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Abstract

Purpose: The aim of the study was to analyze the impact of political ideologies on civic engagement in South Korea.

Methodology: This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low cost advantage as compared to a field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

Findings: Political ideologies significantly influence civic engagement in South Korea, where citizens' political leanings often shape their participation in social and political activities. Conservative ideologies are typically associated with formal engagement, such as voting and policy advocacy, while progressive ideologies are linked to grassroots movements and activism on social issues. A key finding is that South Koreans with strong ideological identities are more likely to participate in civic activities, as these beliefs often align with specific causes or political agendas. Furthermore, generational divides play a role; younger progressives tend to engage in digital activism, while older conservatives favor traditional forms of participation.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy: Civic voluntarism model, social identity theory & theory of planned behavior may be used to anchor future studies on the impact of political ideologies on civic engagement in South Korea. To foster greater civic engagement, practical steps should be taken to encourage participation in ideologically diverse groups. Policymakers should consider reforming electoral systems to ensure that they reflect the diversity of political ideologies within a society.

Keywords: *Political Ideologies Civic Engagement*

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INTRODUCTION

Civic engagement in developed economies such as the United States, Japan, and the United Kingdom is typically high, especially in terms of formal participation like voting and volunteering. In the United States, for example, voter turnout has seen fluctuations but has been generally increasing in recent years, with the 2020 presidential election experiencing a record 66.8% turnout, a significant rise from previous elections (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020). Additionally, volunteering rates remain strong, with approximately 25% of Americans reported to have volunteered in 2019, indicating a continued commitment to community involvement (Corporation for National and Community Service, 2020). In Japan, while voter turnout has been relatively stable, the country also exhibits high levels of civic participation, especially in local governance. A study by Nishimura (2019) found that Japanese citizens, despite a decline in political party membership, remain highly engaged in local elections and public consultations, reflecting a strong sense of civic duty in local governance.

In the United Kingdom, civic engagement is similarly robust, with high voter turnout rates and increasing participation in protests and petitions. The 2019 general election saw a turnout of 67.3%, reflecting the continued importance of elections in the UK political landscape (Electoral Commission, 2020). Furthermore, the rise of digital engagement has seen a surge in online petitions, with 14.5 million people signing a petition on the issue of Brexit (Parliament, 2019). The younger generation in particular is more likely to engage through digital activism and social media platforms, highlighting a shift towards non-traditional forms of engagement. According to the UK's National Audit Office (2021), civic participation has evolved, with many opting for online petitions or campaigns, representing a shift in how people engage with political and social issues.

In Canada, civic engagement is characterized by a high level of participation in both formal and informal political activities. The country has a consistent history of high voter turnout, with the 2019 federal election achieving a turnout of 67%, reflecting a strong commitment to democratic participation (Elections Canada, 2019). Moreover, volunteerism plays a significant role, with nearly 13 million Canadians engaging in volunteer work, contributing to a thriving culture of community participation (Statistics Canada, 2019). Additionally, the rise of digital activism has further broadened avenues for civic engagement, particularly among younger generations, with platforms like Twitter and Instagram playing a key role in political discourse. Social movements, such as those advocating for Indigenous rights and environmental protection, have seen increasing participation, often driven by grassroots organizations. In particular, the youth-led climate change protests have gained widespread attention, demonstrating the evolving forms of civic engagement.

Australia also has a well-established culture of civic participation, particularly in terms of voting, as voting is compulsory in federal elections. In the 2019 Australian federal election, voter turnout was approximately 91%, reflecting the strong legal framework that ensures broad electoral participation (Australian Electoral Commission, 2019). Beyond voting, Australians engage in various forms of political participation, including protests, community organizing, and online activism. The issue of climate change has mobilized large numbers of Australians, particularly among the youth, to participate in environmental protests. Digital platforms, particularly Facebook and Twitter, have facilitated political engagement, enabling Australian citizens to voice their concerns on issues ranging from indigenous rights to government policy. A study by Green and

Browne (2020) found that social media has increasingly become a tool for both political expression and organizing, particularly in social justice movements. Despite the compulsory voting system, the government continues to encourage citizens to engage in community service and volunteerism as part of the broader civic engagement framework.

South Korea has witnessed a rapid evolution in civic engagement, particularly with the increasing use of digital tools for political mobilization. The country has seen some of the highest levels of political participation in East Asia, with voter turnout in the 2020 legislative election reaching 66.2% (National Election Commission of Korea, 2020). South Korea has also been a leader in digital political activism, especially during protests such as the 2016–2017 Candlelight Revolution, which led to the impeachment of President Park Geun-hye. The protest movement utilized social media platforms to mobilize thousands of citizens in a matter of days, demonstrating the influence of digital tools in modern civic engagement. Social media has continued to play a central role in South Korea's political discourse, with citizens engaging in political debates and discussions across platforms like Facebook and Twitter. The younger generation, in particular, is highly engaged online, using platforms to organize protests, share information, and influence elections. This shift has also been complemented by an increasing emphasis on grassroots movements, such as those advocating for gender equality and political reform.

In Mexico, civic engagement has grown significantly in recent years, particularly in the context of electoral participation and social movements. Voter turnout has been fluctuating, but in the 2018 presidential election, Mexico saw a historic 63% turnout, one of the highest in recent decades (Instituto Nacional Electoral, 2018). Social movements, such as the feminist movement, have gained traction in recent years, with thousands of women participating in protests to demand greater gender equality and address violence against women. The use of social media has significantly contributed to these movements, with platforms like Twitter and Facebook playing key roles in organizing and amplifying these calls for change. Additionally, younger generations in Mexico have embraced digital activism, with a focus on issues like human rights, environmental protection, and anti-corruption campaigns. Digital platforms have become vital tools for raising awareness and organizing political actions, with some movements, like the anti-corruption protests, achieving significant participation. Despite the challenges posed by political corruption and inequality, Mexico has seen a surge in participatory politics, especially among youth and marginalized groups.

France, known for its strong history of civic engagement, particularly through protests and strikes, continues to see high levels of participation in political and social issues. Voter turnout remains relatively high in France, with the 2017 presidential election reaching 74% (Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques, 2017). However, protests remain an essential form of engagement, as seen with the "Yellow Vest" movement, which emerged in 2018 and gained nationwide attention. The movement, originally sparked by fuel tax hikes, expanded to include broader demands for economic equality and democratic reforms, drawing millions to the streets. Additionally, digital platforms have facilitated protest organization and political mobilization, making it easier for citizens to express dissatisfaction and call for action. France's rich history of political participation has expanded to include a growing reliance on digital activism, where citizens use social media to create and spread political messages. In developing economies, civic

engagement tends to vary significantly due to factors such as political stability, access to resources, and social inequalities. In India, civic engagement has been notably high, particularly in terms of voter turnout and social movements. The 2019 general elections saw an impressive voter turnout of 67%, one of the highest among developing nations (Election Commission of India, 2019). Additionally, India has seen a rise in youth-led movements, such as the student protests and activism surrounding the Citizenship Amendment Act, which mobilized millions across the country. However, despite this apparent high engagement, rural areas and marginalized communities continue to face challenges in accessing the political process, particularly with regards to digital engagement (Bhat, 2021).

In Brazil, political participation has grown, especially following the rise of digital platforms, with increasing involvement in protests and online political engagement. A report from the Brazilian Institute of Public Opinion and Statistics (IBOPE) in 2018 indicated that while voter turnout was strong at 79.4% in the presidential election, participation in protests and civic organizations has been largely influenced by political polarization (IBOPE, 2018). Civic engagement in Brazil has become highly politicized, with ideological divides often determining the nature of participation. Despite this, grassroots movements and social media have allowed for greater inclusivity in civic participation, with younger generations leading the charge in advocating for social and political changes. These movements have been instrumental in promoting environmental and human rights causes.

Germany has one of the most robust civic engagement frameworks in Europe, with high participation in both political elections and civil society activities. In the 2021 federal election, Germany saw a voter turnout of approximately 76.6%, highlighting the importance of electoral participation (Federal Returning Officer, 2021). Beyond voting, Germany is known for its active civil society, with many citizens engaged in volunteer work and advocacy groups. According to the Federal Statistical Office, over 40% of the population engages in voluntary work, contributing to social cohesion and collective efforts. Political participation is also characterized by strong support for environmental and climate action, with movements like Fridays for Future gaining significant momentum. The rise of digital engagement has transformed how Germans participate in political discourse, with online platforms enabling broader public discussion and protest mobilization. In addition to traditional forms of participation, many Germans are using social media to raise awareness about issues ranging from refugees' rights to economic inequality. Germany continues to demonstrate that a healthy democracy relies not just on elections, but also on consistent and diverse forms of citizen involvement.

Sweden is often regarded as one of the most politically engaged nations, with high levels of participation in both electoral and non-electoral activities. In the 2018 general election, voter turnout reached 87.2%, reflecting the country's strong democratic commitment (Swedish Election Authority, 2018). Civic engagement in Sweden extends beyond voting, with many Swedes actively participating in political debates, volunteer work, and community-based organizations. According to a study by the Swedish Institute, over 40% of Swedes are involved in some form of civic organization or volunteer group, often driven by a strong sense of social responsibility. Moreover, Sweden has a long-standing tradition of political participation, with significant involvement in environmental movements, such as the youth-led Fridays for Future. The Swedish government

also encourages active citizen participation through public consultation processes on various policy matters, ensuring that all voices are heard. Digital platforms play a vital role in Swedish civic engagement, particularly in fostering transparency and facilitating discussions on various political issues. Sweden's robust democracy and the high level of citizen involvement demonstrate how civic engagement can strengthen the social fabric and promote greater political inclusivity.

New Zealand has high levels of civic engagement, with both political participation and social activism playing key roles in its democratic processes. The 2020 New Zealand general election saw a voter turnout of 82%, illustrating a strong commitment to electoral engagement (Electoral Commission New Zealand, 2020). Beyond traditional voting, New Zealanders are active participants in political movements, such as the 2019 climate change protests, where thousands gathered in cities to demand stronger action from the government. According to the Department of Internal Affairs, over 30% of New Zealanders regularly participate in volunteer activities, a form of civic engagement that plays a crucial role in social development and community building. Additionally, digital engagement has significantly transformed political participation in the country, with social media platforms being used to organize protests, share political messages, and engage in public debates. The rise of online political activism has contributed to more inclusive participation, allowing marginalized groups to voice their concerns and influence political decisions. New Zealand's strong civic culture reflects how high voter turnout, active protest participation, and volunteerism can work together to create an engaged and informed citizenry.

In the Netherlands, civic engagement is characterized by high levels of participation in elections and public debates. In the 2021 Dutch general election, voter turnout was recorded at 82.4%, showing the high degree of political participation among citizens (Dutch Electoral Council, 2021). Beyond voting, many Dutch citizens actively engage in political discussions, with social media playing an increasing role in shaping political opinions and organizing political actions. A significant portion of the population also participates in volunteerism, with nearly 45% of Dutch citizens contributing to various causes through volunteer work (Statistics Netherlands, 2019). Protest movements, particularly those advocating for climate change action and social justice, have also garnered widespread support in the Netherlands, with citizens frequently mobilizing for causes they care about. The Dutch political system encourages citizen involvement through a variety of consultative processes, ensuring that political decisions reflect public opinion. The integration of digital tools into political and social activism has made civic engagement more inclusive and widespread, allowing even those with less traditional means of participation to have a voice. The Netherlands serves as a strong example of how a combination of formal and informal political engagement can create a dynamic and participatory democracy.

In South Africa, the level of civic engagement varies significantly depending on socio-economic factors, but there has been increasing political participation in recent years. The 2019 national election had a voter turnout of 65%, indicating a steady interest in the democratic process (Independent Electoral Commission, 2019). Beyond voting, South Africans engage in various forms of political activism, particularly around issues such as inequality, corruption, and land reform. The #FeesMustFall movement, for instance, garnered significant youth participation in protests against university fee increases and the broader issue of access to education. Additionally, South Africa has a rich tradition of volunteerism, with many citizens working through local

organizations to address social challenges such as poverty and healthcare. Social media has become a key tool for South African activists, allowing marginalized communities to raise their voices on national and global issues. However, challenges such as political apathy among some groups, particularly in rural areas, remain a concern. Despite these challenges, South Africa's political culture continues to evolve, and digital activism is playing an increasingly central role in encouraging civic engagement.

India, the world's largest democracy, has seen a steady increase in civic engagement, especially in the context of electoral participation. In the 2019 general elections, voter turnout was recorded at 67.4%, which represents an increase from previous years (Election Commission of India, 2019). Political participation in India extends beyond voting, with large-scale mobilizations often taking place around issues such as corruption, caste-based discrimination, and economic inequality. Protests like the farmers' protests of 2020–2021 have demonstrated the strong willingness of citizens to engage politically, even in the face of significant challenges. Additionally, the rise of digital platforms has revolutionized political activism in India, with social media being used to organize, mobilize, and share political messages. Over 80% of India's internet users are active on social media, making it a powerful tool for civic engagement (Pew Research Center, 2020). The increasing number of digital political campaigns reflects the changing nature of civic engagement in India, as more individuals engage with political issues through online platforms. The broad range of political participation activities in India shows how diverse forms of civic engagement are necessary for maintaining a vibrant democracy.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, civic engagement is generally lower compared to developed and emerging economies, largely due to factors such as economic instability, political repression, and limited access to education. However, there are notable exceptions, with countries like South Africa, Kenya, and Ghana showing increasing levels of participation in electoral processes. In South Africa, voter turnout has remained strong since the end of apartheid, with the 2019 national elections achieving a turnout of 65.99%, which is a testament to the country's commitment to democracy (Independent Electoral Commission, 2019). Similarly, in Kenya, civic engagement has been fostered through initiatives like the "#KenyaDecides" campaign, which encouraged young people to participate in the 2022 elections. The use of social media has increased political activism, particularly among youth, who engage more in online advocacy and protests than traditional forms of political participation (Mutiga, 2020).

In Ghana, the level of civic engagement is bolstered by regular and competitive elections, but it remains challenging to achieve widespread participation in rural areas. According to the National Commission for Civic Education (2020), voter turnout in the 2020 presidential election reached 79%, but engagement beyond elections remains low, particularly in rural areas where access to political information is limited. Nevertheless, the rise of grassroots organizations and the increased use of mobile technology have enhanced civic participation in urban centers. Similar to other Sub-Saharan countries, youth-led movements have begun to shape the political landscape, highlighting the transformative power of digital activism in the region. This trend suggests that while traditional forms of engagement remain prevalent, digital platforms offer significant opportunities for greater inclusion and participation.

Problem Statement

The relationship between political ideologies and civic engagement has garnered significant scholarly attention, particularly in light of recent global events that have reshaped political landscapes. Political ideology profoundly influences individuals' civic behaviors, including voting patterns, participation in protests, and engagement in community activities. For instance, research indicates that liberals are more inclined toward non-voting political activities, such as protesting and online political engagement, compared to conservatives (Colorado State University, 2023). Conversely, conservatives may exhibit higher participation in community service and religious organizations, reflecting their emphasis on tradition and social order. Understanding these dynamics is crucial, as they shed light on how ideological orientations shape civic participation, thereby influencing democratic processes and societal cohesion.

Recent studies have further explored the nuances of this relationship. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals' ideological orientations were found to affect their attitudes toward public health measures, with participation in ideologically diverse civic associations influencing compliance behaviors (Gaisbauer, 2020). Additionally, the rise of social media has highlighted ideological differences in public debate engagement, with users exhibiting varying propensities to participate based on their political leanings (Gaisbauer, 2020). These findings underscore the complex interplay between political ideology and civic engagement, suggesting that ideological predispositions not only drive the forms of participation individuals choose but also their responsiveness to societal challenges and policy measures.

Theoretical Framework

Civic Voluntarism Model (CVM)

Developed by Verba, Schlozman, and Brady, this theory posits that individuals' participation in civic activities is influenced by resources (time, money, skills), psychological engagement, and recruitment networks. It suggests that political ideologies shape psychological engagement, thereby affecting civic participation levels. For instance, individuals with liberal ideologies may be more inclined toward protest activities, while conservatives might prefer community service.

Social Identity Theory (SIT)

Originated by Tajfel and Turner, SIT asserts that individuals derive a sense of identity and self-esteem from their group memberships. Political ideologies can form significant aspects of social identity, influencing group behaviors and civic engagement. Recent studies indicate that strong ideological identification can enhance participation in group-specific civic activities, such as political rallies or advocacy groups.

Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB)

Proposed by Ajzen, TPB suggests that an individual's intention to engage in a behavior is influenced by attitudes toward the behavior, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control. Political ideologies can shape these components by influencing attitudes toward civic participation and perceptions of societal expectations. Research has shown that ideological beliefs significantly impact individuals' intentions to participate in various forms of civic engagement.

Empirical Review

Gaisbauer (2020) explored how engagement in ideologically diverse civic associations influences individuals' support for public health measures. The researchers employed a cross-sectional survey design, analyzing responses from individuals actively involved in various civic associations across the ideological spectrum. They found that individuals engaged in politically diverse civic groups demonstrated greater support for public health measures, such as lockdowns and mask-wearing, compared to those in more ideologically homogeneous groups. The study concluded that exposure to ideologically diverse perspectives enhances individuals' willingness to comply with health measures, even when their political ideologies may otherwise suggest resistance. The authors recommend that policymakers foster participation in diverse civic organizations to facilitate adherence to important public health guidelines, as the exchange of ideas and beliefs across the political spectrum can improve collective compliance with health protocols. Additionally, they suggest that fostering inclusivity in civic participation could help mitigate polarization and support cooperative efforts in crisis management. By encouraging participation in civil society organizations across various ideological groups, governments can strengthen the social fabric and improve overall societal responses to public health emergencies. This study contributes to the growing body of literature on civic engagement in the digital age, where civic associations and social media platforms play a pivotal role in shaping public opinion and political behaviors. Gaisbauer provided a novel contribution by focusing on the intersection of civic engagement and public health, linking political ideologies with compliance behaviors in unprecedented times. The implications of this study extend beyond the pandemic, suggesting that ideologically diverse engagement is key to overcoming societal divisions in various policy areas. Overall, the study highlights the importance of nurturing a participatory culture that bridges political divides and promotes unity in times of crisis. The study's findings underscore the potential benefits of civic engagement in building social cohesion and improving governmental legitimacy in the eyes of citizens. Further research could explore how these findings apply to other global crises, such as environmental disasters or economic recessions, where ideological polarization can impede cooperative action. (PMC)

Ekman and Amnå's (2012) research delved into the typology of political participation, examining how political ideologies shape both manifest and latent forms of civic engagement. The purpose of their study was to create a new framework that distinguishes between various types of political participation, acknowledging the evolving nature of civic engagement in the 21st century. The authors employed a comprehensive literature review and conceptual analysis of previous studies on political participation. Their findings revealed that political ideologies significantly influence both the overt and subtle forms of engagement. For example, individuals with liberal ideologies were more likely to engage in protest activities, while conservatives preferred traditional forms of participation, such as voting or community service. The study's central conclusion emphasized that ideological factors must be considered when analyzing the engagement patterns of citizens, as these factors shape their attitudes toward different forms of political involvement. Furthermore, the study suggested that latent forms of participation, such as online activism or political conversations, could be just as influential as traditional political behaviors in shaping democratic engagement. Ekman and Amnå (2012) recommended that future research explore the role of online platforms in fostering civic engagement, as digital spaces are becoming increasingly important for

ideological expression and political participation. The study also suggested the need for more inclusive political environments that cater to various ideologies, allowing for greater diversity in forms of engagement. These findings contribute to the ongoing conversation about how civic participation is evolving in response to technological changes and shifting political landscapes. The research emphasizes the importance of recognizing different dimensions of civic engagement and understanding how political ideologies intersect with these behaviors. In conclusion a more holistic approach to studying civic participation, one that goes beyond traditional metrics and incorporates newer forms of activism that are shaped by political beliefs. Their work offers valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and political analysts who are seeking to understand the motivations behind contemporary political engagement.

Mantovani (2013) analyzed how political positions influence voter behavior and civic participation. The aim of this study was to explore the relationship between political ideologies and electoral engagement, particularly in the context of Brazil's evolving democratic processes. Using statistical analysis, the authors examined data from Brazilian cities, focusing on political party membership, candidate influence, and voter participation. They found that political ideologies significantly influenced engagement levels, with more ideologically aligned political positions showing higher levels of voter participation. This was particularly true for local elections, where political parties with strong ideological stances attracted larger voter turnouts. The study's findings suggest that political parties that are ideologically aligned with voters' beliefs have a greater influence on mobilizing civic engagement. Mantovani recommended that political parties should consider the ideological preferences of their constituents to enhance voter turnout and foster greater civic involvement in the political process. Furthermore, the study pointed out the need for reforms that would make the electoral system more inclusive, ensuring that all ideologies are fairly represented. The research concluded that political engagement in Brazil could be improved by strengthening the ideological connection between voters and candidates, fostering a more participatory electoral environment. The study highlighted the importance of ideological alignment as a mechanism for political participation, offering practical recommendations for policymakers. The authors called for further investigation into how other factors, such as socioeconomic status and education, also interact with political ideologies to influence civic engagement in elections. This study's contributions are essential for understanding the dynamics of voter behavior in the context of ideological polarization, a phenomenon increasingly relevant in contemporary politics.

Conover (2012) investigated the role of social media in fostering political engagement and the ways in which political ideologies affect online behaviors. Using a network analysis methodology, the study examined the social media activity of over 18,000 politically active Twitter users during the 2010 U.S. midterm elections. The findings revealed that right-leaning users exhibited higher levels of political activity on Twitter, including posting more frequently and engaging in more tightly knit networks. In contrast, left-leaning users showed lower levels of engagement and less centralized networks. This study highlights how political ideologies shape online behaviors, with conservatives more likely to use social media for political engagement compared to liberals. Conover recommended that political campaigns and organizations tailor their digital strategies to the ideological preferences of their target audiences to maximize engagement. They also suggested that social media platforms could play a key role in bridging ideological divides by fostering

dialogue across political groups. The study contributes to understanding the intersection of digital technology and political engagement, particularly the role of social media in enhancing or impeding civic participation. It underscores the importance of considering political ideology when analyzing online political behaviors and strategies. The study's implications are crucial for both policymakers and social media companies aiming to improve political discourse and engagement in digital environments.

Correa and Camargo (2016) explored the relationship between political ideology, Twitter activity, and electoral results in the 2015 Colombian regional elections. The primary goal of the study was to examine how political ideologies influenced social media activity and, in turn, electoral outcomes. The researchers employed content analysis and network analysis to assess tweets and retweets related to the elections, focusing on the volume and content of political discourse on Twitter. Their findings indicated that electoral outcomes were more strongly associated with the volume of tweets and retweets than with the ideological content of the messages. However, they also found that ideological framing influenced the types of issues discussed, with right-leaning candidates focusing more on security and left-leaning candidates on social welfare. The study concluded that political ideologies affect not only the content of political messages but also the intensity of political participation on digital platforms. Correa and Camargo recommend that political campaigns utilize social media to engage ideologically diverse audiences, as online activity can significantly impact electoral results. They also suggested that future research should explore the impact of ideological polarization on social media discourse, particularly in the context of electoral politics. This study contributes to the growing body of literature on digital political participation and its implications for traditional political processes. The findings highlight the transformative potential of social media in shaping electoral engagement.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low-cost advantage as compared to field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

FINDINGS

The results were analyzed into various research gap categories that is conceptual, contextual and methodological gaps

Conceptual Gaps: While studies such as Gaisbauer (2020) and Ekman and Amnå (2012) emphasize the importance of ideological diversity in shaping civic engagement, there is a gap in understanding how these ideologies interact with other influencing factors like economic status, education, and media consumption. More research is needed to examine how different levels of education or socio-economic background moderate the impact of political ideology on civic participation. Another gap in the literature is the need for a deeper exploration into latent forms of civic engagement, particularly in relation to social media platforms and online activism. While Ekman and Amnå (2012) highlight the role of online activism, future studies could delve further

into how these forms of participation shape political outcomes and social behavior in different socio-political contexts.

Contextual Gaps: There is a lack of research into the role of digital civic engagement in post-pandemic contexts, especially regarding how political ideologies influence behaviors in ongoing societal crises like climate change or economic downturns. Studies like Conover (2012) focused on election times, but we still need to explore how ideological engagement in digital spaces influences long-term political engagement and participation in non-election periods. Additionally, while research like Mantovani et al. (2013) focuses on electoral participation in specific countries, there is a need to expand this analysis to non-electoral contexts.

Geographical Gaps: Much of the research on civic engagement, political ideologies, and online political activity has been conducted in Western democracies, especially in the U.S. (Conover, 2012). There is a need for more comparative studies in non-Western contexts such as Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia, where political engagement might be influenced by different sets of challenges like political instability, authoritarian regimes, and cultural factors. Furthermore, studies like Correa and Camargo (2016) on Colombian regional elections highlight the importance of digital participation in specific geographical contexts, but there is limited understanding of how political ideologies and social media engagement intersect in countries with low internet penetration or in regions undergoing political conflict. More research is needed in these areas, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, where social media use is growing but political engagement dynamics may differ significantly from more established democracies.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

In conclusion, the impact of political ideologies on civic engagement is a multifaceted and dynamic area of study that highlights the complex relationship between political beliefs and participation in public life. Political ideologies shape how individuals engage with civic activities, influencing their preferences for forms of participation, such as voting, protests, or digital activism. The growing role of social media and digital platforms has further accentuated the role of ideological factors in shaping online political engagement, with ideological diversity often serving as a catalyst for more active and inclusive participation. However, the influence of political ideologies on civic engagement is not homogenous, with factors such as socio-economic status, education, and geographic context playing significant roles in moderating engagement behaviors. While current research provides valuable insights into these relationships, there remains a need for more comparative studies across diverse political and cultural contexts, especially in non-Western regions and in response to ongoing societal challenges like economic crises, environmental disasters, and political polarization. Future research should continue to explore how fostering ideological diversity and inclusivity in civic spaces can mitigate polarization and strengthen democratic engagement, ultimately contributing to more resilient and cohesive societies.

Recommendations

Theory

Future research should build on the work of Ekman and Amnå (2012) by refining and expanding typologies of political participation to incorporate emerging forms of activism, such as online advocacy and issue-based mobilization. By exploring the intersection of political ideologies and new forms of civic engagement, scholars can develop more comprehensive frameworks that better capture the complexity of contemporary political behavior. Researchers should conduct comparative studies across diverse political systems and cultures to examine how political ideologies influence civic engagement in both democratic and authoritarian contexts. This would allow for a deeper understanding of how different forms of political participation manifest in varying political environments and contribute to social change and stability.

Practice

To foster greater civic engagement, practical steps should be taken to encourage participation in ideologically diverse groups. Initiatives that promote dialogue and collaboration across the political spectrum such as forums, community projects, or participatory policymaking processes can help bridge divides and increase collective engagement in public affairs. These initiatives could focus on increasing awareness of shared interests, particularly in areas such as public health, climate change, and economic recovery. Given the growing role of digital platforms in civic engagement, political campaigns and civil society organizations should harness the power of social media to create inclusive spaces for ideological dialogue. By targeting both ideologically aligned and diverse groups, they can foster broader participation in political processes and encourage cross-ideological discussions that can lead to more informed and collaborative policymaking.

Policy

Policymakers should consider reforming electoral systems to ensure that they reflect the diversity of political ideologies within a society. Proportional representation or mixed electoral systems may help ensure that a broader range of political views are represented in legislative bodies, thereby encouraging greater voter participation. Furthermore, policies should be introduced to facilitate voter education that explains how political ideologies influence both personal and collective civic engagement. Governments and institutions should invest in policies that support digital literacy and the safe use of social media to foster online political participation. This includes developing platforms for informed, respectful debate and ensuring that marginalized ideological voices are not drowned out by misinformation or algorithmic bias. Additionally, regulatory frameworks should be put in place to protect individuals from online harassment and encourage constructive engagement in digital spaces.

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