Article

The Political Transformations of the Arab Spring Revolutions and Their Impact on the Political Awareness of Algerian University Students: A Field Study .

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Abstract

This study aimed to explore the impact of the Arab Spring revolutions on the level of political awareness among Algerian university students in the central region. It provided a comprehensive conceptual framework on revolutions, political awareness, its components, and the influence of Arab protest movements on the political awareness of higher education students in Algeria. The study employed a fieldwork methodology applied to a sample of Algerian university students, using a questionnaire consisting of 40 items representing indicators for measuring political awareness, after ensuring its validity and reliability according to established scientific standards. Data were analyzed using means, standard deviations, and appropriate statistical tests to answer the study's

questions according to its variables. The results showed that the impact of the Arab Spring revolutions on the political awareness of Algerian university students was generally high. No statistically significant effects were recorded for the variables of gender and academic specialization at the significance level (α = 0.05). On the other hand, the study revealed statistically significant differences attributable to the type of specialization. Based on these results, the study recommended the need to strengthen university youth's awareness of the importance of political participation, both at the individual and collective levels, and to grant students greater freedom of expression and engagement in political activities within the university campus, thereby contributing to the promotion of democratic practice and the consolidation of active citizenship values.

Keywords: Arab Spring Revolutions, Political Awareness, Higher Education, Algerian Universities.

Introduction

Historical experiences teach us that the need for change and the ability to achieve it are linked to two main factors: one objective, represented by the political system reaching the limits of crisis and the breakdown of communication between the authorities and the masses; and the other subjective, represented by the public's awareness of their ability to influence the stability or transformation of the system. In the absence of such awareness, even with the presence of a crisis, change remains either impossible or indefinitely postponed. The Arab world, from independence until 2011, witnessed a state of political stagnation, where crises were present but the absence of popular awareness made change unattainable. However, this equation shifted with the outbreak of the Arab Spring revolutions, which surprised observers and analysts due to their rapid spread and expansion across the region (Dadda, 2011).

The term "revolution" is one of the ancient concepts associated with the emergence of the state and political life since prehistoric times. It is used to describe radical changes within societies, whether political, social, or economic. However, the mere removal of a regime's head does not necessarily equate to a successful revolution. A revolution is only considered complete when it achieves the goals for which it arose and brings about profound transformations in the structure of the state and society. Revolutions typically have two fundamental stages: the first is demolition, during which ruling regimes are overthrown; the second is construction, which is far more complex. Many revolutionaries fail to establish a more just political system, sometimes replacing an authoritarian regime with another, even more oppressive one (Hatamleh, 2012).

The Arab Spring revolutions were the result of political, economic, and social accumulations that had built up over decades. A deepening crisis of trust between ruling regimes and their popula-

tions had emerged, driven by the absence of social justice, rising corruption rates, widespread unemployment, and declining living standards, all of which contributed to the rise of broad protest movements.

At the same time, ruling regimes further exacerbated these crises through repressive policies and alliances with colonial powers, turning many Arab countries into tools serving Western interests at the expense of their own peoples. This fueled feelings of oppression and rejection among citizens (Al-Madani, 2011; Afaiah, 2011).

In addition to political and economic factors, modern technology and social media played a critical role in igniting and accelerating the spread of the revolutions. These tools enabled the masses to organize and communicate effectively outside the control of the regimes. The Arab Spring revolutions became an example of how the Internet could be used as a tool for mobilization and organization, with protest movements being born and spreading through cyberspace, eventually leading to the downfall of political systems that once seemed unshakable. Some analysts have described this phenomenon as "digital revolutions," emphasizing that modern technology has evolved beyond mere entertainment or communication to become a powerful instrument for real political and social change (Al-Awfi, 2011; Al-Zayyat, 2002).

Research Problem:

Since 2011, the Arab world has witnessed an unprecedented wave of political and social transformations, embodied in the Arab Spring revolutions, which toppled several ruling regimes and reshaped the political landscape of the region. These events have raised fundamental questions about the extent to which these revolutions have influenced individual awareness, especially among university youth who constitute the vital nucleus for any future change.

Political awareness among young people is no longer merely a reflection of traditional educational or media systems; it is now shaped within dynamic spaces influenced by regional and international contexts, in addition to technological developments that have opened new horizons for political discussion and activism.

In this context, a key question arises regarding the extent to which the Arab Spring revolutions have impacted the political awareness of Algerian university students, given that Algeria experienced a political trajectory distinct from that of the Arab Spring countries, yet was not isolated from the effects of these revolutions, whether at the level of political discourse or popular movement dynamics.

Have these revolutions contributed to enhancing the political awareness of Algerian university students, making them more conscious of their political rights and responsibilities? Or has their influence remained limited due to internal political and social factors? What role have media and

social media platforms played in reshaping students' concepts of democracy and political participation?

Answering these questions requires an in-depth study of how these transformations reflected on Algerian university students' perceptions of democracy, political participation, and human rights, and how prepared they are to engage in political action in a conscious and responsible manner. It also necessitates an investigation into the factors that either reinforced or limited the influence of these revolutions on their political awareness, within the political, economic, and social contexts that have characterized Algeria over the past decade.

Accordingly, the main research question can be formulated as follows: To what extent have the Arab Spring revolutions impacted the political awareness of Algerian university students, and what factors have contributed to shaping or limiting this awareness?

Sub-questions:

• How has the political awareness of Algerian university students regarding democracy and human rights been affected after the Arab Spring revolutions?

• What role have media and social media played in shaping the political awareness of Algerian university students regarding political participation?

• Have the Arab Spring revolutions enhanced Algerian university students' interest in public affairs and political engagement?

• What internal factors (political, economic, and social) have reinforced or limited the impact of these revolutions on the political awareness of Algerian university students?

• What differences exist in the level of political awareness among students according to demographic variables such as gender, academic specialization, and type of university (public or private)?

Significance of the Study:

This study derives its importance from both theoretical and practical dimensions, as it seeks to provide a deep understanding of the impact of the Arab Spring revolutions on the political awareness of Algerian university students—a group that represents the future of society and a driving force for change.

The study's significance can be summarized in the following aspects:

• Scientific Importance:

- It contributes to enriching the academic literature on the relationship between political revolu-

tions and political awareness by offering an in-depth analytical study on the impact of the Arab Spring revolutions on Algerian university students.

- It highlights the concept of political awareness from an academic perspective, focusing on its determinants, components, and influencing factors, thus enabling the development of theoretical frameworks for understanding youth political dynamics.

- It aids in understanding the role of media and social media in shaping students' political perception—a topic gaining increasing importance in light of contemporary digital transformations.
- It opens the way for future studies addressing the impact of protest movements and political changes on various social groups in Algeria and the broader Arab region.

• Practical Importance:

- It provides findings that can assist policymakers in formulating strategies and programs aimed at enhancing political awareness among university youth, thereby fostering a generation more aware of their political and social responsibilities.

- It helps academic institutions develop curricula and extracurricular activities that promote political culture among students, empowering them to engage actively in public life.

- It offers political parties and civil society organizations deeper insights into the political inclinations of youth, enabling them to attract and engage young people more effectively in political activities.
- The study's findings can serve as a basis for evaluating the influence of the political and social environment on young people, helping design more effective strategies to boost political awareness and deepen engagement in democratic practices.

Thus, this study helps bridge theoretical perspectives with practical realities, making it valuable both scientifically and practically.

Study Objectives

This study aims to analyze the impact of the Arab Spring revolutions on the political awareness of Algerian university students, by examining the factors influencing the formation of this awareness and the extent to which political events affect their orientations and political behavior.

Specific Objectives

• Analyze the level of political awareness among Algerian university students after the Arab Spring revolutions, and assess their exposure to the concepts of democracy and human rights.
• Study the role of media and social media in shaping the political attitudes of university students and enhancing their awareness of national and regional issues.
• Identify the extent to which internal and external factors (political, economic, and social) contrib-

ute to the formation of students' political awareness.

• Compare the level of political awareness among students according to variables such as gender and academic specialization.

• Explore the degree of university students' engagement in political and civic activities following the Arab Spring, and identify the factors that encourage or hinder their effective participation.

• Provide recommendations to policymakers and academic institutions on strategies to enhance political awareness among Algerian university students, thereby contributing to the consolidation of a culture of democratic participation.

1. Political Awareness: Concept and Dimensions

Political awareness is defined as an individual's perception of the political reality in which they live, and their understanding of various national, regional, and international issues, in addition to their ability to distinguish between available political alternatives as means to address existing situations and achieve reform and change (Al-Khamis, 2005). Such awareness requires a comprehensive understanding of prevailing political concepts and terminology, which grants individuals greater ability to evaluate public policies and engage consciously and maturely with ongoing developments. It also reflects the extent of a citizen's knowledge of their political rights and responsibilities, enabling them to take responsible stances toward community issues (Al-Laqani & Al-Jamal, 1996).

The level of political awareness among individuals is influenced by several factors, including the educational system, media freedom, and the degree of state openness to political dialogue, as these factors contribute to enhancing citizens' understanding of their roles in the political process. Additionally, political socialization plays a decisive role in constructing political awareness from an early age, making individuals more capable of comprehending their rights and obligations within the political sphere. Consequently, a higher level of political awareness strengthens the values of active citizenship and limits the spread of misinformation and false information that could negatively impact political decisions.

Here's the academic-style English translation of the next part, keeping the tone formal and consistent with APA in-text citations:

2. Political Awareness and Active Participation

Political awareness is regarded as one of the main drivers of political participation, as it enables individuals to analyze political and societal issues, take positions on them, and contribute to shaping the future of their nations (Muawad, 2001).

This awareness is manifested in various forms, such as voting in elections, engaging in political parties, and interacting with national issues across different platforms. Thus, political awareness is not limited to theoretical knowledge; it extends to critical understanding and continuous evaluation of events, contributing to the construction of a more conscious and responsible society regarding its political and social future.

Political awareness requires not only familiarity with political systems and laws but also the development of critical thinking skills and the ability to objectively analyze events. Moreover, political awareness motivates individuals to move beyond passive reception of news and information, empowering them to become active participants capable of influencing political decision-making through public debates and civic initiatives.

When political awareness is high, society becomes better equipped to resist tyranny and corruption, thereby reinforcing the principles of democracy and active citizenship.

3. Features of Weak Political Awareness: Crisis of Identity and Social Integration

The identity crisis emerges as one of the most prominent manifestations of weak political awareness, where individuals lack a clear vision of the nature of the ruling system in their countries—whether tribal, religious, secular, or a mixture thereof—creating a state of political confusion and uncertainty regarding rights and responsibilities (Ahmed, 2005). Furthermore, weak social integration is a natural outcome of prolonged social and economic marginalization, leading to the deepening of sectarian, tribal, or ethnic loyalties at the expense of national belonging. This, in turn, results in the decline of conscious political thought and the emergence of irrational fanaticism and bias in political and societal attitudes. Weak political awareness also affects state stability, as the disintegration of national identity can lead to internal conflicts that undermine social cohesion.

Additionally, the absence of political awareness provides authoritarian regimes with opportunities to exploit internal divisions to consolidate their control and diminish the prospects for effective opposition.

Therefore, strengthening political awareness is an urgent necessity to preserve social and political stability and to ensure the participation of all social groups in decision-making based on democratic and equitable foundations.

4. The Crisis of Political Participation and Its Consequences

The weakness of political awareness is also evident in the crisis of political participation, where citizens' loss of trust in the political system and ruling elites leads to their withdrawal from public affairs (Ahmed, 2005).

With the growing perception that political transformations have failed to bring about substantial changes in social and economic life, popular enthusiasm for participating in elections or engaging in political parties and organizations has significantly declined. This trend weakens the democratic process, rendering it incapable of achieving its intended goals, and perpetuates the continuation of the existing political status quo without genuine change that serves the interests of society.

The lack of political participation creates a fertile environment for the dominance of traditional political elites, who may lack reformist visions necessary for achieving sustainable development.

Moreover, political disengagement marginalizes wide segments of society, further widening the gap between rulers and the ruled.

Thus, enhancing political awareness is essential for activating citizens' roles in the political process and ensuring that political participation becomes a genuine tool for change and improvement rather than a mere symbolic exercise with no real impact.

5. Reflections of the Arab Spring on the Political Awareness of Algerian University Students

The wave of the Arab Spring, which began in 2011, had profound effects on the political and social landscapes of many Arab countries, including Algeria.

Although Algeria was spared the chaos and conflicts experienced by some neighboring countries, it was nevertheless affected by these events.

These transformations left a clear imprint on the awareness of Algerian youth, particularly university students, who became more engaged with political affairs and more capable of analyzing national and international issues.

Here is the academic-style English translation of the new sections you've provided, formatted appropriately for a research paper or academic context:

5-1. Transformations in Algerian Students' Political Awareness

Before the Arab Spring, many Algerian students approached politics with caution due to Algeria's political history, particularly the crises of the 1990s, known as the "Black Decade" (1990-2000), which led many to associate political movements with violence and instability. However, after the onset of the Arab Spring, this perspective gradually began to change, with students becoming more aware of the role of popular movements in influencing political regimes and effecting change in the state's political structure (Castells, 2012).

Additionally, the widespread use of modern media and social networks, such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, provided students with real-time access to political events both within Algeria and in neighboring countries. This facilitated political discussions within university settings,

where students began to engage in more open debates about democracy, political freedoms, social justice, and human rights (Howard & Hussain, 2013).

Political awareness was no longer limited to the intellectual elite or political activists; it became more widespread among students, who found inspiration in the experiences of other Arab nations, whether positive or negative, for analysis and evaluation.

5-2. Enhancing Political Participation Among Algerian Students

One of the most positive reflections of the Arab Spring on Algerian students has been the growing awareness of the importance of political participation. Many young people began to realize that change cannot occur without active involvement in the democratic process, whether through voting in elections, joining political parties, or participating in student and union movements (Dabashi, 2012).

This was clearly reflected in the increasing interest among students in elections, both local and national, where they became more attentive to the political programs of candidates and more critical of the existing political situation. Some even began forming student groups to discuss issues related to political and economic reform, with others organizing peaceful protests within universities to demand better educational and employment conditions, signaling a rise in their political awareness (Lynch, 2014).

Furthermore, students became more conscious of the importance of civil society institutions, with many engaging in non-governmental organizations that promote political awareness and human rights. These institutions played a significant role in offering training courses and political discussions, which helped students become more mature in dealing with national and international issues and more capable of understanding the various dimensions of political work in Algeria.

5-3. Caution Regarding Chaos: The Impact of Arab Experiences on Students' Political Awareness

Although the Arab Spring heightened students' political awareness and interest in public affairs, it also made them more cautious about radical change. Countries like Libya, Syria, and Yemen witnessed chaos and violent conflicts, leading to the collapse of states and the spread of civil wars (Gerges, 2015). These negative experiences led many Algerian students to reconsider the concept of political change, shifting toward a preference for gradual reform rather than succumbing to calls for violent or ill-considered change.

This shift is evident in the political discourse of students, who now advocate for middle-ground solutions that guarantee reform without endangering national stability. They have come to understand that democracy is not merely a political demand, but a complex process that requires the construction of strong institutions, the reinforcement of the rule of law, and the assurance of

individuals' economic and social rights. This understanding reflects a significant evolution in students' political awareness, where they are more attuned to the need for balancing political realism with aspirations for a better future.

5-4. Challenges Facing Political Awareness Among Algerian Students

Despite these transformations, many challenges still hinder the development of political awareness among Algerian students. Slow political and economic reforms, coupled with a lack of a fully open political environment, have left some students feeling disillusioned about the possibility of achieving radical changes (Achcar, 2013). Moreover, the persistence of certain traditional political practices, such as weak political pluralism, has led to a decrease in political enthusiasm among some youth, causing them to withdraw from the political scene rather than engage in it. Additionally, the negative impact of social media on political awareness cannot be overlooked, as some students are exposed to waves of fake news and political propaganda aimed at misleading the public. This presents a significant challenge in developing mature political awareness, as students need analytical tools to distinguish between true and false information and to understand political events beyond temporary emotional reactions.

Undoubtedly, the Arab Spring marked a turning point in the political awareness of Algerian university students, enhancing their interest in political affairs and making them more aware of the importance of political participation and gradual reform. However, the negative experiences of some Arab countries pushed students to adopt a more cautious view toward change, as they now realize that political reform must be based on solid foundations to avoid the risks of chaos and instability. While political awareness continues to evolve, the future of political life in Algeria will largely depend on students' ability to transform this awareness into active and positive participation in building their country.

6- Results of the Study and Discussion:

o.	Satement	Mean	Standard Deviation	Reflection Degree
	I believe that administrative and political corruption is the cause of crises.	4.50	0.50	Very High
3	I have become more interested in reading newspapers and magazines to follow political news.	4.33	0.87	Very High
7	I mainly get my political information from the internet.	4.33	0.87	Very High
	I have started thinking about joining a political party.	4.33	0.87	Very High

1				
8	I believe that Arab satellite news channels play the largest role in shaping my political awareness.	4.31	0.90	Very High
6	I am convinced that the parliament has no real authority; it is just a formal body.	4.31	0.90	Very High
1	I have become more confident in expressing my political opinions without hesitation or fear.	4.24	0.90	Very High
6	I notice that the Ministry of Interior only becomes active during election periods.	4.10	0.93	High
9	I believe that banning political activities in universities leads to increased political apathy among students.	4.07	0.99	High
9	I have become interested in following political news because it increases my knowledge of national and religious events.	4.04	1.04	High
8	I believe that political parties have failed to analyze and address societal issues.	4.00	1.04	High
0	I trust the accuracy of the news and analysis provided by satellite news channels.	3.93	1.03	High
4	I realize that increasing political awareness among youth helps reduce tension between the government and citizens interested in public affairs.	3.65	1.25	High
3	I spend a large part of my time discussing political issues raised in the media with others.	3.61	1.25	High
2	I have started watching news broadcasts on visual media daily.	3.56	1.16	High
4	I have started learning how to engage in dialogue and debate in an open and balanced manner.	3.53	1.21	High
	I have become interested in following Arab political issues.	3.53	1.29	High
5	I have started dedicating most of my time to following local and regional political news and events.	3.45	1.27	High
6	I now believe that citizen participation in shaping public policies guarantees true democracy.	3.45	1.27	High

2	I have become more aware of the risks and challenges that threaten my country and national identity.	3.45	1.27	High
0	I now have clear political stances on most local and Arab issues.	3.41	1.21	High
1	I have started comparing the political news I hear and read to gain a clearer perspective.	3.41	1.28	High
	I have started doubting the accuracy of the information broadcast by local television channels.	3.41	1.28	High
	I have become interested in following political news, whether from print or online newspapers.	3.41	1.28	High
8	I participate in elections because I believe it contributes to improving the country's conditions.	3.00	0.71	Moderate
2	I have started learning about the differences between various political and party ideologies.	3.00	0.65	Moderate
7	I feel happy when following political news.	2.91	0.71	Moderate
	I believe that security agencies restrict individuals' freedom to express their reform demands in the streets.	2.85	0.80	Moderate
	My intellectual interests have shifted from personal matters to focusing on popular party politics.	2.84	0.92	Moderate
	Most of my discussions now revolve around politics and current political events.	2.82	0.92	Moderate
7	I believe that my political participation could make me a more influential person.	1.97	0.88	Low
Total Mean:		3.47	0.51	High

Analysis and Interpretation of Results and Figures:

The statistical results indicate that the average political awareness among individuals included in the study is 3.47 on a 5-point scale, reflecting a high level of interest in political affairs. To analyze these results in more detail, they can be categorized according to the degree of reflection as follows:

First: Indicators with a "Very High" Degree (4.31 - 4.50):

This category reflects a very strong political awareness among individuals, with the results showing the following:

• There is widespread recognition that administrative and political corruption is the main cause of the crises the country is facing (4.50), indicating a critical awareness of political and administrative performance.

• Reliance on the internet and media as primary sources for acquiring political knowledge is evident, as the items related to following newspapers and magazines (4.33) and using the internet as a source for political information (4.33) received very high ratings.

• There is a growing trend towards considering participation in political parties, with the statement "I am thinking about joining a political party" receiving a rating of 4.33, indicating an interest in organized political engagement.

• Arab satellite channels play a central role in shaping individuals' political awareness (4.31), reflecting the significant influence of media in shaping public opinion.

• There is a widespread belief that the parliament does not have real authority, but is merely a formal body (4.31), indicating a lack of trust in the legislative institution.

Analysis: These results indicate an advanced level of political awareness, where individuals are turning to diverse sources for information and showing an increasing desire to engage in political activities. However, there is also a sense of doubt and lack of trust in existing political institutions.

Second: Indicators with a "High" Degree (3.50 - 4.30):

This category reflects a good level of political awareness, though it shows some variation in attitudes:

• There is an increase in expressing political opinions freely (4.24), which is a positive sign of growing personal freedoms.

• There is a belief that the Ministry of Interior's performance is weak, as individuals perceive it as only active during election periods (4.10), indicating a negative view of the role of governmental institutions.

• Some individuals believe that banning political activities in universities contributes to increased political apathy (4.07), emphasizing the importance of student activism in promoting political culture.

• Increased political awareness is reflected in following political news and national and religious events (4.04), as well as interest in Arab issues (3.53), indicating a growing sense of national and pan-Arab identity.

• Individuals are starting to recognize the importance of dialogue and openness to others (3.53), enhancing the environment for healthy political discussions.

• There is an increasing awareness that citizen participation in policymaking guarantees true democracy (3.45), which is a positive indicator of the development of democratic thought.

• At the same time, individuals now have clear political stances on local and Arab issues (3.41), meaning they are no longer passive recipients of news but are forming independent opinions.

Analysis: These results reflect a high level of political awareness, where individuals show interest in following news, engaging in political discussions, and understanding the importance of political dialogue and democracy. However, doubts remain about the role of official institutions, which may affect the level of trust in the political system.

Third: Indicators with a "Moderate" Degree (2.50 - 3.50):

This category indicates limited or inconsistent political awareness:

• Although some individuals participate in parliamentary elections believing that it improves the country's situation (3.00), the moderate rating of this item reflects hesitation regarding the effectiveness of this participation.

• Recognizing the differences between political currents is still at a moderate level (3.00), indicating that some individuals have not yet reached a deep understanding of ideological differences between political parties.

• There is a sense of the ineffectiveness of the voting card (2.89) and a lack of trust in the integrity of elections, which may explain the political disengagement of some groups.

• Political follow-up still seems unenjoyable for many, as only 2.91% expressed happiness in following political news, suggesting that some individuals find politics draining or uninspiring.

Analysis: These results indicate that political awareness is still uneven among individuals, with a gap between the desire to engage in politics and a lack of confidence in its effectiveness. This may explain the caution and hesitation towards the political process.

Fourth: Indicators with a "Low" Degree (Below 2.50):

This category reflects weak political participation or disengagement:

• There is weak belief in the idea that political participation could make someone more influential (1.97), indicating a sense of political frustration among some individuals.

• The belief that protests are merely a social phenomenon with no practical effect received a low rating, reflecting a negative view of political protests.

Analysis: These indicators reflect a proportion of individuals who feel that political participation is ineffective, which may be linked to a low level of trust in political institutions or a lack of belief in their ability to create meaningful change.

General Conclusions:

• High General Political Awareness: The results show that individuals have a high level of political awareness (3.47 out of 5), indicating strong interest in political issues and clear positions on them.

• The Significant Role of Media and the Internet: It is clear that media, especially satellite channels and the internet, play a key role in shaping individuals' political awareness.

• Weak Trust in Official Institutions: There is a lack of trust in the parliament and doubts about the integrity of elections, which may explain the political disengagement of some individuals.

• Growing Interest in Dialogue and Openness: The increasing interest in political discussions reflects a desire for a deeper understanding of public issues, which indicates the growth of democratic culture.

• Reluctance Towards Political Participation: Despite high political awareness, some individuals remain hesitant about engaging in party politics or elections.

General Findings:

1.Development of Political Awareness After the Arab Spring: The results suggest that the Arab Spring revolutions had a significant impact on the political awareness of Algerian university students, making them more attuned to political issues and civil rights. This aligns with previous studies, such as Dubreil's (2013) research, which highlighted the impact of the Arab revolutions in stimulating critical thinking among Arab youth and encouraging them to seek independent sources of political information.

2.Role of Media in Shaping Political Awareness: The study results show the major role of digital media, especially the internet and satellite news channels, in shaping political awareness. These results are consistent with Castells' (2012) study, which found that digital media became the primary source of political information, particularly after the Arab Spring.

3.Crisis of Trust in Political Institutions and its Impact on Participation: One of the key findings of the study is the lack of trust in political institutions. The parliament is viewed as a mere formal body, and the Ministry of the Interior is seen as only active during elections. This trend reflects a general crisis of trust in Arab governments, as noted by Barghouthi (2015) in his study on the loss of trust among Arab youth in political institutions after the Arab Spring.

4.Contradiction Between High Political Awareness and Low Actual Participation: The study shows that while university students have high political awareness, this awareness has not been significantly translated into concrete political action, such as joining political parties or movements. This contradiction between political knowledge and actual political engagement reflects the find-

ings of Inglehart & Welzel (2005), who explained that increased awareness does not necessarily lead to increased political participation unless there is a conducive political environment.

5.The Impact of Economic and Social Factors on Political Interest: The study highlights that economic factors, such as economic crises and unemployment, negatively affect political participation, as some individuals focus more on their economic needs rather than engaging in political affairs. This is in line with Huntington's (1991) theory on "democratic waves," which suggested that political participation is often weakened in societies facing economic instability.

6.The Future of Political Awareness and Participation in Algeria: Based on these findings, it can be said that Algeria is undergoing a transformation in the political awareness of university students. While they are becoming more aware of the importance of political participation, they remain hesitant due to a lack of trust in the political system. If these trends continue, it is expected that pressure will increase on political institutions to implement real democratic reforms, especially with the growing role of digital media in enhancing political awareness.

These results are a crucial indicator of the need to improve the political participation environment, particularly by enhancing transparency, promoting political dialogue, and involving youth in decision-making processes.

Study Results in Light of the Research Questions:

1.How did the political awareness of Algerian university students about democracy and human rights change after the Arab Spring revolutions?

After the Arab Spring revolutions, the political awareness of Algerian university students experienced a significant shift. Concepts of democracy and human rights became more prominent in student discussions and university activities. Students became more aware of the importance of participating in decision-making processes and developed a deeper interest in understanding their political and civil rights. However, this influence was not uniform, as it varied based on each student's social, cultural, and economic background, as well as the nature of official interactions with these issues both inside and outside universities.

2.What role did the media and social media play in shaping Algerian university students' awareness of political participation?

Both traditional media (newspapers, TV channels) and social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) played a pivotal role in enhancing university students' awareness of political participation. These media provided students with platforms to follow local and international political events, analyze them, and engage with them. They also helped spread awareness about the importance of elections, freedom of expression, and the role of civil society, which broadened stu-

dents' perspectives on democratic practices. However, this influence was dual-sided, as some students were exposed to negative effects such as media misinformation and political polarization.

3.Did the Arab Spring revolutions contribute to increasing Algerian university students' interest in public affairs and engaging in political action?

Yes, the Arab Spring played a role in motivating university students to engage more with public affairs, as they became more aware of political and economic issues affecting their future. Signs of this increased interest appeared through greater political discussions within universities and participation in student activities with a political or human rights focus. On the other hand, restrictions on political activities within universities and fear of the repercussions of political movements led some students to prefer indirect engagement through social media or limited discussions within student circles.

4.What internal factors (political, economic, and social) enhanced or diminished the impact of these revolutions on the political awareness of Algerian university students?

- Political Factors: The stability of the political system in Algeria, compared to some countries that experienced revolutions, limited the impact of the Arab Spring on student activism. However, it did not completely prevent its influence on political awareness. Additionally, the nature of the laws governing political activity within universities played a role in shaping how students interacted with political events.

- Economic Factors: The economic situation, including high youth unemployment rates, made students more aware of the importance of political participation as a means to pressure for improved living conditions. At the same time, it led some to disengage from political activism due to their focus on achieving economic stability.

- Social Factors: The role of family and societal traditions in Algeria had a varied impact. While some families encouraged their children to stay away from politics due to fear of repercussions, others motivated them to be aware of and engage with national issues, especially through family discussions and media.

Summary:

Overall, the Arab Spring revolutions contributed to raising the political awareness of Algerian university students, but to varying degrees depending on the internal and external factors influencing them. Traditional media and social media were the most prominent means of shaping this awareness, while political, economic, and social obstacles continued to limit the transformation of this awareness into tangible political action on the ground.

General Assumption:

The analysis reveals that the Arab Spring revolutions had a noticeable impact on the political awareness of Algerian university students, as their interest in democratic concepts and human rights grew, and they gained a deeper understanding of their role in political life. However, this influence was not uniform, as it was affected by several internal factors, such as Algeria's relative political stability, economic challenges, and restrictions on political activities within universities.

Traditional and new media, especially social media platforms, played a key role in spreading political awareness among students, helping them follow the news, discuss national issues, and form clearer political opinions. However, this did not always translate into actual political participation, as barriers such as lack of trust in political parties and fear of consequences hindered their direct involvement in political action.

Based on this, it can be said that the Arab Spring succeeded in transforming the political awareness of Algerian university students, but it did not necessarily lead to a tangible increase in actual political participation, due to the political, economic, and social factors that still affect their decisions and political behavior.

Conclusion:

The political awareness of Algerian university students saw a noticeable development under the influence of the Arab Spring revolutions, as their understanding of democracy and human rights was enhanced, and they became more interested in public affairs and political issues. However, this awareness did not always translate into actual political participation, due to internal factors such as the political environment, economic challenges, and restrictions on political activities within universities.

Media, especially social media, played a significant role in shaping students' awareness by providing them with information and facilitating discussions on political issues. However, there remains a gap between political interest and actual participation, indicating the need for more political and social reforms to encourage youth engagement in political life more effectively.

Finally, the enhancement of students' awareness should be supported by an open political environment that guarantees freedom of expression and provides real opportunities for participation, ensuring that this awareness transforms into a driving force for positive change and democratic building in society.

Recommendations:

Based on the study's findings, a set of recommendations can be made to enhance the political awareness of Algerian university students and increase their level of participation in public affairs, as follows:

• Promote political culture by including courses on democracy and human rights and organizing political seminars within universities.

• Encourage freedom of expression by allowing peaceful political activities and fostering a culture of dialogue and intellectual pluralism.

• Activate the role of the media by supporting independent journalism and organizing awareness campaigns on the importance of political participation.

• Use social media to spread reliable political content and combat misinformation.

• Improve the political and economic environment by providing job opportunities and enhancing youth trust in political institutions.

• Encourage participation in elections through awareness campaigns and motivating students to engage in political and civic work.

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