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The Roles Of Digital Democracy On Political Education For Young Generation M. Akmal
Politics Department, Universitas Malikussaleh, Jl. Tgk. Nie Reuleut,
North Aceh, Aceh 24354, Indonesia _

Abstract Purpose-This study aims to determine the roles of technology through digital democracy in younger generation's political education.

Design/Methodology/Approach- Research data were obtained through observation, interviews on students in Universitas Malikussaleh, and also retrieved some literature studies that are relevant to the above research problems. Data is then analyzed by using qualitative descriptive analysis technique. Findings- The research results show that the role of political activity using digital channels as a form of political participation gives positive impacts to the political participation of young generation.

Research limitations/implications - This research limits the scope of attention only on young generation's participation in political activities. Practical implications - The necessity of the younger generation is to be given wider opportunities and responsibilities in the public sphere as well as involving as a member of a political party, or other social and political organization.

Originality/value- Therefore, in order to push towards political democratization, political education agents must be able to utilize social networking media on the internet to convey ideas, actions, and other political activities for the development of political education. Keywords Digital democracy; political education; younger generation.

Paper type Research paper Introduction Digital democracy is simply a political activity that uses digital channels, especially web 2.0, as a form of political participation or public support (Wilhem, 2003). According to John Rawls (1971) the importance of information to democracy is called information-based justice.

In this digital era, the embodiment of information-based justice gets a opportunities and challenges as the development of communication and information technology. Therefore, democracy requires fair information for citizens because through information people have access to knowledge so as to determine the best option for themselves in all areas of social, economic, legal, cultural and political matters.

The presence of information technology would have an impact on the form of information distribution among the community. One of the political activities that can be done through the media of digital information is political education. It cannot be denied that the popularity of social networking in the current era of globalization has become an outstanding phenomenon, especially among young generation.

The Internet becomes a new medium for the young generation in obtaining information and even in participating some political activities through the polls offered by several political events that occurred in the country. For example the controversy of fuel price increase, the arrest of KPK members, election of DKI governor, and others.

Public voices on these political issues have even become embedded with online petitions. Online petition is a new format in Indonesia that has public space for people to express their opinions. (Hartanto:2016). In the view of experts who are concerned about relations between new media and democracy, the internet or digital media has the potential to improve public communication and enrich democracy (Coleman and Blumler:2009).

The potential of the internet to reshape democracy is strongly influenced by the normative values presented in the direct work of defenders of democracy and public spaces such as Habermas, Bohman, Dryzek, Putnam. (Davis:2010) They argue that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) offers tools for applying theories of democracy and public sphere, especially regarding more inclusive society participation and deliberative exchange between ordinary citizens and political elites.

Thus, theoretically, the internet has the potential for renewal and development of democracy. Democracy theorists believe that democracy can be preserved because of active action of citizens' political participation and care for civic affairs. In addition, in the view of Terri L.

Towner (2013), the use of mass media is a positive predictor of political participation, and as the media landscape has changed, the Internet has played an increasingly important role in politics. Some observers are raising the role of the internet as a tool

that can help the democratic process by giving citizens exposure to political information.

Some other experts also state that internet use has a positive influence on political participation, and knowledge and civic engagement through social capital. This paper critically seeks to look at the role of technology using the internet to political education for young generation in improving the quality of democracy. How does the internet play a role for the younger generation as one of the political education agents.

The field research was done on some students and politicians through observation and interviews. Theoretical Study This part deals with some theoretical study on some theories and previous related researches concerning digital democracy, political education, and political participation. This paper limits the discussions on young generation's political activities.

Digital Democracy Digital democracy is simply a political activity that uses digital channels, especially web 2.0, as a form of political participation or public support. Understanding Web 2.0 or definition Web 2.0 (wikipedia:2017) is a business revolution in the computer industry that occurs as a result of the movement to the internet as an attempt to understand the rules for success on the platform. Web 2.0

refers to a perceived generation as a second generation of web-based services, such as social networking sites, wikis, communication tools, and folksonomies that emphasize online collaboration and sharing between users. According to James Slevin (2000), the World Wide Web (WWW) is a multifunctional application that enhances online interactivity as it enables users to send emails, chats, send files and automatically load helper applications when needed.

Gilardi (2016), in his latest research on digital democracy, explains clearly how this digital technology also influences the democratic process itself. Political mobilization, campaign strategy, polarization of public opinion, and governance tools and channels began to change. Not only in the West, but also in Indonesia at the time digital technology began to dominate.

Not only in political practice in contemporary democracy, this digital technological revolution has also directly affected how the social sciences are reproduced and disseminated. Political Education Political education is the process of influencing individuals to gain more information, insight and political skills. Thus political education encourages people to see themselves and their environment in other ways, to do other things, to do self-escalation and to improve their standard of living. (Kartono: 2009). So it is not expected that political education is identical with "political propaganda" or

popular term "indoctrination".

Indoctrination will only show a narrow and fanatical view, so its behavior is often contrary to the real reality encountered, even against its own conscience. The main foundation used in implementing political education in Indonesia is Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, GBHN and Youth Pledge 1928. Furthermore, for the purpose of political education for the younger generation there are government guidelines set forth in Presidential Instruction No.

12 of 1982 on Political Education for Young Generation which states that the purpose of political education is to provide guidance to the young generation of Indonesia in order to raise awareness of the life of nation and state. While the other political education goal is to create a young generation of Indonesia who is aware of the life of the nation and state based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution as one effort to build a complete Indonesian man. Methodology This research applied qualitative approach using interviews and observations.

The research was done in Universitas Malikussaleh involving 8 resources, 2 students of politics department, 2 students of communication department, 2 students as leaders of students' organization, and 2 lecturers, 2 members of local parties. The data was collected through natural interviews and observations, therefore, the interviewees did not realized that their opinions were recorded.

Discussion Social media brings political actors to communicate, in the sense of dialogue or monologue, with social media users. The advantage gained, of course there is no special time provided. Traditional campaign patterns are increasingly being abandoned, providing day, time, place, with all its trinkets, including nasi bungkus and entertainment.

More campaign material is delivered, rather than simply shaking or shouting numbers or party symbols. With methods like this, campaign materials are easier and more delivered than traditional ways of consuming energy and cost. Younger generation in this research was represented by students of Universitas Malikussaleh, from Politics and Communication Departments who are active in social media.

Below are the results of the deep interview to 7 students concerning the existence of digital democracy using technology of smartphones with applications of twitter, facebook, Whatsapp, and BBM in participating some political activities. The result can be seen in table 1. Table I Media Used in Political Activities ACTIVITY _ONLINE _OFFLINE _Getting information about political leaders in Aceh _Mostly got from postings in

facebook Online newspaper Twitter BBM LINE Instagram _Open campaign Newspaper Friends _ _Getting information about viral political issues _Prefer online to Offline: Got faster information Got many sources about the event, so can get relatively comprehensive information Can react to the matter directly and Can discuss interactively with other netizen _From friends newspaper _ _Joining polls or petition to certain viral political event _Prefer online to Offline: Can express freely in determining the decision Can be done anywhere and anytime Can use "alias" no need to expose personal information _- _Following Quick Count _Twitter Online TV _TV _ _Attending/Following political leaders debate _Online TV _TV (delay) _ _Getting political lessons _Facebook Twitter WA _Lecturing _ _Knowing latest public policy, qanun or perda _Facebook Twitter WA _- _Favourite political Issues Types _Breaking News in Twitter, LINE, Facebook Meme in all online media Debate of candidates _Carricature in newspaper or magazine _ _The table above shows that online media are used more common among **young generation in** campus.

All the events stated **that they tend to** do the activities mentioned using online media. For the item getting information about the political leaders, from the interview, they confessed that they mostly got it from postings on facebook. It seems that the politicians are quite aware in using **social media to promote** or publish their personal information or political activity using the online media . The next choice are from the online newspaper, twitter, WA, LINE, BBM, and Instagram.

The viral political issues receive their knowledge faster using the online media with reasons they they get the information in seconds after the information posted in the media. The netizen feel **that they are** well informed and being confident when they meet their friends discussing about the viral matters. When following the quick count, they will mostly choose the online media due to the speed and accurate information.

Interviewees also admit that they often join online polls to express their choice or decision to certain matters offer in the polls. They also joined someonline petitions like "save Buniyani", "Save KPK", or facebookers support against Prita Mulyasari related problems with Omni Tengerang Hospital and **Movement of 1,000,000 facebookers** who support Bibit-Chandra which reaches more than 1 million supporters.

The interviewees also feel more comfortable and easier in understanding political lessons through online media compared to the lecturing they got in class. They get more perspective information and views to open their understanding and knowledge to the real and practical implementation of political theories. Therefore, most of them said that they were mostly introduce some public policy such as qanun, or perda through online medias rather than formal socialization from the government. For the Favourite

political issues they put the first rank on the breaking news, then meme, and debate of the candidates.

And as for the meme, the respondents said it was favourite types of postings. They feel they can understand the matters through relax and funny way. The term meme was first introduced by Richard Dawkins (1976, pp 189) which refers to a mutation of a gene in replicating and multiplying. According to him, meme is a form of cultural transmission through the replication of ideas, ideas, that penetrate into human cognition.

This concept is applied in the context of social phenomena, especially those that occur on the internet. the meme phenomenon becomes a new style of digital democracy that also shows the genre of communication style in the new media era as a form of participatory digital culture (Wiggins & Bowers, 2014). Many researcher write and discuss meme as one of effective media in digital democracy.

Conclusion The existence of technology has accelerated democracy to be closer, tangible, and contribute to critical demos. The netizen are featured as demos in the present situation through click, post, and sharing activity on their respective social media accounts. It is what creates the "second value" of digital democracy, that is, a connective democracy, a networked democracy is more collective and more organic rather than a previous democratic value. Today's society views in politics tends to be informal, communal, multilateral, and populist .

Due to the variety of information, people are now able to act as interest groups or pressure groups directly or indirectly. The main of digital democracy is the seductive and connective democracy that is now being and will continue to grow in the politics of Indonesia in the future. References Almond, G.A and G. Bingham Powell, Jr. 1976. Comparative Politics: A Development Approach. New Delhi. Oxford & IBH Publishing Co. Budiarjo, Miriam. 1997.

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