Beyond Disruption and Digital Political Education: Reading the Reality of Disinformation and Polarization in Digital Democracy

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SEIKAT
Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Hukum

e-ISSN: 2964-0962

SEIKAT: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Hukum

https://ejournal.45mataram.ac.id/index.php/seikat

Vol. 5, No. 5, Oktober 2026

Page: 4322 - 4335

Available at:

https://ejournal.45mataram.ac.id/index.php/seikat/article/view/4630

DOI:

https://doi.org/10.55681/seikat.v5i5.4630

Article History:

Received: 06-10-2026
Revised: 19-10-2026
Accepted: 26-10-2026

Abstract *: The rapid expansion of digital technologies and social media platforms has transformed the way citizens access information and participate in democratic processes. However, this transformation has also generated significant challenges, particularly the widespread dissemination of disinformation and the growing phenomenon of political polarization, which threaten the quality of democratic life. This study examines the realities of disinformation and political polarization in digital democracy through the perspective of Beyond Disruption. Employing a qualitative approach with a descriptive-analytical method, the study draws on an extensive review of academic literature related to digital political education, disinformation, polarization, and democratic transformation in the digital era. The findings indicate that digital technologies have significantly expanded access to information and political participation; however, they have also facilitated the spread of disinformation, the formation of echo chambers, and the fragmentation of the digital public sphere. These dynamics contribute to declining public trust, ideological divisions, and challenges to democratic deliberation. The study further demonstrates that digital political education plays a crucial role in strengthening citizens' critical thinking skills, digital literacy, and political awareness in increasingly complex information environments. From the Beyond Disruption perspective, digital transformation should be viewed not only as a source of challenges but also as an opportunity to foster informed, responsible, and participatory digital citizenship, thereby enhancing the resilience and quality of contemporary democracy.*

Keywords *: Digital Democracy; Disinformation; Political Polarization; Digital Political Education.*

Abstrak : Ekspansi pesat teknologi digital dan platform media sosial telah mengubah cara warga mengakses informasi serta berpartisipasi dalam proses demokrasi. Namun, transformasi ini juga menghadirkan tantangan signifikan, terutama penyebaran disinformasi yang luas dan fenomena polarisasi politik yang kian meningkat, yang mengancam kualitas kehidupan demokrasi. Studi ini mengkaji realitas disinformasi dan polarisasi politik dalam demokrasi digital melalui perspektif *Beyond Disruption*. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif melalui metode deskriptif-analitis, studi ini didasarkan pada tinjauan mendalam terhadap literatur akademik mengenai pendidikan politik digital, disinformasi, polarisasi, dan transformasi demokrasi di era digital. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa teknologi digital telah memperluas akses terhadap informasi dan partisipasi politik secara signifikan; namun, teknologi ini juga memfasilitasi penyebaran disinformasi, pembentukan ruang gema (*echo chambers*), serta fragmentasi ruang publik digital. Dinamika ini berkontribusi pada penurunan kepercayaan publik, perpecahan ideologis, dan tantangan terhadap deliberasi demokratis. Studi ini lebih lanjut menunjukkan bahwa pendidikan politik digital memainkan peran krusial dalam memperkuat keterampilan berpikir kritis, literasi digital, dan kesadaran politik warga di tengah lingkungan informasi yang semakin kompleks. Dari perspektif *Beyond Disruption*, transformasi digital sebaiknya tidak hanya dipandang sebagai sumber tantangan, melainkan juga sebagai peluang untuk menumbuhkan kewarganegaraan digital yang terinformasi, bertanggung jawab, dan partisipatif, sehingga dapat meningkatkan ketahanan serta kualitas demokrasi kontemporer.

Kata kunci : Demokrasi Digital; Disinformasi; Polarisasi Politik; Pendidikan Politik Digital.

PENDAHULUAN

The rapid development of digital technology over the last few decades has brought fundamental changes to the ways individuals interact, access information, and participate in political life. The emergence of the internet, social media, and various digital communication platforms has created new public spaces that enable citizens to engage more actively in political processes. This transformation has given rise to the concept of digital democracy, a condition in which digital technologies become an integral part of political communication, public participation, and interactions between citizens and the state. Digital democracy has expanded opportunities for political engagement while simultaneously introducing challenges that may undermine the quality of democracy and public life.

One of the most significant challenges within digital democracy is the increasing spread of political disinformation. Easier access to information has not necessarily been accompanied by improvements in the quality of information received by citizens. Digital platforms facilitate the rapid dissemination of information without adequate verification processes. This condition has encouraged the proliferation of misleading, manipulative, and intentionally fabricated content designed to influence public political perceptions. The phenomenon of disinformation has become more pronounced alongside the growing reliance on social media as a primary source of political information, particularly among younger generations. Disinformation not only influences individual political preferences but also contributes to the formation of public opinion based on inaccurate and misleading information (Zelenov, 2024).

Political polarization represents another prominent challenge within digital democracy (Esau et al., 2025). Digital platforms operate through algorithmic systems that tend to deliver content aligned with users' preferences and behavioral patterns. Such mechanisms create homogeneous communication environments in which individuals are more likely to interact with views that reinforce their existing beliefs. Consequently, digital public spaces experience increasing fragmentation, characterized by the emergence of groups that are isolated from alternative perspectives. The phenomena of echo chambers and filter bubbles intensify political intolerance,

deepen social divisions, and reduce the quality of democratic dialogue. Digital democracy therefore presents not only opportunities for political participation but also new challenges that affect social cohesion and democratic stability.

The realities of disinformation and polarization demonstrate that contemporary democratic challenges extend beyond access to information. They also involve citizens' capacity to understand, evaluate, and utilize information critically. Political education has therefore assumed an increasingly strategic role in strengthening citizens' capacities in the digital era. Political education can no longer be understood merely as the transmission of knowledge about political systems and democratic institutions. It must also cultivate critical thinking skills, information literacy, digital awareness, and the ability to participate responsibly in digital public spaces. Digital political education thus becomes an essential instrument for fostering citizens who are not only technologically literate but also politically reflective and democratically engaged (Muhajir et al., 2025).

The Beyond Disruption perspective is employed as an analytical lens to understand the complexity of these ch3allenges. The concept of Beyond Disruption emerges from a critique of approaches that view technology solely as a force of change requiring adaptation. This perspective emphasizes the importance of understanding digital transformation not merely as a technological shift but also as a social, political, and cultural transformation that influences the quality of democracy. Its primary concern lies in society's capacity to develop critical competencies for addressing the consequences of digital transformation. Within this framework, digital political education is understood as an effort to strengthen democratic resilience through the enhancement of political literacy, information literacy, and digital citizenship awareness.

Research on disinformation, political polarization, and digital democracy has continued to expand over the past five years. Diaz Ruiz & Nilsson (2023) demonstrated that disinformation reinforces echo chambers and political identities on social media platforms. Lorenz-Spreen et al (2022) found that digital media contributes to increasing political polarization and the declining quality of democracy. Meanwhile, Maati et al (2024) explained that digitalization and algorithmic systems amplify the spread of misinformation and have the potential to contribute to democratic decline. Although existing studies have highlighted the relationships among disinformation, political polarization, and digital democracy, research that links digital political education to these phenomena through the lens of the Beyond Disruption perspective remains limited. Therefore, this study offers a novel contribution by positioning Beyond Disruption as an analytical framework for understanding the realities of disinformation and polarization within contemporary digital democracy.

This article aims to analyze digital political education through the perspective of Beyond Disruption by examining the realities of disinformation and polarization in digital democracy. The study focuses on understanding how digital transformation generates new challenges for political education and how the dynamics of disinformation and polarization influence the quality of democratic life. Employing a descriptive-critical analysis, this article seeks to contribute to the growing discourse on digital democracy, digital citizenship, and political education in an increasingly complex post-truth era.

METODE PENELITIAN

This study employs a qualitative method with a descriptive analytical approach to gain an in-depth understanding of the realities of disinformation and polarization in digital democracy through the perspective of Beyond Disruption (Furidha, 2024). This approach was selected because it enables the researcher to explore, interpret, and comprehensively describe socio-political

phenomena emerging within digital spaces. Research data were collected through a library research method, drawing upon scholarly journal articles, books, research reports, policy documents, and other academic publications relevant to digital political education, disinformation, political polarization, and digital democracy. Data analysis was conducted descriptively through the processes of data collection, reduction, organization, and interpretation to identify patterns, relationships, and dynamics emerging across the literature. The Beyond Disruption perspective was employed as an analytical lens to examine how digital transformation not only generates technological change but also creates new challenges for political education and the quality of contemporary democracy. Through this approach, the study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the interconnections among digital political education, disinformation, polarization, and digital democracy in the post-truth era.

HASIL DAN PEMBAHASAN

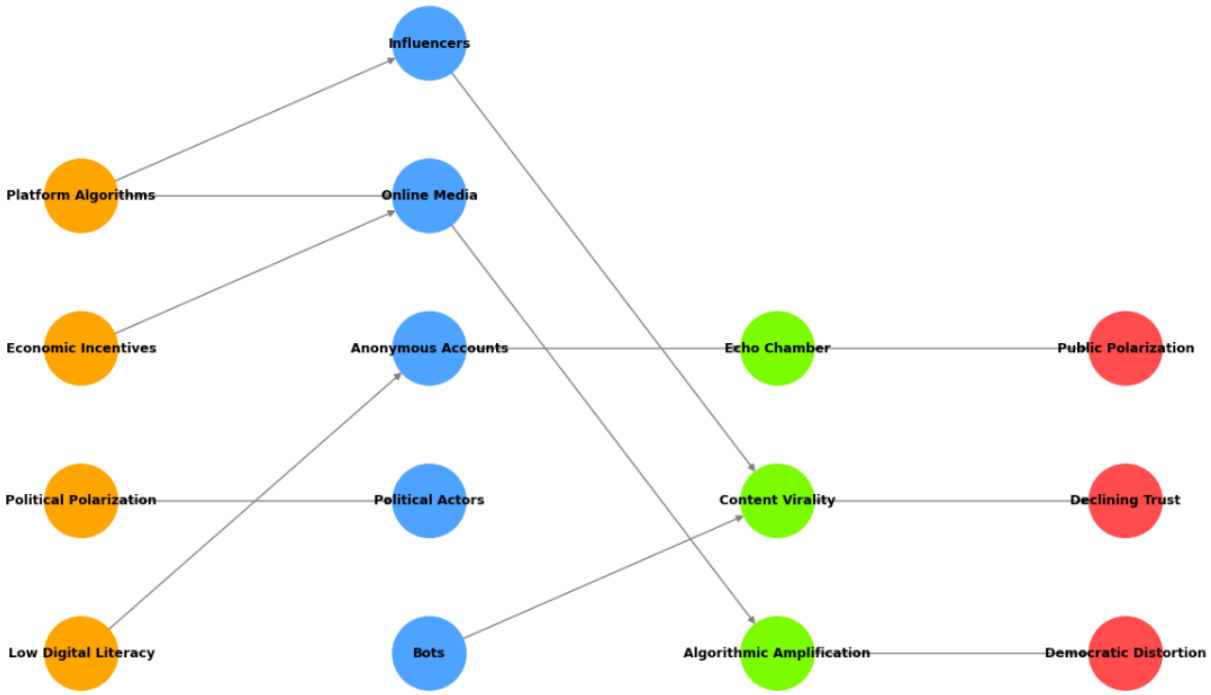
Disinformation as a Manifestation of the Information Crisis in Digital Democracy

Disinformation has emerged as one of the most significant manifestations of the information crisis in contemporary digital democracy. The rapid expansion of digital communication technologies has transformed the way information is produced, distributed, and consumed by citizens. While digital platforms have increased access to information and broadened opportunities for political participation, they have also created an environment in which false, misleading, and manipulated information can spread quickly across networks. The abundance of information available in digital spaces often makes it difficult for individuals to distinguish between credible and unreliable sources. As a result, disinformation has become a persistent challenge that undermines the quality of public discourse and weakens the informational foundations necessary for democratic decision making.

The information crisis generated by disinformation extends beyond the circulation of false content and affects the broader processes through which citizens form political opinions and understand public issues. Digital platforms frequently prioritize engagement-driven content through algorithmic systems that reward sensationalism, emotional appeals, and controversial narratives (Li, 2024). Consequently, disinformation often receives greater visibility and reaches wider audiences than verified information. This condition contributes to the formation of distorted political perceptions, reinforces cognitive biases, and encourages the development of fragmented information environments. Citizens exposed to continuous streams of misleading information may become increasingly vulnerable to manipulation, making democratic deliberation more difficult and reducing the capacity of society to engage in evidence-based political discussions.

The implications of disinformation for digital democracy are substantial because democratic systems depend on informed citizens, public trust, and the availability of reliable information. When disinformation becomes widespread, trust in democratic institutions, media organizations, and public authorities may decline significantly. The erosion of trust creates opportunities for political polarization, social fragmentation, and the weakening of democratic legitimacy. In this context, disinformation should not be viewed merely as a technological problem but as a multidimensional social and political challenge that threatens the resilience of democracy itself. Addressing the information crisis therefore requires strengthening digital political education, promoting critical information literacy, and enhancing citizens' ability to critically evaluate information within increasingly complex digital environments.

Figure 1 Layered Model of Disinformation System in Digital Democracy



Source: Authors' analysis from literature and prior studies on disinformation and digital democracy.

Figure 1 represents a conceptual model of disinformation as a manifestation of the information crisis in digital democracy. This model shows that disinformation does not emerge spontaneously, but rather results from a complex interaction between structural factors, information disseminators, digital distribution mechanisms, and the resulting socio-political impacts. The left side of the diagram lists the main causal factors: platform algorithms, economic incentives, political polarization, and low digital literacy. Digital platform algorithms play a role in determining the type of information presented to users based on engagement patterns and information consumption preferences. Economic incentives encourage various parties to produce content that attracts public attention for financial gain. Political polarization creates a social environment conducive to the spread of partisan narratives, while low digital literacy limits the public's ability to evaluate the credibility and validity of the information they receive. This combination of factors creates a digital environment vulnerable to the production and spread of disinformation.

These structural factors influence the emergence of various actors operating within the disinformation ecosystem, including influencers, online media, anonymous accounts, political actors, and bots. Influencers possess the capacity to shape public opinion through their extensive audience reach and the relatively high level of trust they enjoy among their followers. Online media serve as channels for information dissemination, enabling the rapid spread of narratives to the broader public. Anonymous accounts are often utilized to circulate information without clear identification, thereby reducing accountability for the content being published. Political actors use digital platforms as instruments to shape public perceptions and strengthen political support through the construction of specific narratives (Bennett & Segerberg, 2023). The presence of bots facilitates the automated and large-scale dissemination of information, significantly increasing the exposure of particular messages within a very short period. The diversity of these actors

demonstrates that disinformation is a multidimensional phenomenon involving various political, economic, and social interests.

The dissemination of disinformation generates three primary mechanisms illustrated in the central part of the diagram: echo chambers, content virality, and algorithmic amplification. The echo chamber phenomenon occurs when individuals predominantly interact with groups that share similar viewpoints, resulting in exposure only to information that reinforces their pre-existing beliefs. This condition reduces openness to alternative perspectives and strengthens cognitive biases within society. The characteristics of digital media facilitate content virality, enabling information to spread rapidly and extensively through sharing activities, comments, and user interactions. Platform algorithms further reinforce this process through algorithmic amplification, a mechanism that prioritizes content with high engagement levels without necessarily considering its factual accuracy (Nasiri Bonaki et al., 2025). Consequently, provocative, emotional, or controversial information often gains greater visibility than factual and verified content.

The ultimate consequences of this process are reflected in the emergence of public polarization, declining trust, and democratic distortion. Public polarization occurs as society becomes increasingly fragmented into groups with differing political orientations and ideological perspectives, often leading to the rejection of information originating from opposing groups. The continuous circulation of disinformation contributes to a decline in public trust toward mass media, government institutions, democratic organizations, and official sources of information (Bennett & Livingston, 2023). This situation results in democratic distortion, a condition in which public opinion formation, political participation, and decision-making processes are no longer grounded in accurate and rational information. The study Disinformation as a Manifestation of the Information Crisis in Digital Democracy emphasizes that disinformation constitutes part of a broader information crisis that not only affects the quality of public communication but also threatens the stability, legitimacy, and effectiveness of democratic systems in the digital era.

Political Polarization as a Consequence of the Division of the Digital Public Space

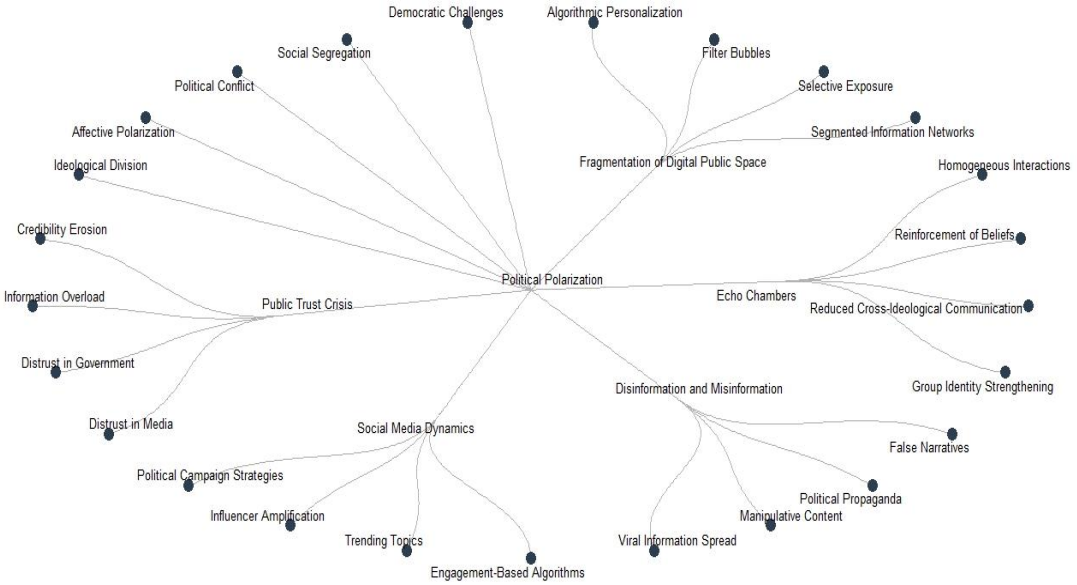
Political polarization as a consequence of the division of the digital public space refers to the growing fragmentation of public opinion in online environments, where individuals are increasingly exposed to information that reinforces their existing beliefs. In digital democracy, platforms are structured by algorithms that prioritize engagement, often amplifying emotionally charged or ideologically aligned content. As a result, users are not only separated by differing political views but are also systematically placed into segmented informational environments that limit exposure to alternative perspectives.

This division is further intensified by the formation of echo chambers and filter bubbles, where social media networks and online communities function as reinforcing spaces for like-minded individuals. Within these environments, political narratives are continuously validated and rarely challenged, leading to increased ideological certainty and reduced openness to dialogue. Over time, this dynamic strengthens in-group cohesion while simultaneously deepening distrust toward opposing groups, institutions, or political actors (Erdoğan & Uyan-Semerci, 2025).

The fragmentation of the digital public space also alters the nature of political communication, shifting it from deliberative exchange toward competitive and often adversarial interactions. Political actors, influencers, and media outlets tend to tailor their messages to specific audiences, further reinforcing segmentation. This targeted communication strategy encourages selective exposure and emotional mobilization, which contribute to heightened tensions and the normalization of polarized discourse in online environments.

Political polarization in the digital public sphere undermines the foundational principles of democratic deliberation, which rely on shared informational spaces and mutual understanding (Dommett & Verovšek, 2021). When citizens operate within isolated digital ecosystems, consensus-building becomes increasingly difficult, and collective problem-solving is weakened. In this context, the division of the digital public space does not merely reflect existing polarization but actively produces and accelerates it as a structural consequence of contemporary information systems.

Figure 2 Political Polarization as a Consequence of the Division of the Digital Public Space



Source: Adapted from the study "Disinformation as a Manifestation of the Information Crisis in Digital Democracy" (Author, Year), processed by the researcher.

Figure 2 illustrates how political polarization has developed as a consequence of the increasingly fragmented digital public sphere in the information technology era. Political polarization is positioned as the central concept at the center of the diagram, demonstrating that this phenomenon is the result of the interaction of various interrelated factors within the digital environment. The digital public sphere, initially intended to be an arena for open information exchange and discussion, has instead experienced fragmentation due to developments in communication technology, social media algorithms, and changes in people's information consumption patterns. This situation has resulted in people no longer obtaining information from the same source, but rather from diverse information environments according to their individual preferences, beliefs, and political orientations. As a result, social groups have become increasingly ideologically separated, making it increasingly difficult to reach a shared understanding of public issues.

One of the primary factors driving political polarization illustrated in the figure is the fragmentation of the digital public space. The fragmentation of the digital public sphere occurs when information flows are divided into various relatively closed communities or networks. This phenomenon is influenced by algorithmic personalization, a mechanism through which algorithms tailor content based on users' search histories, preferences, and interaction patterns on social media platforms (Terenzi, 2024). These algorithms create filter bubbles, a condition in which users are exposed primarily to information that aligns with their existing interests and viewpoints. This

situation is further reinforced by selective exposure, which refers to individuals' tendency to seek information that confirms their beliefs while avoiding information that contradicts them. As a result, segmented information networks emerge, separating social groups into distinct informational environments. This process reduces opportunities for cross-group dialogue and strengthens ideological boundaries within digital society.

Another significant factor contributing to political polarization is the existence of echo chambers. This concept refers to communication environments in which individuals are continuously exposed to opinions and perspectives that align with their own beliefs (Tika Dewi Amelia & Rania Balqis, 2023). As illustrated in the figure, echo chambers generate homogeneous interactions, characterized by communication occurring almost exclusively among individuals or groups sharing similar political views. This condition leads to the reinforcement of beliefs, as existing attitudes and opinions remain largely unchallenged by alternative perspectives that could encourage critical reflection. Furthermore, this phenomenon contributes to reduced cross-ideological communication, resulting in fewer interactions between groups with differing ideological orientations (Enjolras & Salway, 2022). As engagement with opposing viewpoints declines, group identities become increasingly strengthened, leading individuals to perceive their own groups as legitimate while viewing opposing groups as misguided or incorrect. This situation increases the potential for social conflict and deepens political divisions within society.

The figure also demonstrates that the spread of disinformation and misinformation plays a crucial role in intensifying political polarization. Disinformation refers to deliberately fabricated or misleading information intended to deceive audiences, whereas misinformation refers to false information disseminated without the intent to mislead. Both phenomena are facilitated by viral information spread, which enables digital media platforms to distribute information rapidly and extensively to millions of users within a short period. Emotional, controversial, or provocative content is generally more likely to become viral than factual and evidence-based information (Essien, 2025). Moreover, the emergence of manipulative content and political propaganda further undermines the quality of information circulating within digital spaces. Misleading narratives subsequently evolve into false narratives that shape public perceptions based on inaccurate information. As individuals repeatedly encounter and accept false information, political polarization becomes increasingly entrenched, as different groups develop distinct social and political realities.

Social media dynamics also constitute a critical component of this conceptual framework. Social media platforms function not only as communication tools but also as arenas of attention competition driven by algorithms and user engagement metrics (Liang, 2022). The presence of engagement-based algorithms encourages platforms to promote content that generates substantial interactions, including comments, likes, and shares. In many cases, content that evokes anger, fear, or conflict receives higher engagement levels than neutral information. This phenomenon is further reinforced by trending topics, which enable specific issues to attract widespread public attention within a short timeframe. Simultaneously, influencer amplification accelerates the dissemination of political messages, as influencers and social media personalities possess the capacity to shape the perceptions and attitudes of their followers (Wang & Zhang, 2025). Political campaign strategies increasingly utilize social media platforms to target specific audiences through personalized messages. Collectively, these dynamics create a communication environment that is highly susceptible to the intensification of political polarization.

The public trust crisis represents another consequence highlighted in the figure. This crisis is characterized by growing public distrust toward mass media, government institutions, and

democratic organizations. Distrust in media emerges when citizens perceive media outlets as biased or aligned with particular political interests. Distrust in government develops when information circulating in digital spaces raises doubts regarding governmental legitimacy and performance. At the same time, information overload makes it increasingly difficult for individuals to distinguish between accurate and misleading information. This condition is exacerbated by credibility erosion, which refers to the declining credibility of information sources resulting from the widespread dissemination of hoaxes and manipulated content (Caled & Silva, 2022). As public trust continues to deteriorate, individuals become more inclined to accept information that aligns with their group identities rather than information originating from official or authoritative sources.

Increasing political polarization ultimately generates broader social and political consequences. As illustrated in the figure, political polarization is associated with ideological division, referring to the growing separation of society along ideological lines. These divisions evolve into affective polarization, a condition in which individuals not only disagree politically but also develop negative emotional attitudes toward members of opposing groups. This situation heightens the potential for political conflict, as political differences are no longer perceived as a normal aspect of democratic discourse but rather as threats to group identity. Escalating polarization also contributes to social segregation, whereby individuals become increasingly separated according to political affiliations in workplaces, educational institutions, and social communities. More severe consequences are reflected in the emergence of democratic challenges, including diminished capacity for constructive dialogue, weakened public consensus, and increased difficulties in formulating policies that can be accepted across diverse social groups.

The figure illustrates that political polarization results from a complex interaction among the fragmentation of the digital public sphere, the emergence of echo chambers, the spread of disinformation and misinformation, social media dynamics, and the public trust crisis. These factors reinforce one another, creating an increasingly fragmented information environment that hinders the development of inclusive public discourse. The findings suggest that the primary challenge of digital democracy extends beyond access to information and encompasses the ability of societies and democratic institutions to maintain information quality, foster cross-group dialogue, and rebuild public trust amid an increasingly complex digital communication landscape. Therefore, political polarization can be understood as one of the most significant consequences of the transformation of the public sphere in the digital era, requiring serious attention from governments, digital platforms, academics, and society as a whole.

Beyond Disruption's Contribution to Strengthening Digital Political Education

The concept of Beyond Disruption refers to a condition in which digital transformation is no longer understood merely as a disruptive force affecting established social, political, and economic systems, but rather as an opportunity to develop new mechanisms that are more adaptive, inclusive, and participatory. In the context of digital political education, the Beyond Disruption approach emphasizes that advances in information and communication technologies not only generate challenges such as disinformation, political polarization, and the fragmentation of the digital public sphere, but also create opportunities to strengthen citizens' capacity to understand, evaluate, and participate critically in political life. The primary focus therefore shifts from the negative consequences of digital technology toward exploring how societies, governments, educational institutions, civil society organizations, and digital platforms can utilize these technologies to enhance the quality of political education in the digital era.

The expansion of access to political information represents one of the most significant contributions of Beyond Disruption to strengthening digital political education. In the era of

traditional media, access to political information often depended on specific media institutions that acted as gatekeepers (Buyens et al., 2025). The emergence of the internet and social media has transformed this pattern by providing broader access to diverse sources of political information, including government policy documents, political debates, investigative reports, and online public discussions. From the perspective of Beyond Disruption, this development enables citizens to acquire political knowledge more independently without relying on a single source of information. Such expanded access has the potential to improve political literacy, as individuals are able to compare multiple perspectives, evaluate competing arguments, and develop a more comprehensive understanding of political issues.

The creation of more interactive models of political education also constitutes a major contribution of the Beyond Disruption approach. Political education in the past often relied on one-way communication through lectures, formal campaigns, or static educational materials. Digital technology facilitates two-way and even multidirectional communication, allowing citizens not only to receive information but also to respond, ask questions, and participate directly in public discussions. Social media platforms, online forums, political webinars, podcasts, and various digital applications have created more participatory learning environments. Such interactivity is considered capable of enhancing political engagement because the learning process is based on direct experience and continuous dialogue rather than passive information consumption (Biazoti & Sorrentino, 2022).

The ability to reach groups that have traditionally been less involved in formal political education represents another important contribution. Young people, in particular, are among the most active users of digital media in their daily lives. The Beyond Disruption perspective recognizes digital media as an effective tool for connecting political education with the communication habits of younger generations. Political content presented through short videos, infographics, podcasts, animations, and interactive discussions can increase interest in political issues that may otherwise be perceived as complex or unappealing. The use of communication formats that align with the characteristics of digital audiences enables political education initiatives to engage groups that have historically been less involved in formal democratic processes.

The development of critical thinking skills among citizens constitutes a particularly relevant contribution in the context of digital democracy. One of the greatest challenges of the digital information environment is the overwhelming abundance of information, much of which may be inaccurate or unreliable. Digital political education grounded in the principles of Beyond Disruption seeks not only to deliver political knowledge but also to cultivate the analytical skills necessary for evaluating information quality (Connolly et al., 2026). Citizens are encouraged to understand how social media algorithms operate, recognize information biases, verify news sources, and distinguish between facts, opinions, and propaganda. These competencies are essential because the quality of democracy depends not only on the availability of information but also on citizens' ability to interpret information critically and responsibly.

The strengthening of digital literacy as an integral component of political literacy represents another important dimension of the Beyond Disruption approach. Participation in the digital environment requires citizens not only to understand political systems, elections, and public policies, but also to possess the skills necessary to use technology effectively and safely. Digital literacy includes knowledge of data security, digital privacy, online communication ethics, and awareness of the risks associated with information manipulation. The integration of digital literacy with political literacy enables citizens to participate in the digital public sphere in a more informed and responsible manner (Polizzi, 2025). As a result, digital political education extends beyond the

transmission of political knowledge to encompass the technological competencies required in contemporary digital societies.

The promotion of multi-stakeholder collaboration in the implementation of digital political education constitutes another significant contribution. Strengthening political education cannot be achieved solely by governments or educational institutions. Social media platforms, civil society organizations, digital communities, academics, mass media organizations, and private-sector actors all play important roles in creating a healthy political education ecosystem. Collaborative approaches facilitate the wider dissemination of political information, the development of innovative digital literacy programs, and the enhancement of societal capacity to address the challenges of digital political communication. Such collaboration reflects the principles of network governance, in which diverse actors work together to achieve the shared objective of improving democratic quality through inclusive political education.

The enhancement of more substantive forms of political participation is also an important outcome of the Beyond Disruption approach. Digital technologies enable citizens not only to access political information but also to engage directly in public decision-making processes. Various forms of digital participation, including online public consultations, electronic petitions, policy discussion forums, and citizen complaint platforms, provide opportunities for individuals to express their views more easily and effectively. Effective digital political education helps citizens understand how to utilize these mechanisms productively. Political participation therefore extends beyond voting during elections and evolves into sustained engagement in democratic processes on a daily basis (Theocharis & de Moor, 2021).

The strengthening of inclusiveness in political education represents another dimension that highlights the relevance of Beyond Disruption. Digital technologies make it possible to distribute political education materials to areas that have traditionally been difficult to reach through formal educational programs. Citizens living in remote regions, vulnerable populations, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities gain greater opportunities to access political information through digital platforms (Espinosa Zárate et al., 2023). This approach emphasizes that digital transformation should be utilized to reduce inequalities in information access and promote greater equality in political participation. Digital technology thus functions as an instrument for expanding the democratization of political knowledge across different segments of society.

The promotion of a more deliberative political culture constitutes another important contribution in the era of digital communication. Digital spaces provide opportunities for citizens to discuss, debate, and exchange views on public issues more openly. Although digital environments are often associated with conflict and polarization, the Beyond Disruption approach seeks to direct technological development toward constructive dialogue. Digital political education contributes to the development of communication skills that encourage respect for diverse viewpoints, tolerance of differences, and peaceful conflict resolution. Such a deliberative culture serves as an essential foundation for democratic sustainability because it supports more inclusive and rational public decision-making processes (Rask & Shin, 2024).

The contribution of Beyond Disruption to strengthening digital political education ultimately lies in its ability to shift perspectives from viewing technology merely as a source of disruption to recognizing it as a tool for citizen empowerment. The expansion of information access, the enhancement of interactive learning, the strengthening of digital and political literacy, the development of critical thinking skills, the promotion of political participation, the expansion of inclusiveness, and the cultivation of a deliberative democratic culture collectively demonstrate

that digital transformation can serve as a strategic instrument for improving the quality of political education in the digital age. This approach not only helps societies adapt to technological change but also fosters the development of digital citizens who are more critical, participatory, and responsible in their engagement with political life.

KESIMPULAN DAN SARAN

The study concludes that disinformation and political polarization have become two major challenges in contemporary digital democracy, driven by the fragmentation of the digital public sphere, the spread of misleading information, and the dynamics of algorithm-driven social media platforms. Digital transformation has expanded opportunities for political participation and access to information; however, it has also facilitated the emergence of echo chambers, filter bubbles, declining public trust, and increasing ideological divisions within society. These conditions threaten the quality of democratic deliberation and weaken social cohesion. From the perspective of Beyond Disruption, digital political education emerges as a strategic approach to addressing these challenges by strengthening digital literacy, critical thinking, political awareness, and responsible civic participation. Therefore, enhancing citizens' capacities to critically evaluate information and engage constructively in digital public spaces is essential for fostering a more resilient, inclusive, and democratic digital society.

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