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The Role of Social Media in Activating Political Behaviour among University Students Sociology Students at Batna-1- University - a Sample

دور مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي في تفعيل السلوك السياسي لدى الطالب الجامعي طلبة علم الاجتماع بجامعة باتنة -1- نموذجا

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Abstract

Through our study, we aim to address and understand the role of social Media and their effects on political behaviour and political participation, especially among young people and university students, in exchanging political views of the country in particular and the world in general, changing the features of societies, and giving added value to political life. We tried to survey the role played by the social Media "Facebook" in shaping electronic politics and its impact on political knowledge among university students, as they are more exposed to these sites .

In this study, we used descriptive and analytical research, as we relied on a sample of students from Batna -1- University. After conducting our field study, we concluded that "Facebook" enabled students to engage in political issues, and this is due to the awareness that the student acquired through social networking sites and his exposure to various political events and developments.

Keywords: Social Media; Political Behaviour; University Student.

ملخص:

نهدف من خلال دراستنا إلى تناول وفهم دور مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي وتأثيراتها على السلوك السياسي والمشاركة السياسية، خاصة فئة الشباب والطلبة الجامعيين في تبادل وجهات النظر السياسية للبلاد خاصة وللعالم عامة، وتغيير ملامح المجتمعات، وإعطاء قيمة مضافة في الحياة السياسية، وقد حاولنا من خلال دراستنا استطلاع الدور الذي تلعبه موقع التواصل الاجتماعي فيسبوك في تشكيل السلوك السياسي الالكتروني وتأثيره على المعرفة السياسية لدى الطلبة الجامعيين باعتبارهم أكثر عرضة لهذه المواقع.

حيث استخدمنا في هذه الدراسة المنهج الوصفي التحليلي، مع الاعتماد على تقنية الاستمارة لجمع البيانات الميدانية من عينة الدراسة، حيث اعتمدنا على عينة من طلبة جامعة باتنة1، وبعد اجراء دراستنا الميدانية توصلنا الى أن الفيسبوك مكن الطلبة من الخوض في القضايا السياسية وهذا راجع للوعي الذي اكتسبه الطالب من خلال مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي واطلاعه على مختلف الأحداث السياسية ومستجداتها.

كلمات مفتاحية: مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي؛ السلوك السياسي؛ الطالب الجامعي.

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1. Introduction

Information and communication technology helped to connect people with different civilization orientations, opened new horizons and brought about profound changes in various aspects of human, cultural, social, political and economic life, which led to the existence of data that imposed on societies the continuity of change and renewal as a result of their individuals' aspiration to keep pace with these changes to benefit from them.

The Internet is considered one of the most prominent manifestations of modern communication technology, what is known today as social networking sites, which led to this development to change social relations and forms of interaction, as it became an alternative media to traditional media, as it reduced time and cost.

Social networking sites have opened a wide space for disseminating and generalizing ideas and opinions on social, political and economic issues, thus shaping trends and forming public opinion.

It is worth noting that these sites have provided communication between individuals without media or restrictions, and have an important role not only in broadcasting information but also in presenting the form of reality, and reshaping the social and political context in which events are placed

2. The Problem

Social media is a communication revolution that accompanied the new media, as the latter is free of any restrictions or authority, especially when it is in a society dominated by one opinion, social media sites have liberated the individual from dependence on official institutions, and the individual found what he was looking for in these means that make the news far from any political domination over the reality in which he lives.

From this standpoint, social media sites have become a fundamental factor in preparing the requirements of democratic transformation, by creating awareness that enhances the value of interaction and provides an opportunity to establish relationships and exchange opinions.

Social media sites represented by “Facebook” have become a growing force among Algerian youth, especially university students, as “Facebook” has become one of the most powerful enlightened political means to liberate peoples from political injustice, and it has also weakened government bureaucracy in favour of political authority by eliminating the monopoly of information, as “Facebook” has enabled Algerian society, especially young people, to broadcast important information about events occurring during the popular movement in minutes. Thus, large parts of Algerian society have become a single meeting place driven by the same events and united by the same interests.

From this standpoint, it can be said that a new form of electronic behaviour has emerged, which is political participation via social media sites, which is called electronic protest, which comes in the form of assistance to the organizational and promotional form of traditional protest, as it has enabled Internet users to protest, participate, and express their opinion via social media platforms.

Given the importance of social networking sites in general and Facebook in particular in the life of the social system, in addition to its major role in mobilizing and spreading political awareness, this study came to answer the following main question:

"To what extent do social networking sites represented by Facebook contribute to acquiring political behaviours among university students?"

The main question branches into the following sub-questions:

- To what extent do social networking sites contribute to acquiring political knowledge among university students and relying on it as a primary source?
- Do social networking sites "Facebook" affect political participation among university students?

2.1. Hypotheses

- **First Hypotheses**:

  Social networking sites contribute to acquiring political knowledge among university students and rely on it as a primary source.

- **Second Hypotheses:**

  The impact of social networking sites Facebook on political participation among university students.

2.2. The importance of the study

The study's importance lies in growing opportunities provided by social networking sites on the Internet for democratic dialogue on political and economic issues...etc., enabling participants to express their vision, ideas and orientations.

its importance lies in the fact that social networking sites represent alternative media because they are the sites where criticism is practised and ideas and methods are generated that have their importance, as well as new ways of organizing among members of society, and most importantly, they address sensitive issues in social and political mechanisms, then the alternative diminishes until it becomes a pattern of mass communication.

This study also lies in the fact that the study is recent and addresses a vital issue whose effects are currently reflected in many regional and local communities, this study came to reflect the opinions of the student category as an elite as an effective and important element in development issues.

2.3. Study objectives

- To identify the role of the social networking site Facebook, in activating electronic political behaviour among university students.
- To reveal the role of Facebook, in providing university students with political knowledge.
- To know the extent to which university students accompany political issues via Facebook.
- To identify the most important visions of university students about the role of Facebook regarding topics and issues related to electronic political behaviour.
- Revealing the extent of participation of Batna University 1 students in political issues via the blue space

2.4. Definition of concepts

In this section, we try to define some concepts and terms related to our study:

A. Social Media

Zaher Radhi defines it as "a system of electronic networks that allows the subscriber to create his site, and then link it via an electronic social system with other members who have the same interests and hobbies (Al-Muhtasib , 2017, p. 16).

Lenhart and Madden define "social media as virtual spaces on the Internet, through which users can create personal pages, use various tools to interact, communicate with those they know who have common interests, and present and discuss ideas (Bin Jaber, 2013, p. 9).

Based on the definitions provided on social media, we can define it as a virtual network that allows users to create personal accounts and is one of the means of change in society, as it directs news messages that contribute to forming the truth and transferring information and intellectual and behavioural knowledge through the apparent media with a real personality, as they are interactive social sites that enable the opportunity to participate in political life and form public opinion in all fields

B. Facebook

Facebook is known as one of the social networking sites that can be accessed on the World Wide Web through the link (facebook.com) and the network allows its users to get to know each other, communicate, share information and exchange experiences through interactive technical tools (Alaa, 2012, p. 50).

Facebook can be defined as one of the social media that allows its users to create personal accounts and is a virtual communication space letting individuals exchange opinions, ideas and information through the process of

electronic publishing because it provides the opportunity to communicate without barriers and is among the most used sites by university students.

C. Political Behaviour

Political behaviour is the activity and effectiveness practised by an individual or a group of individuals who occupy certain social roles in which they organize life in society, determine power centres in it, and organize relations between leadership and society.

It is the product of human, moral, and cultural values rooted in society and accumulated from people's experiences throughout history. The more political, cultural, and social awareness increases, the more moral values accumulate in a certain society. These products create behavioural patterns and phenomena governed by moral laws that ensure sound political behaviour. When political leaders and parties participating in power move toward a democratic system, they require correcting the course of their political and human behaviour and building common political positions that enhance the public's confidence in political forces. The conflicting political blocs must abandon their fragmented sectarian project and unify their political discourse to establish a democratic civil society (Jassim, 2018) .

Through the definitions provided about political behaviour, it becomes clear to us in our study that it is the activity and effectiveness practiced by the student through social networking sites (Facebook) to learn about current political issues.

D. Political Participation

The word "participation" is derived from the verb "share", which means to contribute. It indicates cooperation in achieving social gains and sharing profits and losses (Sharifah, 2010, p. 143).

Ibrahim Abrash defines it as "allowing the citizen to play a role in political life through his contribution to issuing decisions" (Muhammad Lamine, 2007, p. 243).

From this, political participation can be defined as the process of citizens' participation in the political life of their society, which includes activities such as voting, attending political meetings, engaging in public discussions, and expressing opinions through various means

E. University student

Language is the recipient or addressee that both the professor and the curriculum developer seek to address and influence in a specific direction, at a specific time, and in a planned manner to achieve intended goals (Salouh, p. 82).

In our study, a university student can be defined as a student who is continuing his studies at the university and is pursuing his studies at the University of Batna -1- Department of Humanities and Social Sciences,

Master's level in the specializations of sociology and psychology, for males and females.

2.5. Previous studies

- A study entitled: "**Hamdi Ahmed Omar Ali**, "Social Media and the formation of political awareness, a study in Internet sociology on a sample of youth in some governorates of Upper Egypt" in Middle East Media Journal, N° 10, 2014.

The problem of the study revolves around the following main question:

What is the role of social networking sites in shaping political awareness?

It includes the following sub-questions:

- What is the role of social Media in shaping youth's visions and attitudes towards political issues surrounding them in the political environment?
- What is the role of social Media in acquiring political knowledge for youth in the study communities?
- To what extent do social Media contribute to increasing the effectiveness of youth political participation?
- What are the motives for youth to use social networking sites through social networking sites?

As for the study methodology, the researcher relied on the survey method, and within the framework of this method, the researcher relied on the sample survey method, for as for the research tools, they are represented by the questionnaire.

As for the study sample, it is a deliberate sample consisting of 640 young men and women in Assiut, Sohag and Qena governorates. The study objectives were extracted in identifying the role of social networking sites in shaping the political awareness of young people.

The study included the following chapters:

- The theory of youth dependence on media
- The theory of uses and gratifications.

The most important results reached are:

- A high percentage of young people in the study communities use social networks, and those with a university level had the highest educational levels in using them.
- The motives for young people to use Social Media were diverse, as the motive of obtaining information about political and social issues ranked first.
- Social Media have become a source for young people to obtain news and information as a competitor to traditional means of communication.

- Social Media have contributed greatly to shaping the political awareness of young people by shaping their vision and attitudes towards the variables surrounding them in the political environment represented in the People's Assembly and the Shura Council.

➢ A study entitled: "The Role of Social Media in Shaping Political Awareness", conducted by researcher **Raafat Muhand Abdl Razzaq**, the study period was 2013, and the study location was at the University of Mosul, Anbar and Tikrit in Iraq.

The study's problem is centred on the following key question:

- **Are there influences for social media sites (Youtube, Facebook, Twitter) to shape the political trends of Iraqi university students in Mosul, Enbar and Tekrit in raising contemporary issues of interest to them?**
- **And in influencing their political behaviours and political thought, especially what is called today the popular movement in Iraq**?

It includes the following sub-questions:

- What is the nature of the use of social networking sites by students of the universities of Mosul, Anbar and Tikrit among other media?
- Do social networking sites contribute to raising contemporary issues that concern university youth for students of the universities of Mosul, Anbar and Tikrit?

As for the study methodology, the researcher used the descriptive approach and formulated the following hypotheses: Social networking sites contribute to shaping political trends and influencing behaviours and political thought among university students at the universities of Mosul, Anbar and Tikrit. There are statistically significant differences at the significance level (0.05) in the impact of social networking sites on political trends of university youth according to the variables (gender, place of residence, academic stage, college, age group). As for the research tools, it is the questionnaire, and the research sample included 400 individuals. This study was limited to a random sample from all age groups scientific and literary specializations and different colleges.

The objectives of the study were summarized as knowing the extent of the participation of new media represented by social networking sites in shaping political trends among university students and knowing the degree of social networking sites in raising contemporary issues, as well as searching for the excitement resulting from the use of these sites by students and their influence on public opinion.

The study included the following main chapters:

- The theory of uses and gratifications

- The theory of dependence on media
- The role of interactive social media in supporting political awareness

The most important results reached are:

- Social media sites (YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter) contribute to shaping the political trends of students at the universities of Mosul, Anbar and Tikrit.
- There are no statistically significant differences at the significance level (0.05) in the impact of social media sites on the political trends of university youth according to the variables (gender, place of residence, college academic stage, age group).
- Social media sites contribute to raising contemporary issues of interest to university youth influencing political behaviours and political thought among university youth and controlling the Iraqi political street.
- The results showed the use of three social media sites, namely Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. The results showed that a large percentage of the sample members are convinced that social media networks were a major instigator of some changes in the Arab political arena.
- The results showed that 59% of the sample was convinced that the events witnessed by the Arab countries were a reason for joining social media networks. The results showed that 62% of the sample increased their political awareness as a result of their use of social media sites.

➢ A study entitled: "**Shadan Yaqoub Khalil Abu Yaqoub**, the impact of social Media on political awareness of the Palestinian issue among students of An-Najah National University, a thesis in fulfilment of the requirements for obtaining a master's degree, under the supervision of Abdul Sattar Qasem, Faculty of Graduate Studies, An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine, 2015.

The problem of the study revolves around the following main question:

What is the impact of social networking sites on political awareness of the Palestinian issue from the point of view of students of An-Najah National University?

It includes the following sub-questions:

- What is the level of political awareness among students of An-Najah National University?
- What is the extent of exposure of students of An-Najah National University to social networking sites?
- What are the most prominent manifestations of the transformation of social networking sites from a purely social nature to sites of a political nature?

- What is the cultural content that social networking sites broadcast to students of An-Najah National University?
- What is the extent of reliance of students of An-Najah National University on social networking sites as a source of political information?

As for the study methodology, the researcher used the descriptive analytical method, and the researcher formulated the following hypotheses: There are no statistically significant differences at the level of significance (0.05) between the averages of the fields of political awareness and social networking sites, it is tempting for the variables of gender, place of residence, specialization, year of study, and political affiliation.

As for the research tools, it is the questionnaire. As for the study sample, it included 285 male and female students from the student community of An-Najah National University.

The objectives of the study were summarized by identifying the extent of the spread and impact of social networking sites on students, as well as knowing the relationship between social networking sites and political awareness.

The study included the following main chapters:

- Political awareness, the technology revolution and the emergence of social Media
- The political dimensions of social networking sites.

As for the results reached by the researcher, they are:

- Social networking sites are considered a primary source for An-Najah National University students to obtain information.
- These sites also provided a wide scope for all users to practice freedom of expression of opinion on all societal issues.
- There are statistically significant differences between the averages of the fields of belonging and identity and political participation and the total degree of political awareness.
- Social networking sites are not a means separate from the rest of the traditional media, but rather a means complementary to them. Social networking sites contribute to the speed of response to political events and the ease of mass mobilization very quickly by creating a specific occasion or event.

3. Method and tools

Methodological procedures for the study

3.1 Study areas

Time frame: Our study went through the following time stages:

- The first stage, starting in March 2024, is thinking about the title of the study and searching for previous studies.

- On April 16, 2024, we set the title and carried out the methodological procedures for the study.
- Then, from June 10 to August 22, we distributed the forms to students via social media sites, unpacked them, formed tables, analyzed them and came up with the final results.

Spatial domain: The spatial domain is the geographical framework in which the researcher conducts his field study, as the spatial domain is determined in our study by appointing the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Batna University 1 as an institution to conduct our study, as it facilitates our access to the sample members, which are students, to obtain information, knowledge and diverse opinions that help us analyze the dimensions and indicators of the subject.

Human domain: The human domain is determined in our study in which we search for the role of social networking sites in activating political behaviour among university students, in a sample represented by students of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Batna University 1, and we relied on master's students who use the social networking site Facebook, consisting of forty individuals of both sexes and different age groups as well as from different specializations.

3.2 Study Methodology

Scientific research methods differ according to the phenomenon under study. Each method has its characteristics for studying a phenomenon and is not suitable for studying another phenomenon. Therefore, choosing the appropriate method is of utmost importance, as the method helps to understand that phenomenon, and to identify the factors and circumstances that control its emergence and interpretation, thus reaching results that can be generalized.

Therefore, our current study relied on the descriptive method, and the method in the social sciences has been defined as "the path leading to the search for the truth using a set of general rules that illuminate the path for the researcher to reach the result" (Rachid, 2009, p. 176).

The descriptive approach is defined as monitoring and accurately following up on a specific phenomenon or event quantitatively or qualitatively in a specific period or several periods to identify the phenomenon in terms of content and substance and reach results that help in understanding time and developing it (Mustafa & Muhammad, 2000, p. 43).

The aim of choosing this approach is that the nature of the subject requires working with it in a way that is consistent with the subject of our study, as it allows us to identify data and information, and to know an accurate quantity about the field of study and the study sample.

3.3 Study sample

The purpose of the research sample is to obtain information about the original community of the research, and it must be representative of it and a sufficient size.

It is the study community from which field data is collected and it is considered part of the whole, meaning that a group of community members is taken to be representative of the community to be studied, so the sample is a specific part or a specific percentage of the individuals of the original community, then the results of the study are generalized to the entire community (Rachid, 2009, p. 267).

As for the research community, it was university students, and because the spatial limits and time limits do not allow us to study all university students, we chose a sample representing the research community (university students) and our sample was a cross-sectional sample of master's students (first and second year) and included students of Batna University 1, Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, and we distributed it via Facebook sites, and the number of students was 40 students from the Department of Sociology and Psychology, while the sorting method was through volunteers who helped us pass the forms via Facebook.

Table (1): Characteristics of the Study Sample

Question	Variable	Probability	Frequency	Percentage%
1.	Sex	Male	17	42.5%
		Female	23	57.5%
All			40	100%
2.	Age	(24-22)	22	55 %
		(27-25)	9	%22.5
		Over 28	9	%22.5
All			40	100%
3.	Specialty	Sociology of Organization and Work	13	%32.5
		Sociology of Deviance and Crime	5	%12.5
		Urban Sociology	16	%40

		School Psychology	4	%10
		Psychology of Organization and Work	2	%5
All			40	100%
4.	Level	Master1	31	42.5%
		Master2	9	57.5%
All			40	100%
5.	Residence	Urban	30	75%
		Semi-Urban	10	25%
All			40	100%
6.	Campus	Yes	5	12.5%
		No	35	87.5%
All			40	100%

Source: Prepared by the researchers

It is clear to us from the statistical figures in the table above that the percentage of females is the largest compared to the percentage of males, as we find that the percentage of female respondents reached 75.5%, representing 23 individuals from the study sample, while the percentage of males was around 42.5%.

Accordingly, we note that the percentage of females is greater, and this is due to the demographic statistics that exceed the percentage of males, as well as the percentage of girls who obtained a baccalaureate degree, which also exceeds the percentage of successful males. This is due to the difference in orientations, as girls tend to love studying and obtaining higher degrees, while males tend toward professional orientations, as they desire to enter the labour market and liberal professions to earn money.

As for the age of the respondents in this study, we find that 55% of the sample members belong to the age group (22-24), followed by the age group (25-27), which is equivalent to the next group over 27 years, with a percentage of 22.5% for both groups. Therefore, the age of 22 is considered the appropriate age for

studying at university, as university orientation is the norm after obtaining the baccalaureate degree. The age of 28 is also considered the age group that entered the labour market and discontinued the academic path to improve the academic level by joining vocational training centres or continuous training to advance up the career ladder.

As we can see from this table, the specialization of the respondents, where urban science students reflected the highest percentage 40% of the total number of respondents, and psychology students, organization and work, reflected the lowest percentage 5%, in contrast, sociology students, organization and work 32.5%, school psychology 10%, sociology of deviance and crime 12.5%, and this is because the urban sociology category has the inclinations, knowledge and communication, as they are closer to the college's electronic page than others and to dealing with the electronic form.

In the same context, about the academic level, it is clear to us that Master 1 students, with a percentage of 77.5%, are greater than the percentage of Master 2 students, which is equal to 22.5%. This is originally because the number of Master 1 students exceeds the number of Master 2 students, and Master 1 students interacted with the electronic form of our research topic, while we did not find the same interaction with Master 2 students due to their preoccupation with the graduation thesis.

As for the place of residence of the respondents, it is clear that urban areas occupy a percentage of 75%, unlike semi-urban areas, which account for 25%, or 10 individuals from the study community because Batna State has a transportation network that covers almost all parts of the state and even remote areas.

In addition, it is clear to us from this table, the residence of students in university residence, which the majority of students are not residents at a rate of 87.5%, and the percentage drops to 12.5%, who are not residents in university residence. The explanation for the small number of students residing in university residences is due to the connection of Batna State to the university transportation network, and therefore the student does not benefit from university residence.

3.4 Data collection tools

When the researcher chooses a sample for the phenomenon under study, he must determine the appropriate tools that he uses to collect information and data from the individuals of the sample concerned with the study, and in our study, we used the questionnaire as a main tool.

The questionnaire is one of the quantitative research tools that the researcher relies on to collect field data. It is a direct technique for scientific investigation used with individuals and allows them to be questioned in a directed manner and to conduct quantitative withdrawals to find mathematical relationships and make numerical comparisons (Morris, 2004, p. 302)

To collect data and information related to the subject of our study, we formulated the questionnaire questions and classified them into four chapters, which are as follows:

- First chapter: This axis was allocated to the personal data of the sample members under study, and the questions of this axis were related to gender, age, specialization, educational level, and place of residence of the respondents, which were from question 1 to question 6.
- Second chapter: This axis included data related to Facebook, and included five questions from question 7 to question 11.
- Third chapter: This axis was allocated to collect data and information related to political knowledge, as it included three questions from questions 12 to 13.
- Fourth chapter: This axis was allocated to collect information related to political participation via Facebook, and included eight questions from questions 14 to 18.

4. Results and discussion

Presentation and analysis of the tables of the first hypothesis: The contribution of social networking sites in acquiring political knowledge among university students and relying on it as a primary source.

Table (2): The Contribution of Facebook in Obtaining Information and its Relationship to the Type of Topics that the Student Follows on Facebook pages

Getting Inform-ations / Types of subjects followed	Yes		No		All	
	Frequency	(%)	Frequency	(%)	Frequency	(%)
Cultural	24	60%	01	2.5%	25	62.5%

Sports	03	7.5%	-	-	03	7.5%
Political	02	5%	-	-	02	5%
Others	10	25%	-	-	10	25%
All	39	97.5%	01	2.5%	40	100%

Source: Prepared by the researchers

From the table above, Facebook's contribution to obtaining information according to the general trend has the highest percentage of 62.5%. By adhering to the general trend, we find that those who answered that Facebook enabled them to obtain information in the category of cultural information were 60% compared to 2.5% who said that Facebook does not provide information, followed by 25% in another category.

By adhering to the trend, the percentage of 25% in the category of those who answered that Facebook provides them with information was reversed in another category, so the results decreased to 7.5% in the category of sports information. The results were 7.5% in those who said yes, Facebook provides them with sports information, while the results in obtaining political information decreased to 5% in the category of those who answered that Facebook provides them with political information.

Through statistical significance, we find that social networking sites provide university students with more cultural information than political, sports, and scientific information, so their inclinations tend to use Facebook to satisfy their desires and choose it as a means of orientation in the cultural field and their fear of the political field due to the lack of freedom of expression, as the authority controls all traditional media outlets despite the relative independence of some channels, which makes the student focus on cultural information that may benefit him in his academic path.

Table (3): The duration of Facebook use and its relationship to the nature of the issues that students follow through the Facebook page

Time spending on Face-book	From one to three hours		Over than three hours		All	
	Frequency	(%)	Frequency	(%)	Frequency	(%)

Nature of cases followed by						
International	05	12.5%	08	20%	13	32.5%
National	14	35%	13	32.5%	27	67.5%
All	19	47.5%	21	52.5%	40	100%

Source: Prepared by the researchers

It is clear from the table above that the highest percentage according to the general trend was in the category of those who follow local national issues estimated at 67.5%, and in contrast, we find that those who follow international i, which is the lowest percentage, estimated at 32.5%.

Through statistical significance, we find that the student browsing Facebook focuses most of his interest on browsing local issues in general, as, in light of the decline in the independence of the traditional media space, reliance on social networking sites was the only refuge for knowing the latest developments and interacting with political issues.

Table (4):The Ownership of Facebook and its Relationship to the Role of Facebook in Shaping Public Opinion

Facebook ownership / Public opinion making	I have an account		I do not have an account		All	
	Frequency	(%)	Frequency	(%)	Frequency	(%)
making	38	95%	-	-	38	97.5%
not making	-	-	02	5%	2	5%
All	38	95%	02	5%	40	100%

Source: Prepared by the researchers

It is clear from the table that the highest percentage according to the general trend of those who answered that Facebook is a maker of public opinion is estimated at 97.5% and by continuing with the

same trend we find that 5% believe that Facebook does not make public opinion.

From this, we find that the interaction between students using Facebook and their rallying around controversial issues and shaping public opinion, social networking sites have become a role in expressing trends and ideas in light of a dialogue between the elite of society and the masses, it has transformed from a mere means of transmitting news to a means that has a role in addressing it and provoking reactions to it, so this virtual space has become competing with traditional media and civil society activities as a pressure force in directing and shaping public opinion and influencing some decisions issued by the authorities.

Presentation and analysis of the tables of the second hypothesis: The impact of social networking sites Facebook on political participation among university students.

Table (5): The Relationship between the Educational Level and the Following Political Cases on the Facebook page

Educational Level / Following political cases on Facebook	Master 01		Master 02		All	
	Frequency	(%)	Frequency	(%)	Frequency	(%)
Following	31	77.5 %	09	22.5%	40	100%
Not Following	-	-	-	-	-	-
All	31	77.5 %	09	22.5%	40	100%

Source: Prepared by the researchers

It is clear from the table according to the general field that each of the sample members under study follows the movement at a rate of 100%.

From the statistical significance, we find that all the students surveyed follow political issues via Facebook, since the authorities own the public channels, from this standpoint Facebook has become the only refuge for following political phenomena, and the university student has become able to follow and comment on various political posts.

Table (6): The Duration of Using the Facebook Page and its Relationship to the Practices Carried out by the Student on the Facebook Page

Time spending / Practices	From one to three hours		More than three hours		All	
	Frequency	(%)	Frequency	(%)	Frequency	(%)
Like the event page	13	32.5%	11	27.5%	24	60%
Transfer images of events as they are	1	2.5%	2	5%	3	7.5%
Share posts and videos	2	5%	1	2.5%	3	7.5%
Publish reform demands and goals	3	7.5%	3	7.5%	6	15%
Comment on posts	1	2.5%	2	5%	3	7.5%
Ignore posts	1	2.5%	-	-	1	2.5%
All	20	50%	19	%47.5	40	100%

Source: Prepared by the researchers

It is clear from the table that the highest percentage according to the general field for those who answered that their practice on the Facebook page was through liking the event page at a rate of 60%. By continuing in the same direction, we find that each of the following practices: transferring images of events in their natural and real form, sharing posts and videos, and commenting on posts for those who answered, their percentage was 7.5% for each practice, and in contrast, we find 15% for those who answered publishing demands and reform goals, while the lowest percentage is 2.5% for those whose answer was ignoring the posts.

Through statistical connotation, most of the practices of students were between posting and commenting on political publications. This is what allows them to be in a civilized way. When they browse social media sites, students encounter political

publications, and engage in electronic behavior, which is to like posts, pages, and comments, which has led them to gain political knowledge about political issues.

Table (7): the Relationship between Age and Facebook's Ability to Engage in Political Cases

Age / Ability to engage in political cases	24-22		27-25		More than 28		All	
	Frequency	(%)	Frequency	(%)	Frequency	(%)	Frequency	(%)
Able	21	52.5 %	8	20%	6	15%	35	87.5 %
Not able	1	2.5%	1	2.5%	3	7.5%	5	12.5 %
All	22	55%	9	22.5 %	9	22.5 %	40	100 %

Source: Prepared by the researchers

The table above shows that the highest percentage according to the general field of those who answered that Facebook enabled them to engage in political issues was estimated at 87.5%, and by continuing in the same field, 12.5% did not enable them to engage in political cases.

Through statistical significance, we find that Facebook enabled students to engage in political issues, as the number of its users reached 22 million people in 2019 in Algeria, with an average of 6 hours per day.

It was a refuge for students, so Facebook played an important role in strengthening political awareness among citizens and a platform for demanding reform or change of political systems, so Facebook was considered a pressure force on political systems.

Table (8): The Duration of Facebook Use and its Relationship to the Topics Followed

Time using Face-book / Followed subjects	Less than one yeas		From one to three years		Over than three years		All	
	Frequ	(%)	**Frequ**	(%)	**Frequ**	(%)	**Frequ**	(%)
Following the political cases	**1**	**2.5%**	**1**	**2.5%**	**21**	**52.5%**	**23**	**57.5%**
Following the political parties	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**5**	**12.5%**	**5**	**12.5%**
Following the Palestinian case	**1**	**2.5%**	**1**	**2.5%**	**10**	**25%**	**12**	**30%**
All	**2**	**5%**	**2**	**5%**	**36**	**90%**	**40**	**100%**

Source: Prepared by the researchers

It is clear from the table above that the highest percentage according to the general field of those who answered that they follow political issues was estimated at 57.5%, and by continuing in the same field, we find that 30% of those who answered that they follow the Palestinian issue, while the lowest percentage was estimated at 12.5% of those who answered that they follow political parties.

Through the statistical significance, we find that Facebook is a platform for following political issues in Algeria as well as the world and its events, over time, as Facebook has enabled students to communicate their voices, by commenting, publishing and reading the events of these political events.

- **Discussion of the results of the first hypothesis**

Through our analysis of the tables of the first hypothesis entitled the contribution of social networking sites to the acquisition of political knowledge among students, this was partially achieved through the following results:

- Social networking sites contribute to the acquisition of political knowledge among students by 5%.
- The time students spend on the Facebook page is following local issues by 67.5%, as the student's passion lies in knowing the latest developments in national issues.
- Facebook contributes to shaping public opinion by 97.5%, and this percentage shows that the student relies on Facebook as a primary source for obtaining information.

➢ **Discussion of the results of the second hypothesis**

Through our analysis of the tables of the second hypothesis entitled the impact of social networking sites on protest behaviours?

Most students have used Facebook for more than three years, and therefore 95% of the total students believe that Facebook has contributed to creating electronic political behaviours among university students, and this is due to their constant browsing of political issues.

-Facebook enabled students to engage in political issues by 87.5%, and this is due to the awareness that the student has acquired through social networking sites and his exposure to various political events and developments.

-The Internet provides the student with information and issues that concern him as elite in society.

Conclusion

Our study confirmed that the social networking site Facebook enabled university students to follow local issues and thus has the ability to influence the stimulation of political participation. This period witnessed clear shifts in usage trends from social to political purposes at the level of Algeria.

Therefore, social networking sites have a role in shaping the trends and public opinion of university students, by mobilizing opinions and directly influencing expression among university students.

It is worth noting that after presenting and analyzing the data we obtained from the study sample, and discussing the results of each hypothesis, we reached the following results:

5. Conclusion

- Facebook contributes to obtaining various information.
- Among the most topics that university students follow on Facebook are cultural topics with the highest percentage.

- Among the nature of the issues that university students follow on Facebook are local political issues with the highest percentage.
- New media complements traditional media.
- Facebook contributes to shaping and shaping public opinion.
- Statistics showed that a large percentage of students follow political issues on Facebook.
- Facebook contributes to spreading some practices and behaviours for the purpose of political participation. The most important types of these practices are: liking event pages to follow news and current events, publishing demands and reform goals, and most university students transfer images of current events as they happen with credibility and animate songs and slogans, thus Facebook contributes to the speed of response to political events.
- Facebook contributes to providing university students with information, facts, events and current political issues with complete honesty and transparency.
- Facebook enables university students to engage in political issues.
- The form of interaction between university students on political issues via Facebook is represented by commenting on posts, exchanging opinions and discussing through chatting between colleagues and posting messages on Facebook.

Finally, it can be said that the social networking site Facebook has provided the opportunity for university students to express their opinions and political aspirations without restrictions and acquire electronic political behaviors, and today social networking sites are considered one of the tools of change, especially in the political and economic context.

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