

Digital exposure to political news in Iraq through social media platforms: A survey study on a sample of Iraqi youth Preparation

By

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Abstract

The aim of the research is to study the reality of digital exposure to political news through social media platforms through a survey study on a sample of Iraqi youth, and the impact of this exposure on the political scene, and to study the role of electronic armies in the choices of Iraqi youth, and to highlight the importance of what digital communication platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and others offer. To achieve the objectives of the study, the descriptive-analytical approach was followed, relying on references, research, and academic studies in building the theoretical framework, as for the field study, a questionnaire was designed consisting of 20 questions in themes (the impact of social networking sites, the issue of political news for social media, the general state of the political situation in Iraq). The research concluded that digital exposure to political news is at the fore in social media compared to other news for Iraqi youth, and that there is a statistical significance of the impact of social networking sites (tension-Facebook) on shaping the political trends of society. And there was a statistically significant impact of digital exposure to rumors and incorrect political news that are leaked by electronic armies on the general state of the situation in Iraq.

Keywords: Exposure - digital media - political news - social media platforms - Twitter - Facebook - Iraqi youth.

Introduction

The great importance of information technology has emerged in the current era, as it has overlapped with various aspects of daily life. Especially with the mixing of the media with it, and the emergence of a new era called (the era of digital communication), which brought about changes in the global political reality in general, and in particular in the Middle East, where digital exposure to news contributed to bringing about great changes in the region.

The media technologies were able to employ the media as a new weapon in the hands of the major countries, and it was later called (soft power), which took the place of the traditional weapon to control third world countries. The need for soft power was clear, and it emerged with the difficulty of concealing the material cost and human loss that it suffered. The United States and its allies in the occupation of Iraq, for example (Kandalji, 2009),

Political news grabbed the attention of all age groups and was able to break the stereotypical thought that is meant to prevail! And that is by presenting the same news from different intellectual standpoints through digital platforms, and this is what was not previously known to the media of television, radio and newspapers, as the news is now presented on specialized news platforms, it provided an opportunity to build a thoughtful criticism and to form corrective or perhaps counter-opinions to the way of thinking in which the political process is managed in Iraq, which created an enlightened intellectual environment that contributed to the creation of critics, opinion-holders, or activists.

The digital exposure to political news is almost ranked first in Iraq if it is measured statistically by exposure to other interests, due to the continuation of political crises as a daily event that Iraqis interact with through their accounts on social networking sites, specifically (Facebook and Twitter).

And if tracking political interests appears clear, as soon as you access social networking sites, and after selecting the content (search) and with the click of a button, you will find digital exposure to political news topping the volume of interaction compared to other exposures.

The distortion of the image or the scene, and the attempt to mislead public opinion also register a presence when exposed to political news, as delusion is an attribute that attempts to tamper with limited-minded minds by broadcasting or publishing news through accounts led by what has become known as (electronic armies), whose mission is to determine the digital public's compass in one direction only. Not only in the direction of people or subjects.

It is no longer the military power that armies possess, the only one that determines the fate of conflicts, and the popular base of the parties is no longer the one who determines their strength within countries, but rather the information that each party has about the other, and the speed of the spread of this information and its impact on the formation of political awareness among citizens, and communication platforms were a conducive factor in gathering information and disseminating news, due to its ease of use and low cost. (Al-Dinani, 2001).

Chapter one

Research methodology

First: research problem:

The research problem here is to know the impact of social media platforms inside Iraq on the political thought organization of Iraqi youth and its role in shaping their opinions, trends and political stances, especially since Iraq has witnessed a popular political movement for three years calling for reforms and changes and fighting corruption in all its forms.

Second: research questions:

- 1- Is there a statistical significance of the impact of social networking sites (Twitter-Facebook) on shaping the political trends of society?
- 2- Has it been statistically proven that digital exposure to political news tops social media platforms compared to other digital forms of exposure such as (sports - art - etc).
- 3- Is there a statistically significant effect of digital exposure from false political rumors spread by electronic armies on the general state of the situation in Iraq?

Third: research importance:

This research derives its importance from its presentation of the topic of the impact of social media platforms on Iraqi youth today, whether in a negative or positive way. The importance of the research is reflected in the following points:

1. The lack of Arab media studies in general, and Iraqi media in particular, about the news that users of social media platforms are exposed to on their lives as peoples in political terms.
2. This research derives its importance from the fact that social media platforms represent the alternative world: this means that these sites are being critiqued of reality, and give birth to ideas and methods of importance, and new ways of organizing, cooperation and

training, and this alternative world deals with sensitive issues in social and political mechanisms and economic and tensions between control and freedom, between work and unemployment, and between the opposition and the government.

3. The growing importance of internal and external political issues that concern and affect the Iraqi people.
4. The growing threat of electronic armies that change their agenda every period to mislead Iraqi public opinion.

Fourth: the research objectives:

The research aims to highlight the volume of digital exposure to political news, which is at the forefront of social media platforms compared to other news for Iraqi youth, and to come up with suggestions and recommendations that contribute to developing the role of digital communication platforms in political life.

It also aims to study the impact of media misinformation that some people resort to in order to attract and deceive citizens, in addition to the impact of news on social media platforms on Iraqi political life.

Fifth: the research areas:

The research areas are

Human Borders: It consisted of Iraqi youth, males and females of different age groups.

Spatial boundaries: This study was limited in its spatial boundaries to the Republic of Iraq.

Time limits: The field section of this study was applied in March 2021.

Sixth: the search terms

Digital exposure: A term given to the process of viewing any content within social media platforms, messaging platforms, chat platforms, and cell phones using a type of digital technology, and exposure is a set of repeated actions by which a group of means is used aimed at spreading terror in the target group of people. or bullying them or practicing some kind of defamation on them.

Social media platforms are websites that run through websites or cellular applications that allow those who use them to communicate with other users through association in interconnected and complex network domains.

These sites allow everyone to create accounts with them, allowing everyone to communicate directly and immediately with each other, through several tools such as: (chat messages, voice or video calls). Using internet connection technology. an example of these platforms: (Facebook, Twitter).

Political news: It is news related to clarifying the effective impact of politics on social life, in which all current and historical political events are analyzed, and their results are discussed, and policy actions are explained, through a group of journalists, article writers, analysts, experts, media professionals and politicians in political news channels and platforms.

Survey study: It is one of the methods that is concerned with a comprehensive study of some social phenomena that are widespread, including groups and within certain places, but at the present time. By collecting specific information, studying the problem in detail, measuring the trend of public opinion, and developing new plans (Ong & Uddin, 2020; Pécora et al., 2021; Petit & Marnewick, 2021).

Iraqi youth: they mean young men and women of different age groups

The Republic of Iraq: An Arab country located in Western Asia overlooking the Arabian Gulf, its borders: Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in the south, Turkey in the north, Iran in the east, Syria and Jordan in the west, a member of the Organization of Arab States and a founding member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries It includes eighteen provinces.

Chapter Two

Theoretical Framework

Electronic news: It can be defined as information that is published electronically, and it is a modern media that began to be dealt with it with the advent of the Internet, where it is published electronically, and periodically on the Internet, usually having the same general form as printed newspapers with the possibility of providing them with descriptive data such as pictures, videos and audio clips. On the Internet in addition to the presence of its newspapers and magazines printed in the market (Al-Faisal, 2006) and today most of the electronic newspapers operate on a subscription or pay-per-view system.

Electronic armies: they are people who follow certain parties, they create accounts with fake names, and then these accounts are managed by bots to make these fake accounts participate in discussions and support hashtags, and electronic armies hack the websites of prominent personalities or even international institutions (Abdul Ghaffar, 2016).

Information technology concept

Information technology, abbreviated (IT), is a broad discipline concerned with technology and aspects related to the processing and management of information. Information technology deals with electronic computers and computer software. Its work is based on storing, transferring, protecting and processing information, and transfer and retrieval of information as well. The term is usually used to refer to computers and computer networks, but it also includes other technologies such as the telephone and television. (Kandilji, 2009), in addition to the great role of many social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook in Iraq in particular, in what they play in feeding the presence of what was previously explained.

The concept of political awareness

It is the individual's understanding and awareness of the reality of his society and his international and regional surroundings, determining the nature of the political, social and economic conditions surrounding him, knowing the problems of the age and the influential and effective forces in decision-making globally and nationally. awareness is also the way for the individual to know his rights and duties in all systems. The individual also needs a system of political knowledge that includes different political values and trends, through which he can identify the circumstances and problems that surround him, determine his position and place in them and contribute to change or development. (Al Shami, 2012)

Soft power

This term refers to the inclusion of individuals into a particular political, social, or religious current without coercion by the use of force, and was coined by Joseph Nye of Harvard University, who issued it in his book "Ability to Lead the Changing Nature of American Power" in 1990, he also updated and expanded this term in his book "Soft Power:

The Means of Success in International Politics" issued in 2004, as the inventor of this concept, Joseph Nye, says that in the information age, credibility is the rarest resource.

This term has become very popular in the world of politics, where it was used by the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party Hu Jintao in 2007, saying that China needs to increase its soft power, and it was also used by US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, referring to the need to strengthen American soft power by increasing spending on civilian tools of national security with diplomacy and strategic communications, providing foreign assistance and reconstruction and economic development. (S. Nye Jr, 2012)

Soft power derives its ability through the power of attraction, persuasion, and evasion, as it is known that military force is hated, giving its owner the ability to destroy the opponent and protect allies. as for economic power, it gives its owner the ability to reward allies, and deprive opponents of advantages and benefits. But soft power does not allow the ability to punish or reward, but only the ability to influence indirectly and from a distance. (Soft Power: The Means to Success in Politics (S. Nye Jr, 2012)

The role of digital communication in cultural diversity among peoples

Digital means of communication have helped connect individuals with each other, in different parts of the world

And it was able to break the isolation of society, and it also overcame the restrictions of time and distance. These methods were able to end the spatial and temporal limits, which led to interaction and participation among all, and contributed to strengthening cultural diversity. It also helped to learn a lot about the cultures of peoples from the outside, and to enrich the culture internally. But this technology, on the other hand, created a divide between East and West. among the countries that were able to develop them in proportion to their interests, and the countries that used them to express opinion because of fear of the authorities. This does not negate the positive aspect of it in influencing peoples through its characteristics and content, it is considered a gateway through which a person overlooks the whole world, through which he sees his culture, progress and civilization. It also guarantees freedom of expression for various forms of artistic, cultural, social and religious practices, and thus guarantees the right to cultural diversity. (Solomon, 2020)

The role of the media in shaping political trends

Although many researchers are deeply convinced that the political behavior of individuals in the world of politics, which the media contribute to its formation with the presence of a number of psychological, social and demographic variables that contribute to changing the formation of the image, however, the individual seeks at the same time to be exposed to the political communicative material that is compatible with his tendencies and to stay away from those that contradict him.

Previous studies

Good Man, a 2008 study titled "Young Canadians in Federal Elections and the Use of Facebook for Citizenship Tracking," began with the gradual withdrawal of young voters with the aim of explaining the low voter turnout in Canada and other democracies.

This study was conducted on the social networking site Facebook during the 2008 federal election campaign in Canada to collect the political developments of young people within their civic obligations

The study found that young people who did not participate in voting were members of discussion groups that cause an ideological change and may contribute to changing their concept of citizenship.

Amman Study: It was conducted in 2010 with the aim of knowing the use of Twitter by US Senate candidates in their electoral campaigns. The study concluded that all candidates, regardless of where they are, use Twitter except for one, and that all candidates used Twitter in their election campaigns, and the content and extent of their use varies. Therefore, the campaign depends on the state being nominated for and the intensity of the competition between them to reach the Senate.

The study indicates that the content sent by the candidates via Twitter was in two parts: a section related to the elections clearly and explicitly, and a second section that built their tweets according to public opinion. However, the researchers found statistical significance confirming the existence of a direct relationship between voter turnout and the presence of tweets related to elections.

Bushra Al-Rawi study (April 2012) entitled "The role of social networking sites in change

The study aimed to pay attention to the role of social networking sites and the topic of the age, which is the youth movement and the growing role of young people in drawing the map of political change in the Arab world.

It also focused on the importance of electronic communication sites, if they are used to contribute to upholding the values of knowledge, criticism, review and self-dialogue, the study focused on social networking sites and their role as an alternative media, on the grounds that they are one of the platforms for criticism of the work of governments on the one hand, and on the other hand, a means of communication between rulers, decision-makers and the people, and that the absence of dialogue leads to an imbalance in the relationship between them.

The study concluded that it is possible for anyone who wants to use social networking sites, as it is one of the easy and inexpensive means of disseminating news and opinions in written, audio, or visual multimedia formats.

In the results, the researcher focused on the emergence of many negative aspects of the new media, as it lacks clarity with regard to its field and extent, and may mean that the new media forms reflect the science of skepticism, relativism, chaos and most of the common descriptions of contemporary cultures, she clarified that electronic communication sites do not represent the main factor for bringing about change in societies, but they are an important factor in preparing the requirements for change, given that the opinions and political awareness of peoples are formed thanks to the Internet and the digital space.

Sarah John (May 2012) study in her study of the development of the world "The role of social networking sites in the Arab Spring

The study focused on the uses of digital technology and social networking sites in particular in relation to the manifestations of democracy. The study clarified the extent to which Western countries support the spread of democracy, as much positive attention has been given to the impact of technology in supporting revolutions, in fact the first use of social networking sites by dissident groups to contribute to civil disobedience was in Moldova, a small country between Romania and Ukraine, in April 2009. the study showed that the Internet is a useful development for the dissemination of information and for gathering news, while the function of social media is to link groups and coordinate between individuals, and mobile phones are to

take pictures of what is happening and disseminate them and make them available to the wide world.

Al-Kindi Study 2013

It is a study conducted in 2013 on a sample of Kuwaiti youth between the ages of 17-25, and it included 564 individuals (263 males-301 females) to try to discover the uses of social networking sites and their impact on youth, especially within the local community and trying to link some societal changes and the use of these sites, the study included 4 sites, namely Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and direct conversations on the WhatsApp application, the study concluded that the use of social networking sites by this age group significantly it may be because they are the most reactive segment with technology, especially communication technology. the study revealed the importance of social media for this segment, with a statistical significance for differences in use between the sexes.

Commenting on previous studies

The studies that were mentioned showed that the new media has great importance at the global level, due to the role it plays in activating social relations between individuals, through the characteristics that distinguish it from the official traditional media. its ability to adapt to the development of the means of communication, and it's almost total liberation from government control and authority, as well as political pressures. And then the transformation that occurred at the functional level of the new media, where he moved from a tool for acquaintance and communication between people to a tool for bringing about political change, especially the role he succeeded in playing at the level of Arab and global democratic change. Studies have shown that the demand for political change did not start from the Internet, but was born from the street, and the new media appeared as a complementary factor to it. these spaces are open to rebellion, to put forward requirements and needs, and to give an honest opinion. Where it started with introversion and shyness and ended with a revolution against political regimes! the researcher hopes that this research will represent a path for new research dealing with the same issue of exposure and its development with other models.

Chapter Three

The Practical Framework

Research Methodology

The analytical descriptive approach was used to study the reality of digital exposure to political news in Iraq through social media platforms (a survey study on a sample of Iraqi youth), as references, research and academic studies were relied upon in building the theoretical framework, as for the field study, a questionnaire consisting of 20 questions was designed in the axes (**the impact of social media platforms, the issuance of political news to social media platforms, the general state of the political situation in Iraq**) to examine the impact of digital exposure to this quality of news on young people in Iraq.

Search tool

The questionnaire was adopted as a tool for obtaining data to complete the practical aspect of the study, as it was relied on the efforts of researchers and previous relevant studies and benefited from them in building the questionnaire. The questionnaire is divided into two parts:

The first section: relates to the demographic data of the research sample and includes

two variables, namely (age, gender).

The second section: shows the variables related to the reality of digital exposure to political news through 3 axes, 20 questions to measure, as shown in Table (1) as follows:

Table (1). *The hypotheses of the study to be measured.*

	1	2	3
the hub	Impact of social media platforms	Leading political news for social media platforms	The general state of the political situation in Iraq
questions	1-6	7-12	13-20
number of questions	6	6	8

The five-point Likert scale, which consists of 20 questions, was adopted in our study, and the response range ranged from (5-1) as shown in Table (2):

Table (2): *The extent of response according to the five-point Likert scale.*

Strongly Agree	Agreement	neutral	not agree	Strongly Disagree
1	2	3	4	5

Community and sample research

The study was applied to young women and men in Iraq.

The research samples

An available random sample of 100 young men and women was tested.

The statistical methods used

The questionnaires were distributed and retrieved, then they were downloaded to the statistical analysis program (IBM SPSS) and conclusions were drawn from them. The following tests were applied:

- 1- Cronbach's Alpha test, which was used to test the validity and reliability of the resolution.
- 2- Calculating percentages and frequencies for demographic factors (gender, age).
- 3- Calculating the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the answers of young men and women in order to explore and describe the data and elicit answers to the study questions.

The second topic: the statistical study (data collection and analysis)

Test validity and reliability of the resolution

The Alpha Cronbach Scale (Alpha) was used to test the validity and reliability of the research tool, and the results were as shown in Table (3):

Table (3). *Shows the validity and reliability of the questionnaire items.*

NO.	the hub	number of questions	Stability Coefficient (Alpha)	honesty coefficient
1	Impact of social media platforms	6	0.82	0.90
2	Leading political news for social media platforms	6	0.85	0.92
3	The general state of the political situation in Iraq	8	0.79	0.88
4	All questionnaire phrases	20	0.82	0.90

We note from the previous table (3) that the value of the stability coefficient of the resolution items is high and greater than (0.5) and close to (one), which indicates that the resolution is stable to a high degree, meaning that its statements are consistent with each other, and by looking at the validity coefficient, which is the square root of the reliability coefficient, we also conclude that the resolution is honest, that is, it represents the sample population well.

Descriptive statistics

The descriptive study was conducted for the demographic variables in addition to each of the questionnaire's axes to extract the public opinion of the Iraqi youth.

First: Descriptive statistics of demographic variables

Gender Variable

The percentages and frequencies were calculated for the variable of sex, where the percentages and frequencies for this variable were listed in Table (4) as follows:

Table (4). Shows the percentages and frequencies for the sex variable.

The ratio%	the number	Gender
56%	56	Male
44%	44	female
100%	100	Total

We note from the previous table that the majority of the sample members are males (56%), while the percentage of females was (44%), as shown in Table (4) above.

Age variable

The percentages and frequencies of the age variable were calculated for the elements of the research sample. The percentages and frequencies for this variable were listed in Table (5) as follows:

Table (5): Shows the percentages and frequencies for the age variable.

The ratio%	the number	Age
48%	48	From 18 and under 28 years old
31%	31	From 28 and under 38 years old
11%	11	From 38 and under 48 years old
%10	10	48 years and over
100%	100	Total

We note from Table (5) that the majority of individuals were between the ages of 18 and less than 28 years, where their percentage reached (48%), and the least percentage (10%) was for the sample members who are over 48 years old.

Second: Descriptive statistics for questionnaire phrases

The arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the answers to each of the questionnaire statements were calculated, and to estimate the results of the mean, the categories of the five-point Likert scale were relied on, starting from 1 and ending at 5.

We have calculated the range:

$$\text{Range} = 5 - 1 = 4$$

To calculate the length of the category, we divide the range by the number of estimates, i.e.: $(4/5 = 0.80)$

Thus, the estimations of the arithmetic mean values are as evident in the following table (6):

Table (6). Shows the estimates of the arithmetic mean values.

Average value	1 to less than 1.80	From 1.80 to less than 2.60	From 2.60 to less than 3.40	From 3.40 to less than 4.20	From 4.20 to less than 5
Appreciation	Strongly Disagree	not agree	neutral	Agreement	Strongly Agree

The first axis: the impact of social media platforms.

The following table (7) shows the values of the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the answers of the sample members on the first axis phrases in the questionnaire as follows:

Table (7): Shows the arithmetic mean and standard deviation for the first axis (the effect of social media platforms.)

NO.	The phrase	Arithmetic average	standard deviation	The result
1	believe all the news you see on social media.	3.21	0.428	neutral
2	spend many hours every day browsing social media platforms.	3.92	0.374	Agreement
3	follow influencers on social media and follow their example.	3.10	0.894	neutral
4	When an issue is posted to a hashtag, you contribute the post.	3.68	0.67	Agreement
5	comment on or Tweet a post with your own opinion when you see that the person posting disagrees with your opinion, ideas, or beliefs.	3.52	0.637	Agreement
6	came across a post or tweet that changed your personal opinion of something.	3.48	0.994	Agreement
	The first axis: the impact of social media platforms.	3.48	1.047	Agreement

We note that the result of Table (7) agrees, and this gives us a preliminary result that social media platforms have a significant impact on Iraqi youth, and we also draw the following results:

- 1- It can be said that a good percentage of the Iraqi youth have sufficient awareness in terms of believing in the political news that is published on the social media platforms.
- 2- Many Iraqi youth spend a long time on communication platforms, and this is a dangerous indicator, and indicates that the use of communication platforms has become of great importance to young people at this time.
- 3- Many Iraqi youth follow the influencers of communication platforms, and this matter is dangerous because false news or rumors may be spread by this influencer (artist, singer, writer, etc.) and it is immediately believed by his followers, or perhaps this person - the influencer It is affiliated with a government agency or a third party, or it is controlled by the parties to the political conflict in Iraq.
- 4- One of the biggest dangers is the participation of young people in the hashtags that top the headlines without paying attention to the content of this news, as it may be a rumor and, in this way, rumors are spread at lightning speed on the communication platforms.
- 5- The conflicts and discussions that young people engage in with differing opinions, creeds, or political orientations in the comments are the biggest reason for the spread of sectarian and political strife among young people, which in the long run leads to a socio-political gap in Iraq.
- 6- Most of the sample members agreed that he might change his personal opinion or political orientation based on someone's post or tweet, and this is frightening, because this

means that communication platforms have had a great impact on the minds of young men and women.

The first question of the research: Is there a statistical significance of the impact of social media platforms on shaping the political orientations of society.

Therefore, according to the previous six results, it can be concluded that there is a statistical significance of the impact of social media platforms (Twitter-Facebook) on shaping the political orientations of society.

The second axis: lead the political news on social media platforms.

Table (8) shows the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the answers of the sample members on the expressions of the second axis in the questionnaire as follows:

Table (8). Shows the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the second axis (political news lead for social media platforms).

NO.	The phrase	Arithmetic average	standard deviation	The result
1	Interested in political news more than the rest of the news.	3.64	0.284	Agreement
2	When you wake up you search for fresh political news.	3.26	0.873	neutral
3	share political news on your personal page.	2.89	0.718	neutral
4	follow several governmental or non-governmental news pages.	3.59	0.479	Agreement
5	follow official and reliable sources of political news such as (Reuters).	3.12	0.619	neutral
6	political news tops the headlines of social media platforms.	4.06	0.223	Agreement
The second axis: the top political news for social media platforms		3.42	0.948	Agreement

We note that the result of Table (8) agrees, and this gives us a preliminary result that for Iraqi youth, political news is at the fore on social media platforms, and we also draw the following results:

- 1- The Iraqi youth are more interested in political news than in other news.
- 2- Most of the Iraqi youth share political news on their personal pages, which contributes to the rapid dissemination of this news.
- 3- It is wrong to consider that the Iraqi youth only follow the news issued by the government. Other sources have a share of the interest of the Iraqi youth, especially since in the opinion of some of them, the government news is not credible at all times, instead of the government media staying away from mentioning some news. Politics that are published on other sources.
- 4- According to the statistics in this research, it can be said that the Iraqi youth have a good rate of awareness in terms of their choice of news sources, but this does not negate being drawn into rumors that are spread from unofficial or unreliable sources.
- 5- Iraqi youth see that political news tops the headlines of communication platforms, and they find more interest in it than other news such as (art, sports, ...).

The second question from the research questions: Is it statistically proven that digital exposure to political news is at the forefront of social media compared to other news such as

(sports - art - etc.).

Answer: According to the previous results extracted from Table (8), we see - according to the answers of the sample members - that digital exposure to political news takes precedence over social media compared to other news.

The third axis: the general state of the political situation in Iraq.

Table (9) shows the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the answers of the sample members on the expressions of the third axis in the questionnaire as follows:

Table (9). Shows the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the third axis (the general state of the political situation in Iraq).

no.	The phrase	Arithmetic average	standard deviation	The result
1	the general state of the political situation in Iraq is bad.	3.56	0.426	Agreement
2	social media platforms as one of the main drivers of the political situation in Iraq.	3.71	0.389	Agreement
3	aware of the term electronic army (electronic flies).	3.36	0.856	neutral
4	the news that peoples are sharing a lot on social media platforms is true.	2.94	0.815	neutral
5	the political news associated with a tag is true, just because this hashtag has become widespread.	3.22	0.923	neutral
6	Believe any political rumor spread.	3.09	0.729	neutral
7	Emotional style affects you in speech, news, or political statement.	3.39	0.987	neutral
8	notice the emotional style used by a piece of news or a statement.	3.33	0.894	neutral
	The third axis: the general state of the political situation in Iraq	3.32	1.154	neutral

After noting the table (9), it is expressed as follows:

1. Iraqi youth see that the general state of the political situation in Iraq is bad.
2. Iraqi youth see social media platforms as one of the main drivers of the political situation in Iraq.
3. Most of the Iraqi youth are aware that there are electronic armies that broadcast and spread news and rumors to destabilize the political situation in Iraq, but not everyone is aware of the reality of the existence of such people.
4. For some Iraqi youth, the widely circulated news is true, and this topic is dangerous, as some electronic armies may work to raise the label of something related to news or rumors to convince the public of the validity of this spread news.
5. Most of the Iraqi youth are affected by the emotional style of spreading news, and this is a dangerous indicator and evidence of the impact of communication platforms on the political orientations of young men and women, but on the other hand, some young people have sufficient awareness to notice the emotional discourse in some political news.

The third question: Is there a statistically significant effect of the digital exposure of rumors and false political news broadcast by electronic armies on the general state of the

situation in Iraq?

The answer to this question: There is a statistically significant effect of digital exposure of rumors and false political news that is broadcast by electronic armies on the general state of the situation in Iraq, and this is what we extracted from the results taken from the previous table (9).

Results

1. Social media platforms have a huge impact on Iraqi youth.
2. It can be said that a good percentage of Iraqi youth have sufficient awareness in terms of believing in the political news that is published on social media.
3. Many Iraqi youth spend a long time on social media platforms, and this is a dangerous indicator, and indicates that their use has become of great importance to young people at this time.
4. Many Iraqi youth follow social media influencers, and this is dangerous because false news or rumors may be spread by this influencer (artist, singer, writer, etc.) and they are instantly believed by his followers, or perhaps this person - the influencer It is affiliated with a government agency or a third party, or it is controlled by the parties to the political conflict in Iraq.
5. One of the biggest dangers is the participation of young people in the hashtags that grab the headlines without paying attention to the content of this news, as it may be a rumor and, in this way, rumors are spread at lightning speed on social media platforms.
6. The conflicts and discussions that we see in the comments between young people who differ in opinion, belief or political orientation is the biggest reason for the spread of sectarian and political strife among young people, which in the long run leads to a socio-political gap in Iraq.
7. Most of the respondents agreed that he might change his personal opinion or political orientation based on someone's post or tweet, and this is frightening, because this means that communication platforms have become a major impact on the minds of young men and women.
8. There is a statistical significance of the impact of social media platforms (Twitter-Facebook) on shaping the political trends of society.
9. For Iraqi youth, political news is at the forefront of social media platforms. Iraqi youth are more interested in political news than in other news.
10. Most of the Iraqi youth share political news on their personal pages, which contributes to the rapid dissemination of this news.
11. The Iraqi youth's follow-up of news cannot be considered limited to news issued by the government only. Other sources have a share of the Iraqi youth's interest, especially since in the opinion of some of them, government news is not credible at all times, rather than the government media's avoidance of mentioning some Political news that is published on other sources.
12. According to the statistics in this research, it can be said that the Iraqi youth have a good level of awareness in terms of their choice of news sources, but this does not negate their being drawn into rumors spread from unofficial or unreliable sources.
13. Iraqi youth see political news as the headlines of communication platforms, and they find more interest in it than other news such as (art, sports, ...).
14. Digital exposure to political news is on top of social media platforms compared to other news.
15. Iraqi youth see that the general state of the political situation in Iraq is bad.

16. Iraqi youth see social media platforms as one of the main drivers of the political situation in Iraq.
17. Most of the Iraqi youth are aware that there are electronic armies that broadcast and spread news and rumors to destabilize the political situation in Iraq, but not everyone is aware of the reality of the existence of such people.
18. For some Iraqi youth, the widely circulated news is true, and this issue is dangerous, as some electronic armies may work to raise the label of something related to news or rumors to convince the public of the validity of this spread news.
19. Most of the Iraqi youth are affected by the emotional style of spreading news, and this is a dangerous indicator and evidence of the impact of communication platforms on the political orientations of young men and women, but on the other hand, some young people have sufficient awareness to notice the emotional discourse in some political news.
20. There is a statistically significant effect of digital exposure of rumors and false political news that is broadcast by electronic armies on the general state of the situation in Iraq.

Recommendations

1. The researcher recommends the need to raise awareness of the use of social media platforms, as using them correctly gives a large space for free dialogue on political, economic and security issues between people of different tendencies and can be an alternative to violence.
2. Due to the lack of Arab studies that dealt with the impact and reality of electronic news, the researcher recommends studying the impact of electronic news on international relations with Iraq, and the repercussions of these relations on the Iraqi people, especially the youth group among them.

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