

A Systematic Literature Review on Civic Engagement Form among Youth: Online Participation

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Abstract--- Digital citizen is mushrooming among youth. The usage of internet among them are high and also time spending on online network as well. This systematic review article present what are the online participation activities among youth that help them to connect with civic engagement and enhance their awareness about public issues. The methodology used in this systematic literature review are guided by Preferred Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analysis guideline. 38 article from Scopus as main database and Google Scholar as supported database were selected through the process of identification, screening, eligibility and inclusion exclusion process. Nine main theme are found as a result but this article is focus on online participation theme as civic engagement among youth. The online participation theme were examine which have resulted to five main activities on in which are information sharing, online networking, civic content creating, active participating and usage of other digital platforms. The analysis on online participation also found that focus is given more to social media contribution but lack in other digital technologies platform benefit. Future literature is recommend by focus more on how other digital platforms can contribute to the civic engagement among youth and finally result in forming a good citizenship.

Keywords--- Citizenship, Civic Engagement, Digital Citizen, Online Participation, Youth

I. INTRODUCTION

This paper analyse civic engagement form among youth in online participation activity by doing a systematic literature of six years of latest studies. The in-dept review on 12 studies resulted in five different categories which are information sharing, online networking, civic content creating, active participant and usage of other digital platform.

Online participation among youth has benefit in shaping their civic engagement. It has been recognized and acknowledge its potential in developing civic engagement among youth. It is also has been prove that it can empowering youth role in the community, increase trust as a citizen, help them to express their opinion on political which they feel marginalized at first and get touch in civic education [38,41,42,4]. Previous studies also showed that there is a positive connection on online participation especially the usage of social media and the state of youth

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expression of their youth [3, 6, 12]. By participate in social networking also give an impact on the social capital by positively influenced in online bonding and bridging. On the other hand, online participation act as platform that enable youth to express their civic concern and build political participant among youth as well [21].

Decreasing in socioeconomic in society lead to various problem in the communities such as in health, facilities and their rights [10,20]. Studies show that youth voice in addressing this issues may affect the policies as well make the society and governance noted about the community issues [5]. Because of this potential, civic engagement among youth are crucial. Many youth programme is organized in order to educate them about the important of public issues awareness and to train them in spreading the significant of civic engagement to their peers [18, 26]. Their role as youth activist is power enough to make change in social, environment and political matters [28]. At the same time, researcher also identified that there is connection between youth trend in social network media usage and their role as civic activism [30, 36]. Youth tend to use social network media as a channel for them to sharing information and express their opinion [27]. This relation between youth and social media network can enhance the effective of activist work and wider the civic engagement more broadly.

In China, the active internet user have reach to 500 million in 2018 which represent 57.7 % of their total population. At the same time, China is also have its own social media platform with more than one billion users namely as WeChat, QQ, Meipian, Douyin and Weibo. With this large number of users in internet, social media could be a magnificent platform for youth civic engagement. In Egypt, Palestine and Tunisia study by Sika (2018) shows that youth involvement in civic relations and political participation is higher in informal involvement such as engaging in online activism or participating in street protests. The selection of youths as online activists in the country has been around since Arab Uprising in 2011 where they have been active in social media Facebook and blog posts. Generally, the issues that these youths address are about their rights as well as personal issues. While in the Czech Republic and Estonia, Beilman et al (2018) points out that new developments in civic engagement in the country that resulted in the use of online media. Youth engagement in online media is classified as Voluntary Benefactors that make them *digital citizens* or *digital activists*. Online participation is also popular among minorities group to address their opinion to the public. Despite of its low cost factor, online participation also provide a secure place to express their injustice feeling and avoid physical danger that may affect their group if their express in physically public way [34].

Even online participation do not directly give benefit to the civic engagement by itself, the activities like sharing the information on public, express and discuss opinion on online group, create an online civic content may help the process of civic engagement development among youth [39]. The selection of online participation as a new trend of civic engagement among youth is because its easy to access and come in low cost and sometime without any cost at all [9]. It can be participate in any place and anytime as long as there is an internet coverage to be reach. In addition of digital and technology era, the availability of internet and device is not limited which make online participation is commonly increase among youth [22].

II. METHODOLOGY

In order to answer the research question, PRISMA method on systematic literature review is used. The PRISMA method help to collect and filter the article and also provide the eligibility and exclusion criteria for selected article.

This systematic literature review process follow three main level which are identification process, article screening and eligibility process and also data abstraction with content analysis process.

A. What is PRISMA

PRISMA is standard for Preferred Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analysis that help to make a clear report of systematic review and content analysis. The usage of PRISMA allowed to identify the current trend of certain issues especially in social science context. By using PRISMA, a large number of article can be examined the author can find the exact article that suitable to the research question according to the exclusion and inclusion criteria process. Therefore, this article were used PRISMA as a method to make a transparent report systematic literature review of online participation as a youth civic action.

B. Resources

Scopus and Google Scholar are the two database that act as resources for this review. The main database is Scopus while the later act as supported database. Scopus is an abstract and citation database that provide by Elsevier which contain about 11 000 publisher and more that 34 000 peer-reviews journal in critical academic subject like social science, medical science and others. Google scholar is database that provide a broadly discipline of academic literature sources. Because it is act as supported database in this review, the selection of article were done by hand picking method but still included the inclusion and exclusion criteria as the first main identification process by Scopus.

C. Eligibility and exclusion criteria

This review paper used a certain eligibility and exclusion criteria to ensure the exact article were extracted. For the article type, only journal article were selected in this review because the merit to the scientific field and also the quality of the finding. Review article, book, book series or book chapter are not included in this review. To avoid wrong translation in the article, only article in English were selected to improve the understanding of the writing. Next, to ensure the latest trend of finding in online participation among youth activities, this article only consists a review of six years latest literature which cover article from 2014 until 2019. The exclusion and inclusion criteria can be understand as in table 1.

Table 1 : Inclusion and exclusion criteria

| <i>Criteria</i> | <i>Inclusion</i> | <i>Exclusion</i> |
|------------------|------------------|---|
| Article type | Article Journal | Book, Chapter Book, Book Series, Proceeding, Review Article |
| Publication Year | 2014 until 2019 | Below 2014 |
| Language | English | Other than English Language |

D. Systematic Review Process

In PRISMA statement, identification of article is the first process that has to be done. Specific keyword and search string (refer table 2) were used for the identification process. By according to the thesaurus, literature review and past

studies, the related keyword for civic engagement were used. At this identification process, three articles are duplicated and exclude from the article list.

After identification process, the 719 articles were going to the next screening process where the articles will be filter according to the articles type, publication year and article language. This screening process end up with 216 article left for the next process. The 216 articles is undergoing a full examine on its abstract and its content which known as eligibility process. 178 article did not meet the requirement to answer this article research question which finally end up with 38 articles for content analysis process. Figure 1 explained the PRISMA process.

Table 2: search string in identification process

| Database | Scopus |
|---------------|--|
| Search String | TITTLE-ABS-KEY(("civi* engagement* form*" OR "civi* engagement* pattern*" OR "civi* society") AND (youth OR "young adult*")) |

E. Data abstraction and analysis

The PRISMA process finally end with 38 article left to be analyses its content that answer this article research question. Rigorous and in dept examine on the abstract and finding of the article has resulted in 9 main theme in civic engagement form among youth.

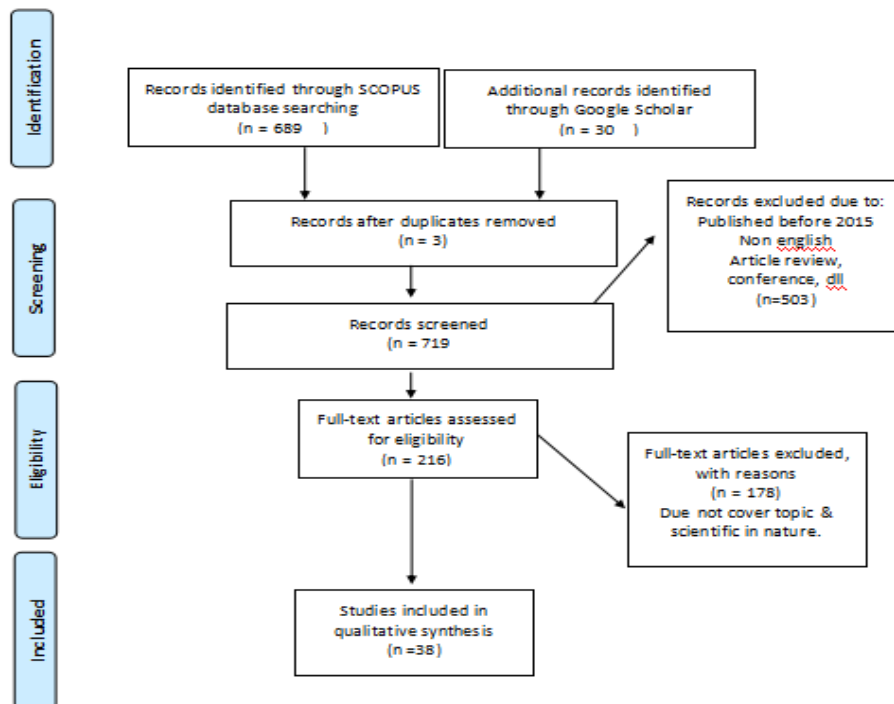


Figure 1 : PRISMA process

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The review on 38 article finally give nine main theme on civic engagement among youth. The nine theme are electoral and political involvement, organization membership, volunteerism activities, training and development, decision makers, online participation, social cohesion, intellectual discourse and civic attitude. In this article review, the result and this discussion is specifically focus on the online participation as the youth civic engagement forms.

12 studies is identified that related to the online participation as civic engagement form among youth which are Beilman et al, 2018 (Czech Republic); Engbers, 2016 (USA); [23].

Sika, 2018 (Middle East); Ahrari et al, 2014 (Malaysia); Bisafaret al, 2018 (USA); Bosch, 2016 (South Africa); Gordon et al, 2016 (USA); Jiang &Kontauts.2018 (China); Machackova&Serek, 2017 (Czech Republic); Marchi& Clark, 2018 (USA); Serek&Machackova, 2015 (Czech Republic). The studies is show in table 3 below.

In addition, five studies is conducted in United State, three studies were done in Czech Republic, one in Middle East Countries, one in South Africa, one in China and one in Malaysia. As for the studies methodology approach, six studies were conducted in qualitative method and the other six were conducted in quantitative method. As for the year of publication analyse, none studies in conduct in 2019, six studied were published in 2018, one study in 2017, three studies in 2016, one study in 2015 and one study in 2014.

Table 4 show the result of activity in online participant. The activity is divide into five categories which are Networking, Sharing, Creating, Active Participant and Other Form. Networking category mean when youth try to connect themself with other people in online form. The activity that found under networking are joining a facebook group, join a social or political group on social media, connecting to a group that related to social or political issues like follow their update, involve in protest or boycott campaign in internet, invite other people to join a social or political group in social media, sign-in in event inviter on social media and try to talk with somebody in online discussion. For sharing category, the activity that can be put under this category are by joining an online hashtag, sharing a news or music or even video that connect to social and political issues on personal profile, sharing a link that contain a social and political context and also sharing info about any youth event on social media to attract other youth participation

The third category in online participation is creating. Creating happen when the youth volunteer to create something that have social or political content and distribute it to public to be share by others. In this review, the creating category involve a certain activity that has been done in previous studies. The activity are post a picture, video, text or anything that related to public issues on personal profile page. They also express their opinion on profile page, writing their personal taught about certain issues on website or blog to be read by others and spread the awareness and lastly, film the event that he attend and post it on personal profile to acknowledge other people about the event. Other that creating, the youth can also be an active participant in online by active involve in online discussion by change opinion with other online member in public issues. In addition, they also used social networking to learn about social and political issues by follow an online news update and rigorously searching about public issues on web page.

Online participation among youth is not about involvement in social media only. The analysis on 12 article also found another form of online participation among youth that connect to the usage of virtual technology. Study in

United State by Engbers, (2016) and Gordon et al, (2016) show that youth were interestingly involve in online gaming that give them a good benefit on their civic action. They also actively participate in online application and online programme that related to the civic engagement and the awareness of public issues. One of the online application that has been prove can attract the interest of youth in this review is interactive online historical mapping application that can be found in Gordon et al, (2016) study in United State.

Table 3: Systematic Literature Review result

| <i>Author/Year/ Country</i> | <i>Electoral & Political Involvement</i> | <i>Organization Membership</i> | <i>Volunteerism Activities</i> | <i>Training &Development</i> | <i>Decision Makers</i> | <i>Online Participation</i> | <i>Social Cohesion</i> | <i>Intellectual Discourse</i> | <i>Civic Attitude</i> |
|---|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Arvanitidis, 2017 (Greece) | / | / | / | | | | | | |
| Baglioni, 2016 (Europe) | / | / | | | | | | | / |
| Ballard et al, 2015 (London) | / | | / | | | | | | |
| Bee &Kaya, 2016 (Turkey) | / | / | | | | | | | |
| Blanford et al, 2015 (USA) | | / | / | | | | | | |
| Christen et al, 2018 (USA) | / | | | | / | | | | |
| Beilman et al,2018 (Czech Republic) | / | | / | | | / | / | | |
| Hoskin et al, 2015 (Europe) | / | | / | | | | | | / |
| Gray et al, 2016 (Cambodia, Ethiopia,Hydreb ad, Kenya, Nagaland | / | | / | | / | | / | | |
| Rakhimova et al, 2016 (Russia) | | | | | / | | / | / | |
| Collins et al, | | / | | | | | | / | / |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2016 (USA) | | | | | | | | | |
| Engbers, 2016 (USA) [14] | / | / | / | | | / | | | |
| Jacobsen &Casalapi, 2016 (USA) | / | / | / | | / | | / | | |
| Laitinen. 2018 (Finland) | | / | / | | | | | | |
| Kanacri, 2016 (Chile) | / | / | / | | | | / | | |
| Luthra, 2018 (USA) [23] | / | / | / | | | / | | | / |
| Macphee, 2017 (Colorado) | | / | / | / | / | | / | / | / |
| Micihski, 2016 (Bosnia & Herzegovina) | / | / | | / | | | | | / |
| Sika, 2018 (Middle East) [37] | / | / | / | | / | / | / | / | |
| Silvan2015 (Russia) | | / | | / | | | | | |
| Spires, 2018 (China) | | / | / | / | | | | | / |
| Muddiman et al, 2019 (South Wales) | / | | / | | | | / | | |
| Ahrari et al, 2014 (Malaysia) [1] | / | / | / | / | / | / | / | / | |
| Bisafar et al, 2018 (USA) [16] | / | | / | | | / | | | |
| Bosch, 2016 (South Africa) [7] | | | | | | / | | | |
| Coe et al, 2015 | | | | | / | | | | / |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (Ecuador & Peru) | | | | | | | | | |
| Gaby, 2015 (USA) | / | | / | | | | | | |
| Gordon et al, 2016 (USA) [15] | | | | | | / | | | |
| Sim & Chow, 2018 (Singapore) | / | | / | / | / | | | / | / |
| Jiang & Kontauts, 2018 (China) [17] | | | / | | | / | | | |
| Karakos et al, 2016 (USA) | | | / | | | | | | / |
| Kupchik & Catlaw, 2014 (USA) | / | | / | | | | | | |
| Kurtenbach & Pawelz, 2015 (Guatemala & Timor Leste) | / | / | | | / | | | | |
| Leek, 2019 (England, Italy, Lithuania) | | | / | | | | | / | / |
| Machackova & Serek, 2017 (Czech Republic) [24] | / | | | | | / | / | | / |
| Marchi & Clark, 2018 (USA) [25] | / | | / | | | / | | | |
| Serek & Machackova, 2015 (Czech Republic) [35] | / | | / | | / | / | / | | / |

Table 4: Online Participation Review result

| <i>Author</i> | <i>Networking</i> | <i>Sharing</i> | <i>Creating</i> | <i>Active Participant</i> | <i>Other Forms</i> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Beilman et al, 2018 (Czech Republic) | / | / | / | / | |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Engbers, 2016 (USA) [14] | | | | | / |
| Luthra, 2018 (USA) [23] | | | / | | |
| Sika, 2018 (Middle East) [37] | / | / | | | |
| Ahrari et al, 2014 (Malaysia) [1] | | | | / | |
| Bisafar et al, 2018 (USA) [16] | / | / | / | | |
| Bosch, 2016 (South Africa) [7] | | / | / | | |
| Gordon et al, 2016 (USA) [15] | | | | | / |
| Jiang & Kontauts. 2018 (China) [17] | / | / | | / | |
| Machackova & Serek, 2017 (Czech Republic) [24] | / | | / | / | |
| Marchi & Clark, 2018 (USA) [25] | | / | / | / | |
| Serek & Machackova, 2015 (Czech Republic) [35] | / | / | | / | |

Table 5: Online participation activities

| <i>Networking</i> | <i>Sharing</i> | <i>Creating</i> | <i>Active Participant</i> | <i>Others Forms</i> |
|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Join Facebook group | Online hashtag | Post picture about public issues on profile page | Discussed social or political issues on internet | Online gaming |
| Joined a social or political group on social media | Share news, music or video with social or political content with people in social network | Post video clip about public issues | Discuss various public issues on online group | Apps and online programme |
| Trying to persuade somebody in an inline discussion | Share info of youth event | Post text about public issues | Learning about civic and political issues in term of using social networking sites | Interactive online historical mapping |
| Connecting to a group with social or political issues | Sharing a link to news, music or video with social or political content with one contact | Expression and representation in online and in person setting | | |

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Sign-in sheets (event inviters) | Sharing personal stories, links, photos, memes and video | Public post on facebook, twitter about community organizing activity | | |
| Participate in an internet based protest and boycott | Film the community meeting he attended and posting then on facebook | Expressing an opinion through a social network site | | |
| Invite people online on different civic activities | | Facebook live features | | |
| Call and involve the media | | Story Instagram and WhatsApp Status | | |
| Join Fandom communities | | Created political content online through video, webpage, blog | | |

IV. DISCUSSION

This article is a systematically review of six years latest on civic engagement form among youth but specifically focus on online participation activity among youth as their civic engagement forms. 12 studies that related to the online participation activity were analyses which finally resulted to the five main category in online participation activity. The most popular activity among youth that can be count as their civic action is sharing activity while the most unpopular activity are the youth involvement in other forms of online participation like their participation in online game and online application that related to the civic content.

The chosen of online participation activity to be review on this article is because of the too much attention is put on the politic and volunteer forms among youth while neglecting the other forms of civic engagement that actually also give specific benefit to the civic development on youth [2]. In particular, the forms and participant in civic are dynamic from time to time. It can be from electoral participant to volunteering in community services, and from conventional political support to the unconventional political protest [13]. Youth are critically give effect on the pattern of civic engagement and their focus in developing civic among them in media world right know are crucial to be analyses [33].

On the other side, the usage of internet among youth are high. In Czech Republic, 99% of their youth is using the internet. This new generation phenomena produce new activity that can related to the civic engagement by connecting to the usage of social media and involvement in any internet based activity. Interestingly, even the involvement in online participation is counted as unconventional forms of civic engagement, the increasing of internet usage is also linked to the increasing of other civic activity in Estonia [30]. According to the Ekman & Amna (2012), it is quite confusing to categorize the conventional and the unconventional form of civic engagement. This is because the civic engagement are dynamic and changing by age group. What may seem as unconventional form to older people might act as conventional form to younger people. This is because, the usage of internet, their involvement in social media are more significant to their civic engagement development rather than any traditional form of civic engagement like voting and political support.

The usage of internet especially social media can connect youth to the larger world which enable them to share news and stories, get update about public issues on time and created their own community that will motivate youth to take a responsible in civic action. Thus, social media also act as a medium for the political participant that involve the five main aspect which are wonder about public issues, communicate and respond to others, sharing of information, creating a new civic content and persuade others to join in political awareness. Other people who do not know about any public issues or civic event will gained knowledge and may join in certain event that they like or just spreading the information. This show that what is considered as unconventional forms of civic engagement at first is actually made a way for conventional forms of civic engagement among youth.

Even sharing activities show the highest ranking on online participation, there is no big gap from other activities as well. By this result, we can conclude that whether by joining online networking, sharing information, create a civic content or even participate actively in internet based discussion, its can forming an online community that take note about public issues and polish each civic engagement behaviour. By sharing information on their personal profile on social media, they will be identify by their network peers and will get the “like” respond, repost the sharing, comment the post, fill the survey or attend to the event as their network peers feedback. All of this make youth feel that their work on sharing information on personal page have its own value and at the same time validate their expression of taught in public. When this happen continuously, youth will feel that they are part of the community with same opinion and experience to the others. According to Papacharissi (2017) [29] this is a connective journalism where the social media can be use as informing, inspiring and enhance the awareness of civic engagement among youth through out the sharing activity. The action of being address by online network peers also make the youth who make the sharing feel the emotion connection with others and become more motivate to actively involve in civic activity [40]. When youth able to express their opinion and feel in public and their opinion are take quite serious by others they will feel like they have responsibility to spread more awareness and share more information on public issues [11]. This is explained why the involvement of youth in online participation especially in sharing activity, popular among them.

For the online content such as post or video, this review also show that youth are prefer to the short video and post as their ways to get interest in public issues. The important of limiting the video duration is to attract their audience interest and they don't want make their peers feel bored if the content of video or post is too long. When their audience is feel interest about certain issues on the video or post, they can open other link or message the one who post the video

or information for details. This is what Brandtzaeg et al (2016) [8] refer as prevalence of visual communication among youth. In online participation practices of youth, content leveraging is important. The different between news in online and news in traditional forms like newspaper or television are about the how big is the content were and how the message is being perform to the audience. The news consumption in online are very popular among youth rather than in traditional forms. Brandtzaeg et al [32] also mention in order to share something new information to the youth, it is important to start with the certain portion of the content to create their interest and engagement.

While information sharing, online networking, civic content creating and active participant are popular in this review, the usage of other digital platform to enhance civic engagement among youth are low. Only two from 12 studies that have the usage of other digital platform. It include online gaming, digital application and online programme and also interactive online historical mapping. Despite of this low resulted in usage of other digital platform as way to enhance civic engagement among youth, digital technologies is actually is universal ways to get people interact to each other around the world [31,19]. Government, activist and civil society organizations use digital technologies to engage with community [31]. The usage of digital platform also can attract youth to become more concern about public issues and also can help them to become a good citizen [4]. By using digital technologies such as online mapping, geospatial technologies, online gaming that have civic element on it may facilitate and educate youth about civic engagement.

V. CONCLUSION

Even the interest in traditional forms of civic engagement among youth are reported decreasing like in voting and political participation, online participation among youth is actually help to regain youth interest about the awareness of the important of their involvement in political participation. This review showed the online participation has give the low cost spaces for youth to express and validate their opinion which make them feel connect to other people. They may be did not have chance to get this spaces in offline surrounding especially in policy change because of their limitation as youth. By involve in online participation, their present and their opinion are welcome and this will make youth feel that they are “somebody” in this community and they have responsible to address community issues and together build peace in the society.

Bisafar et al (2018) state that the study in the contribution on how technologies can give an impact to the development of civic engagement are limited. This article find that digital technologies have important role to the civic engagement but the focus on it are still in ground level. The major discussion about digital technologies are circulate in social media usage but the benefit form other platform is has to be address. This is because, other that social media, youth is also interest in gaming and other application that make them feel fun when spend their time. This review article suggest that future study can find out more about how digital technologies platform other than social media can contribute to the civic engagement awareness among youth.

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