POLITICAL SCIENCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

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THE PRIMARY EFFECTS OF DIGITALISATION

❖ Facts, News, Information is readily available

❖ News travel fast- any event is communicated across the world in a matter of seconds

❖ People are not just listeners, They can express their opinions to the world; which means a significant percentage of the population is an active participant

❖ Social media has become an integral part of the political process; people communicate their political views not just with each other, but with the political leaders as well

❖ The digitalisation is a transformative force for Political Science discipline like others discipline in social sciences in terms of research

❖ The digitalisation has affected teaching and learning tools too

❖ The regional challenges and opportunities may be different worldwide, therefore, digitalisation may has varied impacts all over the world, needs to evaluate on regional basis

❖ The privacy; cyber crimes; data storage; right to information; transparency; accountability; inclusive growth; globalisation and nationalism; democracy and authoritarian system; deglobalisation at the time of coronavirus crisis etc are the issues which dimensions and character of research has changed due to digitalisation

❖ The digitalisation has changed the character of research methodology

❖ Research methods, data collection, hypothesis building, single or multiple hypothesis, surveys and interview techniques, documentation analysis, reviews etc everything in the study of Political Science like other disciplines in social sciences has revolutionised

SOME POSITIVE EFFECTS

- ❖ Access to more informations means people can take more informed decisions

- ❖ Having access to information from all parts of the world gives people a wider perspective on political matters

- ❖ Active participation opportunities is enble people to make their voice head

- ❖ People can reach out to otherwise inaccessible political leaders very easily through social media, E.g. when an Indian national's passport was lost in a foreign country, she sent a message on twitter to the Ministry of External Affairs. The Ministry promptly responded and the Indian national got help from the Indian embassy in a matter minutes; similarly when migrants problems came into light on twitter etc social media during COVID19 locked down, the respective governments have to respond

SOME PERILS

❖ Since information can be distributed easily over the internet, 'false information' can also be spread just as easily. Even though hoaxes are short lived and can be verified to be false, in the short term, they have a significant impact on people's perception, as visible in the US Presidential Elections 2016.

❖ Corona virus is creating a false news nightmarescape. The Presidential election process is undergoing in the United States; In India also few State election are approaching, in this perspective, some sort of misinformation is spreading almost as quickly as the virus E.G Mr Trump commented on a day " This is a bad one, and you've got people conspiring that it is a hoax made to get Trump out of office."

- ❖ Thus, it is a matter of research now that how web comments affect perception on political issues; how social media is shaping our fears of response to coronavirus

- ❖ Relying solely on digital media can create "blind spots" among people, making them under-estimate the importance of non-digital mechanisms that are still a part of the political process(like development on the grassroots level, significance of under-represented minorities etc.)

- ❖ Social media addiction is seemed like wine addiction

- ❖ Overburdened by informations, people behaviour looks violent

❖ The difference of opinion are used to invite quick and offensive reactions

❖ It shows people anxiety on social media

❖ The regular and huge variety of incoming informations can not be processed while it creates inquisitiveness, that increase anxiety and becomes source of our violent behaviour

❖ The addictive principle is that a person takes a disagreed person as a threat

❖ People are ambitious to remain on social media, he/she may cut from the society otherwise

❖ Therefore, fear of missing out keep them on these platforms

- ❖ The deep fake videos with AI help communicate false informations e.g. Madonna did sing "Hanuman Chalisa"; Obama delivered speech of Hitler

- ❖ The high resolution videos, fake informations with the use of high techniques are impossible for a common people to track

- ❖ The social media manipulations are affecting our personal and social life behaviour

- ❖ The actors in the political system are aware of it and utilising it in their favour

- ❖ These developments have already noticed and check and balances are researched

❖ The political system will be more prone to attack by non-citizens

❖ The digitalisation will defeat divisive policies and ambitions of narrow political gains and will strengthen internationalism and globalisation

❖ Democracy in technological terms can be weaponised

❖ The impact of media technologies on public participation and political campaign

❖ Analysis of more and more informations assault on misinformations

OPPORTUNITIES

❖ Reducing cost of governance by increased efficiency of digital means (e.g. less paper work, centralised databases, quicker availability of information etc.), Arogya Setu App is, for example, an attempt to collect a data at a place in such a crisis

❖ Establishing direct communication with the public

❖ Promoting transparency in governance by making all important information available online

❖ Promoting growth of global business

- ❖ The digitalisation has opened new researches in the field of social sciences and Political Science e.g.

- ❖ Hoe tech giants are concealing our data

- ❖ What is the status of privacy

- ❖ Re-evaluation of State and its citizen's relationship

- ❖ Media impact on Gender issues

- ❖ Will media withering away divisions in the society

- ❖ How technology can fight extremism

- ❖ Thus, digitalisation and technological advancement affected interactions in political system and functioning of political institutions

VARIED VIEWS

❖ The digitalisation will weaken core aspects of democracy and its institutions

❖ Digitalisation will change natural participation of people in the political system, artificiality will prevail which will create an illusive world, many section of the people will be the casualty

❖ The nature of human beings will more deeply assessed and will positively and negatively be utilised by the decision makers