

Social media networks and their impact on awareness and political participation: A sociological reading of contemporary Iraqi youth trends

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ABSTRACT

Social media networks are of great importance to all societies, especially Iraqi society, as they are considered a basic procedural technique in understanding human interactions, and it has become known that these networks in our contemporary world have a significant impact on forming public opinion and changing its paths, especially in developing societies that seek salvation from the sediments of backwardness. And its components and factors through the creation of a conscious generation that can understand itself and its reality and its reality, and search for a solution to the problems of its society of all kinds, and address important issues, and develop moral, social, cultural, national, religious and political values.

Political participation depends greatly on the degree of political awareness of the current national issues in society, and social media networks play a prominent role in shaping and shaping this awareness through the knowledge, experiences and trends that they transmit to members of society, and the mass media, using the audio, read and visual, transmits the various information that It creates a general political awareness of the issues and raises them in public opinion. The researcher relied in his methodology on reading and analysis preceded by the survey to obtain the necessary facts based on the social reality and the various changes that society is exposed to and the extent of their impact on society, through the researcher's vision of what is happening from the social reality.

KEYWORDS: Social networks, political awareness, political participation and youth.

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INTRODUCTION

Social media networks are of great importance to all societies, especially Iraqi society, as they are considered a basic procedural technique in understanding human interactions, interpreting texts and media experiences, and all methods of communication, communication and transmission. The contemporary world is experiencing a major stage through which the factor of time has been reduced, and social networks have become the ideal alternative to traditional past activities. Today's interaction with the surrounding environment is controlling the communication system to a remarkable degree, which confirms the occurrence of a radical shift in the tools of communication, expression and interaction with each other. Which led to a real revolution and

fundamental changes that touched all areas of social life.

The scientist (Daniel Lerner) believes in his theory that the media and communication networks have strong influences on the political, social and economic structure of society, that is, the crossing of traditional society into modern society, as he proposed four stages of modernization, namely: urbanization, education, media participation, political participation, and the interaction between The development of urban society, the increase in education, and the economic development that accompanies industrial and technological development leads to an increase in the spread of social media networks, and this leads to an increase in education, and through this interaction democratic institutions are developed, as people

increase their interest in their public affairs and express their opinions towards it, (Makram, 1956) and the effects of these changes began on a global level, creating new phenomena and direct effects on various social organizations and structures, which provided the opportunity for all young people, politicians, activists, and researchers to transfer their ideas and discuss their political and social issues, bypassing natural boundaries into spaces. There is no doubt that the changes that the youth faced in Iraqi society led to a diversity of communication networks. The social media and the diversity of ideas and opinions it resulted in has led to different levels of awareness among young people, especially about the political aspect.

The importance of this research centres on two aspects, the first of which is the theoretical importance that is summarized in the contribution to enriching the theoretical and sociological aspects in general of the current and future role of social media networks for youth orientations. The practical importance related to activating the positive side of social media networks and their impact on awareness and political participation of young people, and overcoming the difficulties, obstacles and negatives that limit the contribution of these social networks and their impact on the political awareness of youth orientations.

Research objectives

1. Knowing what social networks are, and knowing their role in youth participation and awareness and deepening it at the political level.
2. Knowing the most important means and factors that help to form a political awareness of youth, and the ability of social media sites to activate the energies available to humans and direct them to build and create.
3. Highlight the general features of social networks and their benefits and disadvantages.
4. Knowing the role of social networks in public opinion and the political participation of youth.
5. Explaining the sociological reading of the role of social networks and their impact on youth awareness and political participation.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The curriculum has great importance in any research because it determines the researcher's path in the study and clarifies the parameters of the path followed. The researcher relied in his methodology on reading and analysis preceded by the survey to obtain the necessary facts based on social reality and the various changes that society is exposed to and the extent of their impact on society. By seeing the researcher about what is going on from social reality.

The research will be limited to a sociological reading of a group of social media networks to identify the extent of the impact between Iraqi youth and society on social media networks and their impact on awareness and political participation.

Research concepts

1. **Social networks:** Defining social communication is the process of transferring ideas and experiences and exchanging experiences and knowledge between individuals, individuals and groups through positive interaction and using messages between sender and recipient, and it is the essence of human relations and the investigator of their development (Sukkar, 2011).
2. **Political awareness:** Political awareness is defined as a set of values, trends and political principles that allow the individual to actively participate in the conditions of his society, solve the problems of his society, work to solve them, judge them, determine his position on them, and push him to move to develop and change them (Ouargla, 2011). Consciousness as a concept means that it is a reflexive mental trend that enables the individual to perceive himself, the environment around him, and the group to which he belongs as a member, and the pioneer of the symbolic interactive school (George Hurt Mead) goes that communication processes help the individual to look at himself and play the role of others. The process of integrating to others, or the surrounding conditions, is a prerequisite for the emergence of

awareness(Ghaith, 1990). Therefore, awareness is the process of the individual's perception of himself, the perception of the surrounding political conditions and the formation of a mental trend towards the general issues of society (Mohamed El-Gohary, 1992). Political awareness expresses itself in this research, as working to increase the level of awareness of the individual and groups to create an enlightened public opinion towards political issues in society, in addition to the citizen's knowledge of his political rights and duties and what is happening around him in terms of events and facts.

3. Political participation: Political participation can be defined as the group of collective activities that the arbitrators carry out, and is capable of giving them an influence on the functioning of the political system, and this criterion is associated in democratic systems in which a basic value is considered to be the concept of citizenship(Pro., 1998), but participation is not limited. In contemporary democracies about the electoral activity (voting), and if this activity is the most common mode of political participation, it expresses itself in other forms, completely integrated into the political game or vice versa, in opposition to it in an irreducible way, as political violence is considered a form of political participation (Zebari, 2005) The various forms of violence include revolutions, coups, assassinations, sabotage, guerrilla warfare, parties, rebellions, hostage-taking and installations, and other acts whose purpose is seen to have political connotations.

While others argue that political participation is the process by which an individual plays a role in the political life of his community, and he has the opportunity to contribute to setting the general goals of that community and determining the best means to achieve them, and the process of political participation may be through direct or indirect political activities. Therefore, political participation represents a

voluntary behaviour or voluntary activity that can be acquired through learning, and the individual's exercise of it depends on the availability of the ability, motivation and opportunities offered by society and its political traditions(Chalabi, 1985).

From extrapolation of the two concepts, it becomes clear to us that "political awareness" includes the following:

- A mental trend that reflects the individual's perception of himself and the political dimension of the social situations and environmental conditions surrounding him in society.
- Realizing the importance of uniting with others in taking a unified position towards various issues in society.
- As for the concept of "political participation", it includes the following:
 - The individual's keenness to play a role in political life.
 - Participation is a voluntary process based on desire and personal choice or volunteering.
 - Political participation can be developed or gained through education, awareness and media experience.
- 4. Youth: Young people know a language as mentioned in Arabic dictionaries, including Lisan Al-Arab by Ibn Manzoor, "The Fatwa and Fatwa, meaning vitality, strength and dynamism."(Makram, Arabes Tong, 1956). The United Nations General Assembly defined youth as those between the ages of 15 and 14 years, however, given how each country identifies youth individually, taking into account a broader range of social and cultural issues(Programme, 2014).

Social networks and their functions in youth awareness trends

- **First, Communication and information technology jobs:** The tremendous development in communication technology has changed many patterns in life and added new burdens in the life of the individual and society, as it has become indispensable for what the net

does in various life fields such as education, documentation, commerce, health and other fields, and the most important of these functions are:

1. Documentation function: Communication technology, represented by computers, CDs and digital imaging machines, played a major role in documenting intellectual production in the field of communication and modern media on all systems in providing multiple and varied information that is distinguished by its luxury because digital communication and the information and knowledge explosion came as a result of an evolution in communication technology Or information technology from which digital communication benefited and contributed to its design. The information revolution covered all areas as a result of the characteristics that characterize communication and information technology, the most important of which is storage capacity(Abdulhameed, 2007).
2. Overcoming the restrictions of isolation: as digital communication technology removed the individual from his isolation, where the individual deals for long hours with the personal computer away from contact with others in the real world, through conversations, e-mail and conversations with others who do not know each other, and special features do not distinguish them. Whether this reality imposes and it's needed, form new friendships with others in different cultures to contact with these same cultures and their individuals, and as a result of this interaction arise so-called virtual societies that bring their members together, they may be absent in real societies such as anti-racism or the prohibition of sex or gender(Abdulhameed, 2007).
3. The Internet: It is the Internet network of computers connected to exchange rapid global information in various life, scientific, cultural, social and economic fields. The Internet is a tool to connect the world, making it a small village through which you can learn about the

civilizations, customs and sciences of the world(Al-Dulaimi, 2012).

The Internet: its evolution, characteristics and features

1. The development of the Internet: The development of the Internet is due in a simple way to the fact that the Internet is an American information communication system that was secretly developed in the nineties for military purposes and aims to exchange information between military bases through an electronic network that is not affected by accidents, especially when nuclear wars break out, and the idea came and was very simple During the formation of a communications network that does not have a main control centre if one of them is destroyed or even many of its sides are destroyed, the mechanism of this system allows it to pass through an electronic network and the first experiment in America was in 1969 AD, where the computers of the Ministry of Defense were connected and the experiment was successful at that time(Yousif, 2013).

In the eighties of the twentieth century, the issue of using the Internet took a quantum leap, as the protocol for controlling the transfer of information was used to communicate between networks and exchange information from computers. This gigantic network that includes millions of computers distributed at local, regional and global levels in various parts and regions of the globe, in contact with any a computer anywhere in the world and the exchange of information, this new system made it possible to view the video information and video films via the Internet, as it provides users with many services, such as e-mail, file transfer, news, access to the electronic library, newspapers, photos and other materials and services(Amer Ibrahim Kandalji, 2012).

2. Internet network features:Due to the development of digital innovations and their capabilities, the digital communication system has overcome

many differences and discrepancies and has established a set of unified characteristics that all forms of digital communication contribute to, which are the following (Abdulhameed, 2007).

- **Interactive:** It is a two-way communication mechanism in which the parties to the communication process exchange roles and each party has the ability and freedom to influence the communication process at the time and place that suits him and to the degree he sees. This feature results in that it is no longer sufficient to describe the viewer as being active.
- **Diversity:** With the development of digital innovations in communication and its multiplicity, in addition to the increase in the ability to store and provide for communication content, this led to a diversity in the elements of the communication process that provided the recipient with greater options to employ the communication process in line with his needs and motives for communication (Abdulhameed, 2007).
- **Integration:** It is the possibility available to the user so that during his exposure to informational materials, he can choose between them what he deems required for storage and printing, or recording on CD-ROM or re-sending it to other people through e-mail (Abdulhameed, 2007).
- **Immediate:** where the sender can send his message or broadcast his location and the future receives it in record time in any location in the world as long as he is connected to the network so that you do not notice your connection to a computer located in Australia that you took longer than if the connection was with a computer located in the same city as you (Yousif, 2013).
- **Freedom of expression without restrictions:** The Internet represents the new world in achieving democracy, as the communication sites that use the Internet have become an open parliament in which everything he pleases expresses his opinion, and participates in making decisions and making them at the same time (Yousif, 2013).

3. General features of social networks: It is possible to mention some of the main features and milestones that we can attribute to social media, represented by Facebook, Twitter, and most recently, YouTube, as follows:

- Social media secures and enables interactive rules and platforms on the Internet globally, through the participation of users in commenting on the content.
- Social media has many features that encompass a wide range of content including text, video, images, and audio.
- The advantage of fast information exchange enhanced by the wide dissemination of such information.
- Communications can take place via a computer, laptop or smartphone.
- The media is a new marketing tool for products, goods and ideas, and it allows identification of customers and future expectations (Amer Ibrahim Kandalji, 2012).
- Social media allows users to find people with common interests and meet people who can become friends or be customers and clients through the global information network and the Internet.
- Shoppers generally use social media as a low-cost method (Amer Ibrahim Kandalji, 2012).

The benefits and disadvantages of social networking sites

- 1. The benefits of social networking sites:** Social media has many benefits from a social point of view, which lies in the continuation of communication between users of these sites with each other, and this would increase the interconnectedness and the strength of relations between the community. That would increase the interconnectedness and the strength of the relationships between the community, for those sites are positive for each other. Knowing the cultures of other peoples, as well as being a cross-border means of communication between people, allows the individual to make friends from other countries, and it is also a means for practising cultural and social activities that

aim at rapprochement between individuals, and facilitates the process of communication with others and has recently used it in preparing for revolutions. The popular opposition that aims to bring down tyrannical and tyrannical regimes, the public and demonstrations, as happened in the revolution in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, and Syria, and enjoys popular rejection that makes young people think of overthrowing through the crowd by sending invitations to go to the squares (Al-Qomizi, 2017).

As the means of communication opened very large horizons for the individual to be interactive, and not to be a passive recipient only of messages as it allowed citizens to have the ability to express themselves, their society and their issues in an unprecedented way beyond the media, traditional fields and even modern areas that ended in the era of television. We say that we are in the stage of the Internet, especially after the second generation of the Internet, which began in 2004, and the individual not only can use and benefit from the Internet but also can present what he has and communicate with many people around the world (Al-Qomizi, 2017).

2. The disadvantages of social networking sites: What the American researcher (Larry Rosen) pointed out is that adolescents who use social networking sites Facebook more often show a greater tendency towards narcissism, while adults who have a strong presence in these sites purify more relationships related to other psychological disorders such as antisocial behaviours. , Obsession and tendency towards hostility (Ghazal, 2014) as excessive use of media and technology harm the health of new children, adolescents and individuals in pre-adolescence, making them more vulnerable to developing depression, depression, and other psychological disorders. Also, they become more likely to suffer from problems in the future (and because we are experiencing a tremendous development in new media and despite the

importance of social media) (Ghazal, 2014) and among the disadvantages of social networking sites for young people, namely:

- A. Loss of time: there is the greatest danger to these sites, which is the youth's waste of time navigating through the pages of those sites and talking about matters that have no value or benefit and this aspect is the most dangerous negative aspect, as the waste of time comes negatively on society and its progress and not only on the person. And finally, these sites also affect the family side, as entering them leads to social isolation, lack of integration of the individual with his family, absence from his problems and family concerns, participation in social events, and so on.
 - B. Offending others and spreading lies: Most of the information that is published through these sites is unverified information, just as I can publish truthful information, I can also easily spread a rumour or false information, and this resulted in confusion and lack of credibility.
- Porn sites. Some practices that contradict religion and Islamic culture have interfered with and demolished community values.
 - Internet addiction.
 - Illegal relationships.
 - Poor academic level.
 - Interference in politics and incitement.
 - Waste money.
 - Burying talents, activities and hobbies.

Means and factors affecting political awareness

1. Means of creating political awareness: The means of forming political awareness is one of the most important factors and means affecting political awareness, as it is the base from which the individual builds his ideas, perceptions and ideology through which he tries to draw his directions in dealing with events, and in this way, it helps the individual in developing his political awareness and reinforces his previous ideological

capabilities (Al-Dabbagh, 2013) Among these methods are:

- Direct political orientation through formal and informal channels.
- Political experience gained through political participation.
- Self-education by reading newspapers and following up on events.
- Extending experiences in the public sphere to the political field.

And to clarify the concept of political awareness that the factor of relativism plays a big role in defining its concept and according to self-interests as well. What is acceptable in a certain place or time is explained in opposition in another time and time, which is a shock for young people in adopting any particular ideology.

2. Factors affecting political awareness: It is not enough to achieve political awareness away from the active role and the specific orientation that depends on the form of the culture followed for it, because political awareness is a tool for analyzing reality and what results from the use of these means is related to the factors affecting that awareness in its various forms as follows: (Al-Dabbagh, 2013).
 - The culture of participation, which leads to the formation of positive attitudes towards political issues, (shared awareness).
 - The culture of dependency, which leads to the formation of negative trends towards political issues, (negative awareness dependent).
 - The culture of limitations, which leads to the formation of a weak relationship with political issues (limited awareness).

Media networks and their influence on the political side and public opinion

The Internet, with its virtual world and interactive social sites, has provided the opportunity for individuals participating in these sites to build a basic base for launching towards goals to achieve them out of a deep belief in their role in community life and the need to advance society, by opening the way to participants without starting their opinions and expressing them and participating in

discussions About all the referred issues, and it became possible for any participant to call all that his colleagues publish on social sites, and this in itself is the depth of the concept of community participation with the rising, educated and aware young generation of what is going on around it and increased the amount of interest in public issues within societies.

1. The role of the media in forming a public opinion: The flags have a role in the life of nations, both ancient and modern. Human societies, in different degrees of progress throughout human history, have known forms and images celebrated for the media, as a person's knowledge of different languages and their symbols may enable him to know the culture and transmit it through different generations. Thus, man is the only being capable of transmitting Cultural and social heritage and its education for future generations.

The methods of communication and the media have taken various forms, so primitive societies used fire, drum beating, and dance floors to play a media role that is no less than the role of the media in modern societies in transmitting news, as well as trade and merchants as mediators to transmit messages and news between different societies. As the media institutions and their apparatus have evolved throughout history from the village councils and shops, the hostess, the mosque, the popular cafes, and clubs to the mass media from the press, radio, television, and video, and accordingly, the media is an ancient system that is as old as human societies themselves. Media literature unman that the media have three main functions or goals. Transferring and communicating information to others, and trying to influence and shape their opinions, and then promote, entertain and spend leisure time.

The perception of media functions changed with the beginning of the twentieth century, as it became common in the writings of thinkers, philosophers, and sociologists in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Europe in

particular, accusing rulers of their constant endeavour to subdue the power of public opinion created by the mass media and tame it in their favour in a way that serves their continued rule. The media in our time has become an effective means for changing trends, directing public opinion, brainwashing, and shaping the mindset of a person in a new pattern in his thinking and even his behaviour, as we live today in the stage of a single media state that abolished borders and shortened distances and times, as the world has transformed thanks to modern media to a small village.

Among the main and public functions supported by the mass media is the function of forming opinions and trends of individuals, groups and peoples, as they have an important role in the formation of the public. And if this job cannot be isolated from some other jobs, such as the news job and the two jobs of media and education, but it has a specificity that lies in the goal of this job, which means forming opinions and trends among the public, and then advertising, public relations and public opinion formation are included within these. The Job(Asbaa, 1998).

(Bernard Berlusconi) proposes the following equation to discuss the effects of the mass media on public opinion, where he says, "Some types of communication attract the attention of some people, for some types of issues, under some types of circumstances, and some types have effects(Asbaa, 1998) believes that this equation shows five factors (or five groups of factors, related to communication processes, and that the interrelationships between these factors and variables) represent the essence of the theory in this area, and these factors are, types of communication, types of issues, types of people. Types of conditions surrounding contact, types of effects(Asbaa, 1998).

However, the revolution in contemporary communication technology has come to see the role of the media and its increasing

possibility of benefiting from it by employing it in creating an enlightened public opinion that supports the issues of development and change in pursuit of modernization with firm steps based on positive and conscious participation (economically, culturally, politically and socially). This shift in the perception of media functions has been helped by the growing freedom of expression and independence of the media, and their ability to translate and convey the opinions of the masses and defend them, and not to submit to government control, and even the ability to oppose government policy when necessary (Mohamed El-Gohary, 1992). The media has emerged in recent years as an influential force that cannot be underestimated.

Today, the danger and influence of media power are no less than the traditional power that human societies have known, such as political, military, and economic power, if they are not separated. Rather, it can be said: Without exaggeration, other traditional forces do not have their effects complete without the media(Tash, 1980).

2. The role of the media in the political system: Know that it is the multiple roles and functions that the means of communication play in the service of the political system to the extent that it makes it difficult for political systems to coexist without relying on the means of communication (Youssef, 2006).

The recipient stands on the other side, exposed to many messages that contribute greatly to providing him with political information and knowledge, building his political idea and reaching the formation of his opinions, beliefs and trends, and then his political behaviour. The means of communication stand between the public and political activities and other sources related to the ideological nature that was possible thanks to this mediating situation that She comments on political development and its interpretation, as communication has become a necessity in society and the individual cannot prove his

existence without it (Youssef, 2006). Despite the deep conviction of many researchers that the political behaviour of individuals from the world of politics that the media contribute to its formation with the presence of several psychological, social and demographic variables that contribute to changing the composition of the image, but the individual is called at the same time exposure to political communication material compatible with his trends and moves away. On those that contradict it (Youssef, 2006).

3. The Internet and its impact on the way of the ruling regimes: Media and information technology has become a major role in bringing about intellectual and ideological changes through the transmission and export of information, represented by the news, ideas, and different cultures, both positive and negative, as the rapid development in information and information technology threatens the authority and responsibility of the state and this was confirmed by the 1995 London Conference on the Internet. The participants discussed issues after the information revolution, the so-called rapid information method, and the role of the Internet in the terrible information openness around the world (Al-Danani, 2007).
4. The contributions of modern technological technologies to the Arab revolutions: Modern and varied technological technologies have helped achieve peoples' desires for this communication and preparation for revolutions and popular uprisings, thus shortening the periods that used to take preparation and preparation for any previous revolutions before the information and communication technology revolution, which required time and human and material capabilities for meetings and preparing publications, and preparing participants for the revolution that was. It required long periods in light of various security and judicial prosecutions by the ruling regimes (Al-Rashidi, 2012).

5. The role of social networking sites in deepening political awareness: Student and youth unions constitute an important field for increasing political awareness among community members through student unions, elections and student councils. Students develop peaceful attitudes, values, habits and behaviours towards participation and democracy. We also want students' awareness of the events taking place around them, and their interest in the issues of the society in which they live in addition to student activities increases. Represented by seminars, programs and trips that increase awareness among learners, as well as youth activities such as sports, health, social, and cultural activities, and summer camps, as they increase awareness through their organized and targeted programs (Kafi, 2010).

The talk about the role of social networking sites in deepening awareness comes to mind the first thing that comes mind the role played by these sites in the Arab revolutions, which revolved around them and still a great controversy by specialists, as many articles were published discussing the importance of social networking sites and their ability to influence stimulating political participation. The formation of opinions and direct influence on expression among youth in the Arab region. This period has witnessed clear shifts in the trends of use from social and commercial purposes to political purposes at the regional level, while the other party believes that blogging has become playing an increasing role in shaping public opinion, especially in light of the role. The positive actions played by bloggers in some Arab countries, which contributes to spreading the culture of protest and increasing the rates of political activists' practice. The use of modern means of communication in Arab countries has increased resorting to them as a tool for mobilization, and it is also an important tool in raising awareness and expanding their horizons, especially in light of the emergence of new actors (bloggers), and the beginning of the formation of a new public judiciary (electronic networks). These trends are framed

by the degree of spread of new communication technologies. In Arab societies and the nature of their political systems, and the question of freedom this raises, and therefore we address the possibilities provided by this technology at the level of activating political practices, and the determinants of that activation (Ghazal, 2014). There is no doubt about the pivotal role that social networking sites play in each of the aforementioned, especially with their widespread, and based on the above, it is clear that the political role of social media is based on knowledge of the political functions of the media.

The news function is considered one of the most influential political functions in society and the political system alike, for it is the function for which mass communication attempts began using publishing and broadcasting on a large scale, until it reached the era of successive revolutions in the world of communication, as it satisfies man's innate needs for knowledge. What is happening around it from political, economic and social events, to the publication of internal and external political news and information, in addition to data, conferences, pictures, documents and messages, to understand societal and national conditions and act in an informed manner (Darwies, 2004) and the news function plays a political role Important in the formation and development of enlightened public opinion through the provision of public knowledge and the development of societies from honest news (Darwies, 2004) and on the other hand, the increase in the dose of news and information provided by the means of communication about politicians or countries to serve certain issues may exceed the capacity of the public It often has a backlash (Abdel-Rahim, 2006, p. 119). Studies and research have indicated the importance of the role of these methods in the process of political upbringing, especially since most of the information a young person obtains about their political world comes to them directly or indirectly through means of communication (Rahim, 2006). In addition to the fact that the media strongly influence the formation of the political beliefs of individuals and some believe that the reasons lie behind

individuals' obedience to the authority holder stems from the organizational foundations or the organizational relationship.

6. The impact of the mass media on youth: Each mass media has distinct characteristics that make it an important tool in achieving the functions assigned to it. And if the media are functionally supportive, according to the anthropologists, to form a public opinion among members of society based on the interaction between the media and the media they carry on the one hand, and the public opinion on the other hand (Mohamed El-Gohary, 1992).

That is, each of the mass media outlets, from the press, radio and television, leads to a kind of continuous dialogue and communication between messengers (governments and individuals) and between recipients (members of society) about the media material or message transmitted through the media. The success or failure of that message is determined by the ability of the media outlet to present facts and understand the circumstances surrounding the community and its members. The radio is considered one of the most widespread media outlets due to its pursuit of people everywhere all day long. It is also considered an easy means of knowledge and arming in societies with high rates of illiteracy, in addition to its cheapness as a means of education, and its ability to address all segments of society, including the youth and the radio can play an important role in protecting youth from delinquency and loss by warning of the dangers of crime and addiction. And calling for positive participation in development at all levels.

As for the press, it also has an important role in forming public opinion and spreading public culture. This is why it is capable of spreading social, cultural and political awareness, presenting different opinions regardless of conflict, discussing public issues and topics with an open mind, awareness of various development programs and projects, the importance of supporting them and how to overcome the obstacles they face. Television also plays an important role, through visual and audio speech, in consolidating knowledge

and positive trends that contribute greatly to modifying negative trends, supporting appropriate values, and clarifying the role of youth in developing awareness and political participation, and the media in general plays an important role in the social orientation of youth and attracting Feelings of rejection and hostile attitudes that accompany the state of rejection of the traditional norms and authority in society. As well as working to transform these feelings into aspects of the caliphate that invests in the desire for renewal and change, and for this reason the youth are considered a source of cultural and social change in society as a whole(Muhammad, 1980).

7. Youth and political participation:Political participation takes many forms and is not limited to participation in the election process through the voting process or joining political parties, as some researchers used to limit it to that. Rather, it includes political participation, electoral behaviour. Lobbyists. Organized activities groups, communication groups, and violence in different forms such as coups and uprisings.

Thus, the image of the political participation of youth does not stop at the limit of the traditional questionable images, but rather extends to the images, the effecting of political changes by force to correct the wrong conditions, the marginal ears of political participation and its image in a society and its shake in the mind and sentiments of the community members, as well as the accumulation of economic crises and the inability to limit the continuation The exacerbation of their effects would help deepen the credibility gap between each of the pillars of power and economic and political power in society on the one hand, and the citizen on the other hand, or stain the relationship between them by clashing and distrust (Al-Naklawi, 1989). Political participation requires several forms, the most important of which are:

- **Firs**, Participation in central or local political elections, and this participation represent the weakest form of participation required and least influential in the conduct of

power relations, as the effectiveness of voters often ends as soon as they cast their votes in the electoral process.

- **Second**, Participation in public policy-making according to the rules of power-sharing among the various political forces or according to the rule of participation in the debate on public policy.
- **Third**, Participation in the political and development currencies, starting with policy-making and discussion and ending with its implementation, follow-up and evaluation (Ibrahim, April .1992).In general, the dynamics of political participation of youth are affected by several important social variables and dimensions such as variables of profession and education, social status, income, gender, ... etc., and therefore any analysis of political participation is based on one of these factors and variables only, without taking into account the variables. On the other, it may sound misleading and does not help to understand the dynamics of this sharing.

Sociological reading of social networks and their impact on awareness and political participation among Iraqi youth at the current stage

Social media networks have played an important role in the current stage and at all levels, whether social, economic or political. The most we can notice in recent times is the presence of young people who are aware of what is happening through publications and comments that made some young people search for a promising future with national figures that achieve it. All his desires and desires were stolen throughout the past period, and these attempts led to the existence of globes with patriotic names trying to bear the suffering of this important and persecuted segment at the same time, and this indicates that there is a full awareness of the events taking place and an evaluation with a national dimension of all political situations. Young people, in these very short times, overtook the entire political game and surpassed all politicians who entered the political process or

what they could be called chance politicians during the period after 2003 specifically.

However, social networks have become a means of preoccupying the Iraqi street by setting dates for demonstrations and going out in well-known places in most governorates of Iraq to demand great and many rights, including aspects of public social life and the political process in particular. They demand the support of the poor, the justice of the martyrs or the needy, and the achievement of job opportunities for young people, accountability of the corrupt, and legislation Constitutional laws, such as amending the constitution and some of its paragraphs and holding early elections. The fact that this reality shook the government and politicians alike and made them feel the danger of what is happening and the importance of the role played by these young people who painted beautiful pictures of Iraqi citizenship, unity and cohesion in all segments of Iraqi society, and these communication networks have achieved goals that many politicians would not be able to achieve without this influence. He became an important factor in directing the youth and demonstrators to command, which led the government at times to cut off the internet service for fear of worsening the situation and not controlling it, and this is what happened in the southern regions of Iraq, as well as in the central Euphrates regions of Iraq, and this is all not It would happen were it not for the important and great role of some civil activists who possess full political awareness in dealing with these situations and were able to unify the unity of the word and slogans that were all confined to the love of the homeland and the lack of inclination for any party or political or religious party and their interest was only in love for Iraq and achieving the goals of the youth This led to the government arresting and kidnapping some young men from unknown destinations, and even some of them were killed because they pose a constant threat to this government. And its erroneous policy, this youth segment is no longer the same as it was in the previous era, as communication networks led to their irritation and awareness of important aspects of the political process and the daily events that made them more aware and patriotic through the publication of some clips carrying enthusiastic songs that enhance the patriotic spirit. Some give lectures to specialists regarding everything related to the political reality of the constitution, laws and

elections, and this situation has not stopped until this moment, and it indicates that a continuous movement did not end with the fulfilment of all legitimate demands.

All that has happened and is happening of social mobility in Iraqi society is a strong and influential factor of pressure and motivation in changing the political class that some and much Iraqi youth feel is ineffective and unproductive and did not provide anything tangible on the Iraqi reality in all fields, which led to the existence of a segment A large number of young people and patriots are calling from the community to political participation and to make a radical change in the political process and to replace these faces with new blood that can work, give and serve the community and meet the demands of the demonstrators, and this is what most of the youth emphasized in the protest squares on the importance of amending the constitution and ensuring the right to participate, especially about age As well as determining the date of early elections and the election commission law, which sees many gaps and problems that must be amended. This trend would not have existed were it not for the political awareness of the youth in the protest squares, who feel that they are a patriotic generation thinking about building the country, protecting its wealth, defending it, fighting the corrupt who destroyed the country and preventing foreign interference in Iraqi affairs. And the growth of these trends in supporting the national product as a new initiative that has proven its success at the local level greatly and successfully, in addition to the great calls for youth employment and taking their pivotal role in the various joints of the state and the private sector alike, and this is what has happened in most ministries and government departments in the recent period. This requires a concerted social, tribal, political and religious effort to support youth and their orientations, especially in political participation in the next phase.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. There must be a great awareness of Iraqi youth, whether political or cultural, through reading and scientific interest in everything useful and beneficial in a way that limits the aspirations of youth and society alike.

2. The participation of Iraqi youth must be of great weight and influence in the political process by setting up programs that serve this segment, and therefore youth are first to participate and prepare their programs that serve their orientations in the future.
3. The conscious youth in the Iraqi society must be as responsible at this stage specifically because of its great danger, and then it follows that they are fully aware and knowledgeable in choosing the persons that represent them in real and patriotic decision-making.
4. Young people must adopt constructive criticism and criticism as a method and way of life and not be drawn into useless simulation and debate, and emphasize the need for meaningful criticism that guarantees respect for opinion and other opinion and aims to unify society, preserve its identity and not divide it.
5. I call on all Iraqi youth who use social networks to take advantage of this great and important technology in spreading enlightening and moderate ideas and not to overthrow others, and to create spaces and big differences between members of society.
6. The Iraqi youth must face the existing challenges and problems with a spirit, determination and strong will capable of proposing solutions and not submitting to any specific emergency that may affect the youth's future and disrupt their goals.

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