

Review of: "Students' perceptions of e-participation in social media, citizen mobilisation and engagement: Evidence from Papua New Guinea, India, and Zimbabwe"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Overall comments

I think this is a charming study of international student perceptions of social media e-participation. I have some concerns about the primarily qualitative nature of the analysis and the level of contribution made.

Some required changes

My main concern is that the authors essentially draw together three separate samples from different countries then pool the results to draw rather general and obvious conclusions. It is not clear to me that this is actually a valid thing to do. Additional chi-squared tests or ANOVA tests should accompany each of Figures 1-4 to check that subsamples from each of the three countries are actually directly comparable and are not fundamentally different in nature.

The conclusions and recommendations might have to be updated in the light of the statistical results obtained.

The methodology section could also include some discussion of Hofstede cultural dimensions (see e.g. the paper by Radojevic et al., 2017). These cultural dimensions might help explain any differences found between the three countries in the study. As discussed above I am concerned about the interchangeability of the three subsamples.

Further considerations

Page 2, first paragraph, introduction section. Appropriate reference missing in relation to the discussion of the UN.

Page 3. What is the point of Bourdieu's social capital theory in this context? Surely this just unnecessary formalism and doesn't add anything to the current study.

Empty citation for Jörg (2022). Surely it is axiomatic that social media participation is possible when people are linked to the internet.

English Page 4. "The right of students to participate in democracies makes it crucial." It is not clear to me what "it" is actually referring to. Similarly, later on, better to clarify 448 million active users.

Page 5. Long sentence starting "As a result ..." and going over five lines. Split this into 3 or 4 shorter and more focussed

sentences.

Page 5. Habermasian public sphere. What is this? Surely this is again unnecessary additional formalism that doesn't add anything to the current study.

Reference

Radojevic, T., Stanistic, N. and Stanic, N. (2017). Inside the rating scores: A multilevel analysis of the factors influencing customer satisfaction in the hotel industry. *Cornell Hospitality Quarterly* **58** 134-164.