

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.

The abstract effectively encapsulates the key elements of the research study and its findings. It provides a clear and concise overview, making it a valuable introduction to the study for readers interested in citizen mobilization and engagement through social media in diverse cultural and geographical contexts.

The introduction provides a comprehensive background for the study, introducing the significance of social media in contemporary society and its relevance to university students' engagement and participation. Here's a review of the introduction:

- Literature Review:** The introduction incorporates relevant scholarly references (Trusov et al., 2009; Wattal et al., 2011; Gulzar et al., 2022; Mäntymäki & Riemer, 2016; Leach & Scoones, 2007) to support the importance of social media in student engagement and its impact on global politics. However, providing a brief summary or synthesis of these studies would be helpful to connect them explicitly to the study's focus.
- Theoretical Framework:** The introduction could benefit from a brief mention of the theoretical framework or theoretical concepts that underpin the study. This would help readers understand the perspective from which the research is conducted.
- Clarity and Flow:** The introduction is well-structured and flows logically from the general context to the specific research focus and objectives. However, it is somewhat lengthy, and some sections could be streamlined for conciseness.

Overall, the introduction effectively establishes the importance of the research topic and presents a clear research question and objectives. It could be further enhanced by briefly summarizing the key findings from the referenced literature and by explicitly stating the theoretical framework guiding the study.

Theoretical Framework Review:

The theoretical framework section effectively integrates various theoretical perspectives and concepts to support the research's theoretical foundation. **Bourdieu's Social Capital Theory:** The use of Bourdieu's social capital theory to underpin the study is well-justified. The theory's emphasis on the development of beneficial relationships through social interactions aligns with the study's focus on social media as a platform for building connections and mobilizing citizens (Qi

et al., 2018; Bourdieu, 1977). It would be beneficial to provide a brief explanation of Bourdieu's theory for readers who may not be familiar with it.

Overall, the theoretical framework effectively incorporates relevant theories and concepts to provide a strong foundation for the research study. It connects these theories to the study's focus on social media's role in citizen mobilization and engagement. To further enhance this section, briefly explain key theoretical concepts and their direct relevance to the research. Additionally, it might be helpful to explicitly state how the chosen theoretical framework informs the research's hypotheses or guiding principles.

Methodology

1. **Data Analysis:** While the methodology briefly mentions data presentation and analysis using graphs and narratives, it could benefit from elaborating on the specific analytical techniques for quantitative and qualitative data. This would help readers understand the research's analytical rigor.
2. **Abbreviations:** Using abbreviations for student representatives from each university is helpful for clarity and ease of reference throughout the study.

Overall, the methodology is well-structured and provides a clear and systematic research approach. It adheres to ethical standards and ensures the rigor of data collection. To enhance this section, consider providing more details about the specific questions or topics covered in the interviews and the planned data analysis procedures, contributing to the study's transparency and reliability.

Findings and Discussion

Overall, the "Findings and Discussion" section effectively combines quantitative data with qualitative insights from student representatives, providing a well-rounded understanding of the research outcomes. To enhance this section further, you might consider expanding on the implications of the findings for policy, education, and society, and provide more concrete recommendations based on the research outcomes. While recommendations are mentioned briefly, they could be expanded upon. Consider providing more specific recommendations based on the research findings. For instance, suggestions for governments to embrace social media as a means of communication and addressing challenges related to affordability and access to technology.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Overall, the "Conclusions" section effectively summarizes the study's findings and provides actionable recommendations well-aligned with the research objectives. These recommendations encompass a range of stakeholders, from governments to individual social media users, making them comprehensive and relevant for addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with social media in different cultural contexts.

