across all categories, with each use type capturing 6.20% ($n = 9$) of the total.

Educational level revealed similar patterns. Among secondary-level respondents, 8.96% ($n = 13$) used the platform to comment, while 6.89% ($n = 10$) engaged in the other two activities. University-educated users showed a strong tendency toward commenting, with 42.76% ($n = 62$) of the total sample favoring this mode. Notably, the postgraduate segment also leaned toward

commenting (9.65%, n = 14), although engagement in the other activities was nearly negligible.

These findings affirm that commenting on political content constitutes the dominant form of political expression on Platform X across all demographics. This trend points to the platform's role as a site for open commentary, public critique, and discursive interaction—a space where users can participate in what might be termed a virtual political public sphere. The act of commenting becomes not only a mode of engagement but a mechanism through which users shape, respond to, and potentially influence political discourse.

Question 17, which invited participants to identify other political uses of Platform X beyond the predefined categories, received almost unanimous affirmation of the existing options. This suggests that the listed uses sufficiently encompassed participants' experiences. However, two respondents offered additional insights: one cited the platform's role in gauging youth perspectives on politics in general, while the other noted its usefulness in anticipating political reactions, particularly during election cycles. Both responses, however, can reasonably be subsumed under the category of commenting and publishing political posts, as they reflect interpretive and participatory forms of political discourse within the platform's interactive functions.

Table 18: Level of Trust in Political Information on Platform X According to Study Variables

Variable	High Trust	%	Moderate Trust	%	Low Trust	%	Total	%
Gender								
Male	18	12.41 %	51	35.17 %	33	22.76 %	102	70.34 %
Female	9	6.20%	22	14.17 %	12	8.27%	43	29.65 %
Total	27	18.62 %	73	50.34 %	45	31.03 %	145	100%
Age								
17–25	8	5.51%	12	8.27%	8	5.51%	28	19.31 %
25–30	8	5.51%	21	14.48 %	23	15.86 %	52	35.86 %
Over 30	11	7.58%	40	27.58 %	14	9.65%	65	44.82 %
Total	27	18.62 %	73	50.34 %	45	31.03 %	145	100%
Secondary	6	4.14%	13	8.96%	13	8.96%	32	22.06 %
University	20	13.80 %	47	32.41 %	30	20.69 %	97	66.90 %

Higher Education	1	0.69%	13	8.96%	2	1.38%	16	11.03%
Total	27	18.62%	73	50.34%	45	31.03%	145	100%

The data reveal that most male respondents expressed moderate trust in political content on Platform X (35.17%, n=51), with a smaller share reporting low (22.76%, n=33) or high trust (12.41%, n=18). Among females, moderate trust also prevailed (14.17%, n=22), though fewer showed high trust (6.20%, n=9) or reported low confidence (8.27%, n=12).

Age plays a notable role. Respondents over 30 years old showed the highest level of moderate trust (27.58%, n=40), while high and low trust were relatively balanced. Those aged 25–30 leaned toward low trust (15.86%, n=23), with a close percentage indicating moderate trust (14.48%, n=21). In the 17–25 group, trust was evenly split between high and low (both at 5.51%, n=8), with moderate trust slightly higher (8.27%, n=12).

Regarding educational level, university-educated participants showed the strongest moderate trust (32.41%, n=47), followed by low trust (20.69%, n=30), and high trust (13.80%, n=20). Secondary-educated respondents had equal proportions of moderate and low trust (8.96%, n=13 each), while only 4.14% (n=6) expressed high trust. For those with higher education, moderate trust stood at 8.96% (n=13), while high and low trust were negligible.

Overall, the findings suggest that trust in political information on Platform X tends to be moderate across all demographics. This reflects an underlying skepticism among users, particularly among more educated and older respondents. Their responses imply that while some information may appear reliable, a considerable portion is perceived as either exaggerated or misleading—likely due to the platform’s use of emotionally charged or speculative political content aimed at engagement rather than verification.

Table 19: Platform X as a Necessary Tool for Understanding Political Reality, by Study Variables

Variable	Yes	%	No	%	Total	%
Gender						
Male	18	12.41%	84	57.93%	102	70.34%
Female	16	11.03%	27	18.62%	43	29.65%
Total	34	23.44%	111	76.55%	145	100%
17–25	9	6.20%	19	13.10%	28	19.31%
25–30	13	6.96%	39	26.89%	52	35.86%
Over 30	12	8.27%	53	36.55%	65	44.82%
Total	34	23.44%	111	76.55%	145	100%
Secondary	8	5.51%	24	16.55%	32	22.06%
University	26	17.93%	71	48.96%	97	66.90%
Higher Education	0	0.00%	16	11.03%	16	11.03%
Total	34	23.44%	111	76.55%	145	100%

The data show that a significant majority of male respondents (57.93%, n=84) do not consider Platform X to be a necessary tool for understanding political reality, compared to 12.41% (n=18) who believe otherwise. Among females, 18.62% (n=27) rejected the platform's necessity, while 11.03% (n=16) viewed it as essential.

Age appears to influence this perception. The over-30 group had the highest share of respondents denying the necessity of Platform X for political awareness (36.55%, n=53), while only 8.27% (n=12) in the same group viewed it as indispensable. Among those aged 25–30, 26.89% (n=39) did not see the platform as necessary, whereas a smaller 6.96% (n=13) affirmed its importance. For the youngest group (17–25), 13.10% (n=19) rejected its necessity, and only 6.20% (n=9) saw it as their main source for political updates.

The trend persists across educational levels. A clear majority of university-educated respondents (48.96%, n=71) did not consider Platform X essential, with similar results among those with higher education (11.03%, n=16). Among secondary-level respondents, only 5.51% (n=8) believed the platform to be necessary.

In summary, the majority of respondents do not view Platform X as an indispensable channel for accessing political reality. This suggests a shift toward diverse, more accessible news sources and the increasing availability of alternative platforms for political information, reducing reliance on any single medium.

Table 20: Political Participation Enhancement through Platform X, by Study Variables

Variable	Always	%	Sometime	%	Never	%	Total	%
Male	17	11.72 %	30	20.69 %	55	37.93 %	102	70.34 %
Female	6	4.18%	16	11.03 %	21	14.48 %	43	29.65 %
Total	23	15.86 %	46	31.72 %	76	52.41 %	145	100%
17–25	7	4.82%	9	6.20%	12	8.27%	28	19.31 %
25–30	12	8.27%	11	7.58%	29	20.00 %	52	35.86 %
Over 30	4	2.79%	26	17.93 %	35	24.13 %	65	44.82 %
Total	23	15.86 %	46	31.72 %	76	52.41 %	145	100%
Secondary	10	6.89%	10	6.89%	12	8.27%	32	22.06 %
University	13	8.96%	25	17.24 %	59	40.69 %	97	66.90 %

Higher Education	0	0.00%	11	7.58%	5	3.44%	16	11.03%
Total	23	15.86%	46	31.72%	76	52.41%	145	100%

The data reveal that a significant proportion of male respondents (37.93%, n=55) report that Platform X never contributes to enhancing political participation, compared to 20.69% (n=30) who believe it does so occasionally, and 11.72% (n=17) who affirm its consistent role. Among women, 14.48% (n=21) also see no contribution, with 11.03% (n=16) selecting “sometimes” and a small 4.18% (n=6) choosing “always.”

Age appears to moderate perceptions. Respondents over 30 years old were the most skeptical: 24.13% (n=35) stated that Platform X never enhances political participation. In the 25–30 age group, 20% (n=29) reported the same. The 17–25 group was more split, with only 8.27% (n=12) responding “never.” The highest level of agreement with “always” came from those aged 25–30 (8.27%, n=12), followed by younger respondents (4.82%, n=7), and only 2.79% (n=4) from the oldest cohort.

Educational level reveals a similar pattern: most university-educated respondents (40.69%, n=59) did not perceive Platform X as enhancing political engagement, a sentiment shared by 8.27% (n=12) of secondary-educated participants. Interestingly, none of those with higher education selected “always,” while 7.58% (n=11) saw occasional influence. Among secondary-level respondents, responses were evenly split between “always” and “sometimes” (6.89% each).

In sum, while Platform X provides a flow of political information, over half of respondents believe it fails to consistently enhance political participation. The platform’s influence appears to fluctuate, potentially due to the limited depth of its content, the sporadic nature of its political discourse, or users’ fragmented engagement. Nonetheless, for a minority—particularly younger, university-educated users—it functions as a semi-regular stimulus for civic expression.

The Study Findings

I. Motivations for Using Platform X in the Political Sphere

The findings reveal that users’ primary motivation for engaging with Platform X in the political domain is to follow political news, with particular interest in updates concerning political candidates, followed by the desire to acquire political knowledge. The sample demonstrated a high level of interest in political issues on the platform, attributable both to the relevance of the political topics addressed and to the respondents’ general political engagement. Platform X functions as a news medium, particularly for political content, which explains its appeal among users.

Respondents obtain political information from Platform X by following political developments and through their continuous and sustained activity on political

pages. Interaction with political content is generally positive and largely contingent upon the nature of the topics and their perceived impact on the audience. The reception and usage of the platform in the political sphere facilitate users' awareness of political events and encourage active follow-up on content shared by politicians, parties, and candidates. Platform X was also reported to provide the sample with a significant degree of political information, largely due to its broad coverage of political topics and its detailed reporting of real-time developments through political actors' posts and statements.

II. Political Gratifications Gained through Platform X

The platform allows users to express their views on political topics via posting and commenting, thus serving as a space that upholds the principle of freedom of opinion and expression. The types of content shared on Platform X vary considerably, with videos drawing the most attention due to their audiovisual appeal, while written comments remain a secondary form of engagement.

Key gratifications identified include staying informed on political developments, enjoying the freedom to explore and comment on political issues, and participating in open political discourse. However, the platform's actual contribution to political participation remains limited. This points to a need for strategic enhancement of the platform's role in fostering civic engagement. Effective strategies might include developing content designed to influence users' political behavior and stimulate interaction with politically mobilizing themes.

III. Forms and Levels of Engagement with Political Content on Platform X

The data suggest that users primarily engage with political content by commenting on political posts, a mode of interaction that facilitates political trust, exchange of opinions, and the development of a dynamic political consciousness. Nevertheless, trust in political information on Platform X remains moderate. This is due in part to the presence of false or misleading content, including fake accounts impersonating public figures, which undermines credibility and discourages users from fully trusting the platform's political discourse.

The platform is not regarded as a necessary source for understanding political reality. Respondents rely on a variety of media channels, reflecting the proliferation of diverse and specialized information platforms. Furthermore, users, especially those with greater political awareness, seem to favor real-world political engagement and direct observation over online interactions, finding greater motivation and responsiveness in offline experiences.

Conclusion:

In light of ongoing transformations in media and communication, and the evolving features of these technologies, it has become essential to examine the content and functionality of platforms such as X—particularly in their political dimension. The analysis demonstrates that Platform X has gained substantial

traction, especially among university-educated youth, who represent a politically literate demographic. For this group, the platform has become a space for the exchange of political ideas and information.

Despite this, Platform X has not succeeded in significantly shaping political participation or altering users' political orientations in ways that would benefit collective or public interests. This outcome underscores the importance of further investigation into the underlying factors that hinder political engagement among youth on the platform. Targeted research is needed to identify mechanisms that can better activate this demographic's political participation through digital tools such as Platform X.

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