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Factors Leading to Political Activism in University Students: Case Study of Musa Khan's Death

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Abstract

The death of Musa Khan at University of Malakand has become a national issue because of the effective role played by social media in spreading news, mobilizing the people, hence, demanding justice. Social media sources like Facebook, Twitter (X), Instagram, and TikTok played a major role in spreading news, emotional tributes, and protest calls with the use of trending hashtags like #Justice_for_Musa_Khan. This online trend converted Musa's incident from a local incident to a national debate. Social media has become a principal tool for organizing students and starting protests against the university administration and demand for justice and accountability. The trend caught the focus of politicians and human rights' activists regarding the incident. Social media platforms gave voice to the voiceless, ensured that the incident was no longer buried, and forced administration and society to confront uncomfortable truths, all demonstrating how social media emerged as a powerful tool for social action and collective action. The study was aimed to investigate how this incident happened at university and how it led to a vibrant political activism amongst the students.

Background of the Study

The emergence of the internet has fundamentally changed the world and transformed it into a global village where people connect with each other and exchange ideas. The transformation of thoughts and information is carried out through different destinations on the internet, such as Google, email, etc. An expansion in exceptionally later time, an unused stage of sharing information, had risen, which is so-called social media. Social media networks such as Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram are widely accessible and allow everyone to share their ideas and information. It is impossible to escape social media's influence on politics. Now what is political awareness actually? So, political awareness is understanding and interpreting political events, systems, policies, and power structures as well as how they impact society, communities, and individuals. It involved being able to access political concern and participate in political debate in an active and responsible way. Understanding of the political system is mainly concerned with different forms of government structure and their work. Moreover, it is also related to the government institutions like parliament, the judiciary, the executive, and media. It also informed the people about policies, reforms, and law. Besides, all things are done through political awareness, understanding civil responsibility, and participating in activities like public discussion, peaceful protest, and voting.

Politics and social media complement each other and have transformed the political landscape, especially for young people and students. In order to become more aware of difficulties and issues, students at the University of Malakand regularly use social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram, etc. These social media platforms enable the students to be informed about current issues and political issues. Students at the institution participate in social media and are interested in political debates and various difficulties at university. Under such conditions, social media contributes to students' political consciousness and awareness and helps them come together politically at university. At the University of Malakand, the students gain political clout while Musa Khan's death takes place. In this research study we will also take it as a case study**.**

Musa Khan was a student of journalism and mass communication at the University of Malakand. On May 30, 2024, Musa Khan was reportedly expelled from the university hostel for playing a rabab (Pashtun musical instrument). He was in a road accident at night, was taken to a local hospital, and was directed to the Hayatabad Medical Complex in Peshawar, where he passed away. The passing of Musa Khan mobilized the students at university and started protests against the university administration. The students and local population claim that the passing was because of

mental trouble, and university administration is responsible for his death and demand for justice. Social media and mainstream media played an exceptional role while covering this incident**.**

Problem Statement

As social media has revolutionized the world and changed the political landscape of world by bringing political awareness in people particularly in young generation. In the university of Malakand the students frequently use social media so, how social media contributes to student's political awareness and activism in university. Moreover, how Musa Khan's incident influenced students' political awareness in the university?

Literature Review

This section attempts to review the related literature which has been documented by previous researchers regarding the role of social media in political awareness.

Individuals deal with each other with unprecedent manner, exchange ideas, and combined them with unprecedent surrounding. With the rise in social media, it becomes more important for communication, trade, education, and even politics. It was only a matter of time before forum and chat room transformed into social media platform such as Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. Its effectiveness is endless and emphasizes the need to comprehend the development of social media in order to understand the role of digital communication in our lives. Social have seen significant devolvement since their beginning and have grown into advance platforms that influence politics, culture, and communication. in 1970s and 1980s, digital technology like Bulletin Board System (BDS) developed, which can be used to provide the origin of social media. This has the ability to transferred messages and files for chosen connection, this platform is among the first format for online engagement (Kaplan & Heanlein, 2010).

The first recognizable website of a social media network is generally considered Sixdegree.com, launched in 1997. The platform has enabled the people to create personal profiles, connect with friends and send messages that have become standard in modern social networks. Sixdegree.com was short-lived, but it laid the foundation for future platform (Curtis, 2013).

In the early 2000s other social networks have been emerged like Friendster in 2002 and grew admiration to connect friends online. In 2003 the network was followed by Myspace which allowed the people to create personal profile and share music and become popular among the youth and artists. In 2004 with launching of Facebook has significantly revolutionized the history of social media by Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg. It starts the platform was limited to university students and later on expanded to users on global level for professional and personal usage (Boyd & Ellison, 2007).

Another social network platform was introduced in 2005, called YouTube, that provide a site for users to upload, share, and comments on videos. It rapidly becomes one of the most search social networks in world-wide where users make contents. Similarly, another significant development in 2006, the Twitter which allow people to share information and made two-way communication among people (Burgees & Green, 2018).

In 2010, a photo-sharing apps like Snapchat was launched and rapidly gained popularity throughout the world. Later on, stories feature was added to it. Moreover, a significant addition to social media was TikTok which launched by China in 2016, the network provided a site to users to share short-form musical videos and has become popular particularly among young people a crossed the globe (Montag et al, 2021).

In 2020s, social media platforms have become part of everyday life, enhancing communication, marketing, entertainment, and politics concern. Moreover, the social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok plays a main role in politics and worldwide movements such as Arab Spring and BlackLivesMatter. However, this quick advancement also leads to privacy issues, misinformation, cyber security concern, and mental health as well (Perrin & Anderson, 2019).

Political awareness is the ability to understand political concerns, legislation, government institutions, and the rights and duties of citizens. It makes possible for people to take part in democratic procedures and make wise political choice. Political consciousness is crucial component of university students' academic growth. It enables youngsters to engage in discussions, comprehend national issues, and cultivate a feeling of civic duty. Student political awareness can be vital to create a more informed and engage in political debates, discussions, and political consciousness. Politics they are deeply involved in every aspect of their everyday lives, making political awareness and activity extremely important to civilization. For example, all law governing people's lives in any area political, social, education, or otherwise are the outcomes of political action and political leader's decision have a complete impact on people's present and future lives. Political awareness in particular, is one the fundamental pillar upon which the social and political system is built. If it is neglected during the state's establishment, it will unavoidably

result in foundation of structure that will instantly fall apart in the face of any state or societal crisis, regardless of the magnitude political or demographic construction (Fairbrother,2023).

The Arabic word for "awareness," "waai" comes from the word "wiaa" which means to include or aggregate things by conceiving, understanding, and cherishing them. In this sense, awareness includes how a person view himself, their mental, and physical health, the characteristics of outside environment, and their status as a community member (Al Slihat, 2014).

A person's awareness is the culmination of their knowledge, comprehension, and evaluation of the world. Awareness actually arises from the different cultural elements that have an impact on the individual and expand and exchange as the person's life does. Started differently, a person's political awareness increases with quality of their political culture (Abonu, Ogunlade, & Yunusa, 2013).

According to conventional definitions, awareness is a person's view of both themselves and their surroundings (Al Faitouri, 2020).

On the other hand, political awareness refers to a citizen's understanding of their political rights and responsibilities, as well as the events and incidents that are occurring in their immediate surroundings and their ability to fully comprehend the current situation as a comprehensive truth whose element are interwoven rather than isolated incident or distant events (Kavita, 2017).

According to research on the political consciousness among Jordanian students, political awareness is political consciousness, recognizing the political system and political authority, being capable of evaluating them at the local, Arab, and international levels, and the ability to absorb and respond to and understand the political events. (Althuubetat, & Jarrar, 2013).

As implied by the concepts of comprehensive development, which aim to develop and promote man, it is evident from foregoing that political power is the actual means of preparing an individual's capabilities, probating his or her will, consolidating his or her sense of freedom, and boosting his or her self-esteem in order to achieve human perception. In order to cover the majority of political aspects, both formal (such as election) and informal (such as gross root politics), the political awareness concept is extending on Zaller's work. The Nature and Origin of Mass Opinion, Cambridge University Press 1992.

The "receive, accept, and select (RAS)" model and citizen's political precondition. The foundation for three dimensions attention, knowledge, and understanding is provided by this theoretical framework. The Receive-Accept-Select (RAS) model was created by Zaller to describe how people come to hold political beliefs. A key element of this paradigm is political knowledge, which is also a factor in influencing how citizens react to a political information. In" Receive" to get political knowledge need to be presented to people t processed intellectually. Whether or not people are exposed to political message depend on their political awareness." Accept" concern with message are accepted by people according to their partnership, ideology, and values. People who are politically conscious are pickier, they often disregard messages that contradict their opinions while "Select" deals with, people from the factors that are most readily available in their brains when asked for their opinions, frequently based on the most recent information that they have been given and accepted. Zaller defines political awareness as the degree to which a person is aware of politics and comprehends what have experienced. To put it another way, awareness is determined by "intellectual or cognitive engagement with public affair as indicated by factual information about government and politics that has gotten into people's mind". The exchange of political information between an individual and different source of political messaging disseminated in public places is the basis for political awareness. It is widely acknowledged that political awareness is a significant factor that influences political participation and active citizenship, and that it influences people's engagement with politics (Zaller, 1992).

Social media increases political awareness among youth by driving civic engagement. A UK study shows platforms like Twitter and Facebook help users absorb political content, follow debates, and share views. This direct interaction boosts understanding of issues, encourages participation in campaigns, and builds interest in governance. Youth often engage with trending topics, political figures, and peer discussions. These activities create awareness, stimulate curiosity, and promote involvement in real-world politics. another study revealed that while social media helps socialize students politically, it doesn't always translate into strong political knowledge. Despite high usage among university students, awareness levels remained low, prompting recommendations for educational institutions to share accurate political information through digital platforms (Opeyemi, 2018).

Beyond social media, local communication networks and traditional media also significantly affect political engagement. A separate study found that factors such as community ties, discussion networks, and local newspaper use were stronger predictors of local political involvement than demographics or ideology. Together, these studies suggest that both online and offline

communication play essential roles in shaping political awareness and participation (Scheufele, Shanahan, & Kim, 2002).

Social media drives modern political communication by influencing voter opinion, shaping ideologies, and altering election outcomes. Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube allow direct candidate-voter contact, increasing engagement (Jackson & Lilleker, 2011).

Link this to rising participation after the 2008 U.S. election. Platforms spread party messages faster than traditional media. Online activity, like Twitter trends, shifts voter behaviour and election buzz (Tillin, 2015).

Research Methodology

The study is based on explanatory type of research based on primary and secondary data where the reality is checked to understand and explain the role of social media in political awareness in University of Malakand.

Universe of the study

We have selected the University of Malakand for the study. The current study has utilized, the qualitative research design, in which the phenomena under study was qualitatively analysed, discussed and interpreted. Data was collected through questionnaires and in-depth interviews with respondents. A qualitative study approach was appropriate for conducting the current study in order to learn more about role of social media in political awareness in students.

Sample population

Data was collected from students currently enrolled in the University of Malakand, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan. The sample contained full-time students who were from 1th semester to 8th semester in university. They were included both male and female students. Probability sampling was used in research. Probability sampling was used because of the nature of the study. Thus, the data was collected from male and female students of The University of Malakand.

Sample Size

We have done probability sampling of 150 students. The data was collected from students randomly from different departments in the university.

Data Analysis and Discussion

Data analysis is the most essential part of our field study. We have collected data from the students currently enrolled in university in form of open-ended questionnaires and conducted interviews with students and university's officials as well. We analysed these data in form of themes. This chapter analyse the role of social media in political awareness in students in various dimensions. The role of social media in political awareness in students was studied in detail. The role of social media has been analysed and highlighted both from secondary sources as well as from field data obtained through a pre-determined methodology (discussed in chapter 3). The data was presented in form of themes and conclusion was derived from it.

The data that are collected from students via questionnaires shows that social media as daily routine of the students. The analysis of students replies suggest that most of the students uses social media make it as a daily habit. Social media provided them the most easy and accessible way to gain information. Majority of the student's response reveal that social media is primary source for political information, like they stay updated about the government policies, political events, and ongoing affairs around the globe. Students visit that political content which is appeared in their daily feed even they did not follow the political pages. The natural appearance of information in their feed able them to interact it through liking, commenting, share, and even discussing it with others. Thus, the two-way communication provided them a platform to think critically about the information regarding to political event to which they touched.

First, we asked questions about the daily uses of social media to which the majority of the students replies agreed and had the opinion that they use social media daily. As one of the respondents wrote;

"Social media act as a primary platform for political information, because it provided us quick and rapid accesses to information related to political events, governmental policies, state affairs, and even the thing which are going around the world"

Some of the respondents hold the view that social media platforms would enable the students to engage and interact with political events, publics policies, and current affairs. For example, a respondent view;

"Social media provided us a two-way communication mechanism where the people interact and engage with political contents by liking, commenting, sharing, and even discussing the topic in critical way to stay more informed"

Few of the respondents expressed that social media act as a primary source for political information but there is chance of spreading false and fake information and everyone can not verify them. One of the respondents give his opinion that "while using social media as a platform for political

information, there is chance of false and fake news and even facing biasness regarding to a political information"

The data collected through questionnaires, which are distributed among the students in university strongly suggest that social media is not only a platform for political information but it also act as a way of engagement and provided a platform to students for political learning. Unlike, traditional way which is limited to books and formal lectures. Social media provide two-way communication environment where students can ask questions, explore ideas, and participate in political debates.

Another question was asking about the engagement with political content. Most of the respondents said that they are regularly engaging with political content like News Updates, political debates, and social movements and protests. As one of the respondents view that;

"The use of social media provided a platform for engagement with political debates, political events, and updates regarding to political issues, the interaction and engagement are in term of comments, liking, and discussing"

Another respondent said that "while using social media, I am using social media and interact with live News, debates, participating in live podcast via comments"

Moreover, most of the students have opinions that social media is considered as a school where they are constantly exposed to live debate, stories, polls, and podcast. Through this exposure the students enable to learn diverse opinion, beliefs, ideas, and understanding opposing perspectives. As a respondent view;

"Social media is like a classroom where students in regular interaction with each other and exchanging ideas and opinions and understanding opposite opinions to established critical political thinking skills"

The third question asked that has social media influence your political opinions and increased political awareness? So, most of the respondents said that while using social media stages like Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, and Twitter which contributes to influence political opinions and increased political awareness. Students regularly uses these social media platforms to learn about political events, various ideologies, and political debates through short videos, posts, and commentaries that are appeared in their feed. These social media platforms not only make politics more accessible and approachable but made it easy to understand, engage, and connect directly political issues with daily lives. As one of the respondents had the opinion;

"By using social media, I constantly interact with short videos, posts, and political debates that are appearing in my feed. This interaction drew my attention towards politics and make me able to feel more connected to what are going in country and even around the world"

Some of the respondents stated that social media platforms made it easy to understand politics, approaches to particular issue, and crises which are going in country in simple and easy way. One of the respondents view that;

"I follow some Facebook pages, YouTube channels, and Podcast Analytics on social media that explain the issues in simple way in local languages which make me enable to understand the issues in better way"

Additionally, students are exposed to social media which helps them to understand politics through diverse perspectives like identity, culture, political psychology, and social justice of the concern ethnicity. Through this multiple approach the students enable to think critically and construct new political perspective. As one of the respondents had the opinion that;

"I use social media platform like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram which helps me to realized that politics is not only limited to politicians, election, and political parties but it is a vast subject concern to power, duties, and our role as citizen of state. While using social media I have started thinking about government policies, social justice, and so many other things in very critical manner, and how my comments, posts and opinion made me different regarding to politics"

Another respondent had a view that "I am daily exposing to social media and it understand me that I am also the part of political process, even not directly participates in political process like voting, legislation and other things but made me realized that I am not for way from politics"

Musa Khan's Incident Overview

Musa Khan was the student of Journalism and Mass Communication in University of Malakand Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan. He was expelled from university's hostel for playing Rabab (Pashtun Musical Instrument) and at evening time he faced a road accident and passed away. In this section of the research, we had analysed the overall view of the incident that how this incident happened and also analysed that how social media played role while covering this incident?

Moreover, we would also discuss that how this incident impact the student's politics and influences students' political opinions.

Musa Khan was a student of Journalism and Mass Communication in University of Malakand. He was reportedly expelled from hostel for paying Rabab. After the expulsion from hostel he faced a sever road accident and had brought to local hospital and the referred to Hayatabad Medical

Complex (HMC) where he passed away. After his death the students and local community started protests against the university administration and demanded for fair inquiry and justice. The students claim that the passing away of Musa khan is because of mental trouble and university administration is responsible for his death. We collected data from students as well as university officials in order to fill this gap and approached to this incident.

First, we asked about the incident and how this incident happened to which some of the respondent agreed and had the opinion that university administration has involved in this incident. As one of the respondents wrote that;

"A farewell program was made by students in university, and Musa Khan was invited to program having a Rabab and then administration issued a show-case notice to him and expelled from hostel and then he had passed away because of mental trouble"

Some of the respondents hold the view that "Musa khan was expelled from hostel and faced an accident and the accident was just road accident and university administration had not involved in this accident"

We have also conducted interviews with "Students Jirga's" members. The student Jirga was made in university which represented the students in university. The Jirga was made for the purpose to solved the problems and issues facing students in university. We conducted interviews with jirga members. Majority of the members had the view that "Musa khan death was just a road accident. People cashed this incident for their own interest and Rabab was not involved in this incident"

Another member of Jirga had the opinion that "Musa Khan was the member of students Jirga and show-case notice has issued to him not for paying Rabab but involved in students' politics and declared that university administration was not responsible for his death"

Some of the members of student Jirga had the opinion that; "The university administration has an indirect hand in Musa Khan incident"

Furthermore, we conducted interviews with university officials, and majority of the officials had the opinions that the incident was cashed for their own interests and university administration was not responsible for his death. As one of the officials has the view that;

"Musa Khan was our student and show-case notice had issued to him but did not expel from hostel. Moreover, he added that show-case notice had issued to him not for paying Rabab but he was involved in certain activities like politics in side university which against the university's constitution. Musa khan had faced a road accident outside the university boundary and administration was not responsible for his death"

Another official was asked about the incident and had the opinion that "the relationship between Musa Khan incident and university administration is absolute unfair. Yes, university administration had issued show-case notice to him and did not forcefully expel from hostel. At evening time, he had faced a road accident outside of university boundary wall and passed away. People cashed this incident for their own interests and viewership on social media and balm university administration"

Social Media Coverage of the Incident

Social media played a significant role while covering this incident. Mainstream stream media and particularly social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter (X), and TikTok shifted this incident from local level to national level and using Hashtag #Justice for Musa Khan. In this section we have to discussed that how social media shaped this incident and how social media played role while shifting from local level to national level in order to answers these questions we have collected data from students and university officials in form of interviews and questionnaires. First, we asked a question about that how did you first heard about the incident so, most of the respondents have the opinions that through social media we have heard about this incident. As one of the respondents has the view that; "I have heard about this incident on social media and got first hand information about this incident through social media platforms like Facebook and TikTok"

Another respondent also has the view that "I got informed about the incident through social media platforms"

Some of the respondents had the opinion that we got information about this incident that happened in university through friends and other News. As one of them had the view that; "we heard about this incident that happened in university through friends and other News sources"

Another question was asked: Is social media covered this incident fairly, so majority of the students had the expressed their thoughts that social media did not covered this incident fairly. As one of the respondents added; "social media played role in shaping this incident but did not covered the incident fairly"

Another respondent had the view that "social media did not cover this incident fairly, because the incident was use for self-interest and viewership"

Furthermore, we have conducted interviews with officials and Student Jirga's members, and most of the respondents have expressed their views that social media did not cover the fairly. As one of

them said that; “the incident which has showed on social media platforms are different from those that of reality”

The other respondents expressed their thoughts that social media dot not portray this incident on balance ground, “social media did not play their balance role while display this incident. Moreover, the incident was used by activist, social media workers, and politicians for their own interest and viewership”

Similarly, other respondents expressed the opinion that sometimes social media spreads the wrong and false information regarding to certain issues, in case like Musa khan’s incident the social media propagating certain fake and wrong information. Another, one added that; “Although social media is useful tool for spreading information but sometimes, it propagates propaganda and fake news regarding to an issue like Musa Khan’s incident”

Musa’s Death: A Catalyst for Students’ Mobilization

As Musa Khan’s incident was a turning point for student’s engagement and mobilization in university. Most of the students become politically active and take practical action on this incident. To study has Musa Khan’s incident increased political awareness and student’s engagement in university so, we have collected data in the form of distributed questionnaires among the students currently enrolled in university and also conducted interviews with students Jirga’s members and university’s officials.

The majority of the students have the opinions that this incident increased political awareness and student’s engagement in university, as one of the respondents added that; “After this incident the students becomes politically active and alert”

Other respondents also had the views that before this incident the students are not involve in political activities as after this incident they have involved, one of them had the thoughts that; “I did not involve and participate in any political activities and events but after this incident I constantly involved in political events and activities in university”

few of the students believe that the incident has no impact on student political awareness, as one of them added that; “We did not see any impacts of this incidents on students’ political activities and political awareness”

Furthermore, we have also taken data from members of Students’ Jirga and most of them agreed that the incident that had happened in university have impacts on both current students’ political activities and future students’ politics. One of the members said that; “Before this incident the students were fearing and did not want to participate in political activities and events but after this incident the fear is no more with students regarding to politics”

Other respondents also have the opinions that this incident provide political ground to students, as one of them added that; “The incident happened in university, have provided political ground to students in which students perform political activities and events freely and without any fear”

The majority of the university’s officials have also agreed that the incident bring political awareness and consciousness in students, as one of the officials express that; “Now in university the students involving in political activities freely and without any fear and the students get politically aware and conscious”

Another respondent also expressed their thoughts and had the view that “yes, the incident had brought political awareness in students and now they freely joined study circles, political debates, and taking part in political events and activities”

Conclusion and Recommendations

The purpose of the study was to determine the role of social media in political awareness in students in university. The study based on qualitatively analysis in which the collected data in form of questionnaires and interviews with students and officials in university. According to the analysis of the collected data shows the level political awareness in students in university. On the basis analysis of the study the following were the main findings.

Most of the students’ responses strongly showed that students use social media and made it as a daily routine to get information. The social media platforms like Facebook, TikTok and Twitter (X), are the primary sources to which the students reached and get the political information. The current study reflected that most of the students frequently uses social media not only provide them rapid access to political information but also provided space for interaction, debates, and dialogue. Although some of the respondents view that while using social media there is chance of biasness and fake information.

The majority of the students mentioned that we are no more a passive recipient of information, that social media provide us two-way communicational environment. Through this two-way mechanism the students able to comments, like, share and engaged with political contents which enhance critical thinking and political consciousness.

Furthermore, the collected data suggest that social media able the students to learn about politics. Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter (X), YouTube, and TikTok act as classrooms where

they regularly interact with each other and share ideas, opinions, and established opposite opinions that lead to create critical thinking regarding to political events and contents.

Mostly the students said that social media is new lens for understanding politics. It is clear that while exposed to social media the one's able to understand politics in term of culture, identity and other dimensions. Furthermore, students added that we have followed pages, cites, and channels on social media platforms which explain the political issues in local languages.

Moreover, most of the student's responses show that the politics is not something related to politicians, election, political parties, and voting process but it is a vast subject concern to power, duties, and role of citizen of a state. While using social media which drew our attention towards politics and made us realized that we are not far away from politics. Overall responses of the respondents strongly suggest that social media play a crucial role in bringing political awareness in students through constant interaction, engagement, and debates on social media platforms.

Similarly, another section of our study that related to Musa Khan's incident which had happened in university. Musa Khan was a student of Journalism and Mass Communication in University of Malakand. At evening time, he faced a road accident and passed away, so the students started protest against the university's administration and demanded for justice and fair inquiry of the incident. So, majority of respondents view show that the university administration did not involve in the incident and it was just a road accident outside of university's boundary. It was said that he has been expelled from hostel due to paying Rabab (Pashtun Musical Instrument) but most of the respondent view and had the opinions that he was not expel from hostel. Yes, university administration issued him show-case notice not for paying rabab but involvement in other certain activities like he had involved in political activities and member of Students Jirga. Some of the respondents showed that he was expel from hostel because of paying Rabab. Additionally, most the respondents claim that university administration was not involve in their death.

Social media and mainstream media played significant role in this incident and shifted from local issue to national issues. The incident which has showed on social media is totally different from reality. It was said that he was expel from hostel for paying Rabab and later on he faced a road accident and passed away. He was not expelled from hostel but university administration issued him show-case notice. Most of the respondents argue that on social media the incident was use for self-interests and viewership and university was not involve in his death.

Moreover, the incident has a significant impact on students' politics. The majority of the respondents argue that this incident is a catalyst for students' awareness, engagement, and mobilization at university. Most of the respondents view and had the opinions that after this incident the students become fearless and openly involving in political activities and political events in university. The incident creates an open atmosphere in which the students freely joined study circles, debates and other political gathering at university. So, thus the incident was a catalyst for student and provide them environment where they freely join any political events in university without any fear.

Recommendations

According to the findings, this study offers both short-term and long-term recommendations and strategies on the role of social media in political awareness in students. The main recommendations are given;

Awareness Seminars

Conduct and organize awareness workshops and seminars in university to educate the students regarding the uses of social media, that be responsible while using social media for political information and avoid misinformation.

Student Discussion Forums

Promote and appreciate students' discussion forums and groups to create social media platform groups like WhatsApp groups, Facebook, and other online platform groups that will help students to discuss the current political events and debate over it. This will improve the critical thinking of student regarding to political events and information.

Introduce Fact-Checking Tool

Students should guide and provide fact-checking tools that how to verify the correctness and credibility of any political news. The students would provide the online website to check the correctness of any information.

Faculty Involvement in Political Discourse

Encourage teaching staff to get involved in political discussion and debates within class room with students. This will facilitate and improve the student's skills about any political debate,
and discussion.

Online Political Engagement Forum

Universities should create online political engagement forums where students can participate and involve in political discussion via social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter(X), and TikTok and promoting peaceful and respectful dialogue.

Introduce digital literacy into syllabus

Design and introduce curriculum to the academic course which focus on digital citizenship, political process, and critical thinking. This will improve student's skill that how to understand biasness in information, and how to verify and check out the facts regarding to political information. Furthermore, the students would be able to known about the digital rights and responsibilities like freedom of speech, online ethical behaviour, and privacy rights.

Collaboration with Policy Makers

The university should build a long-term partnership between academic institution and government policy makers to involved students in political process, policy discussion, and other democratic process.

Students' Union

The university should allow student unions, where they participate in political process like political discussion, study circles, and allow the student to organized political events like election. The student union will help students regarding to their political and civil rights in university.

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