

A Just Democracy as the Foundation of National Progress in the Technological Era

Indra Kurnia¹

¹ Universitas Negeri Semarang
indrakurnia793@students.unnes.ac.id

Article Info

Article history:

Received May 13th, 2026

Revised Jul 22th, 2026

Accepted Aug 21th, 2026

Keywords:

just democracy, digital technology,
digital democracy, Pancasila,
digital literacy, NKRI

ABSTRACT

People's lives have changed significantly thanks to advances in digital technology, including Indonesia's democratic system. People can now more easily obtain information, express their ideas, and participate in political life thanks to the development of social media and the internet. However, this progress has also given rise to a number of problems, including the spread of misinformation, hate speech, social divisions, and low computer literacy. The purpose of this essay is to discuss the importance of a just democracy as a foundation for national progress in the technological era. A qualitative literature review was used as the research methodology, which included a review of various academic publications and scientific journals related to the topics of democracy, digital technology, civic education, and Pancasila democracy. The discussion concludes that, to maintain national unity and raise standards of public participation in the digital era, a just democracy must be practiced based on Pancasila values. Furthermore, the development of a society that uses technology critically, wisely, and responsibly depends heavily on civic education and digital literacy. Therefore, technology can be used to contribute to Indonesia's progress and strengthen democracy.



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INTRODUCTION

People's lives have undergone significant changes due to advances in digital technology in recent years. Various human activities previously carried out in person have now shifted to the digital realm. With just a smartphone and an internet connection, information can be easily accessed. These changes have impacted not only Indonesia's economic and educational sectors but also its political system.

Essentially, democracy is a form of government that provides citizens with the opportunity to participate in national and state affairs. In a democracy, people have the right to voice their ideas, elect leaders, and participate in overseeing the running of the government. The ideas of Pancasila, which prioritize discussion, social justice, unity, and respect for human rights, are the foundation of Indonesian democracy. (Purwaningrum, PW, Nurmalia, L., & Pangestu, 2021) (Prawesti, BBC, Tristiana, A., & Dewi, 2023), Indonesian democracy must be built on the principles of justice, public involvement, and respect for citizen rights in addition to political freedom.

Democratic practices have undergone significant changes in today's technological era. The public can now more easily voice their political aspirations thanks to the development of social media. They can readily access information about social issues, elections, and government policies. Consequently, public engagement in democracy has increased. Younger generations now have more opportunities to participate in social and political life thanks to technology. According to (Abiyuna, 2023), civic education in the digital era is crucial for developing a young generation with strong digital citizenship ideals and the ability to use technology responsibly.

However, technological developments do not always have positive impacts. Digital spaces are often exploited to spread false information, hate speech, political propaganda, and provocations that can incite conflict in society. Social media, which should be used to strengthen democracy, sometimes becomes a vehicle for the spread of disinformation. This situation poses a serious challenge to

Indonesian democracy. Democracy without digital literacy can lead to social polarization and undermine national unity.

This phenomenon is evident in various political moments in Indonesia. Debates on social media often escalate into conflicts between community groups. Unconfirmed information can spread rapidly without verification. (Efendi et al., 2025) state that the digital era offers significant opportunities for the development of democracy, but on the other hand, it also presents threats in the form of hoaxes, information manipulation, and misuse of social media.

Furthermore, technological developments have changed the way people communicate about politics. While political campaigns were previously conducted directly through face-to-face meetings, most political activities are now conducted through digital platforms. (Lubis, IAR, Ramdan, ATM, & Wiryany, 2022) explain that digital politics has become a new form of communication in modern democratic life, where people are no longer merely recipients of information but also actively produce and disseminate political information. Most political activities are now conducted through digital channels, whereas previously political campaigns were conducted directly through face-to-face meetings. According to (Lubis, IAR, Ramdan, ATM, & Wiryany, 2022), digital politics has emerged as a new means of communication in contemporary democratic societies. People now actively create and disseminate political information, rather than simply being recipients of it.

This development demonstrates that democracy in the digital age demands that the public be prepared to deal with the rapid spread of information. Digital literacy is necessary for the public to distinguish between factual and false information; without this ability, the quality of democracy can decline, as people are vulnerable to being influenced by misinformation. Digital literacy is crucial for the public to be able to distinguish between true and false information. Without this ability, the public is vulnerable to being influenced by misinformation, which can undermine democratic standards.

However, technology can also be used to strengthen a just democracy. The public can access information more freely, and the government can utilize technology to increase the transparency of public services and expand public participation in policy-making. (Fitriani et al., 2023) highlight that social media and technology have had a significant impact on public participation in the democratic process in Indonesia. The public now has more open access to knowledge thanks to technology. Technology can also be used by the government to increase public involvement in decision-making and improve the transparency of public services. According to (Fitriani et al., 2023), social media and technology have had a significant impact on Indonesian public involvement in the democratic process.

All citizens have equal opportunities to participate without discrimination in a just democracy, which prioritizes equal rights, social justice, and social welfare in addition to freedom. (Arfa, M., 2025) explains that political justice in contemporary democracy can be seen through equality, participation, and fair public representation. Every citizen has an equal opportunity to participate in a just democracy without facing prejudice. According to (Arfa, M., 2025), equality, participation, and fair public representation are indicators of political justice in contemporary democracy.

The concept of just democracy is crucial in Indonesia because the Indonesian nation possesses diverse ethnicities, religions, cultures, and political views. Democracy that is not implemented fairly can give rise to social inequality and conflict in society. Therefore, the values of Pancasila must serve as the foundation for implementing democracy in the technological era. (Sovia, S., Fitri, AS, Asima, P., Syaputra, MK, Yanti, HS, & Hasibuan, 2024) emphasize that in the life of the nation and state, Pancasila Democracy is a crucial foundation for maintaining a balance between individual freedom and the common good.

Besides its relevance to political justice, democracy in the technological era is also linked to the character development of the younger generation. Currently, young people are the most active group in using social media and digital technology.

Due to these conditions, the younger generation plays a crucial role in determining the future of Indonesian democracy. Young people can be agents of change, capable of advancing the nation if technology is used constructively. Conversely, the indiscriminate use of technology can lead to various social and political problems.

(Septiano, AK, & Najicha, 2022) demonstrates how civics education, which not only teaches the concept of democracy but also instills a sense of responsibility in exercising freedom of expression, is crucial in helping the younger generation develop a sense of nationalism in this era of technological

advancement. In addition to teaching the philosophy of democracy, civics education also fosters a sense of responsibility in exercising the right to freedom of expression.

Furthermore, digital democracy also presents new challenges in the form of post-truth democracy. In this environment, public opinion is often more influenced by emotion than by facts. (Martitah, Hidayat, A., Gusthomi, MI, Septiani, N., Putra, TI, & Yusoff, 2025) explain that the post-truth era can threaten democracy if the public lacks the ability to think critically about the information they receive.

Based on these various conditions, it is understandable that just democracy plays a crucial role as a foundation for national progress in the technological era. Democracy is not simply about providing freedom to the people; it must also be able to create social justice, maintain national unity, and improve the quality of public participation. Technology should be utilized as a means of strengthening democracy, not as a cause of social conflict and division.

This article discusses the impact of technological developments on Indonesian democracy, the importance of fair democracy in driving national progress in the technological era, and steps that can be taken to ensure that democracy remains in line with the values of Pancasila and the principles of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

RESEARCH METHODS

Because the discussion in this article focuses on the analysis of the concept of just democracy, the development of digital technology, and its impact on democratic life in Indonesia, this study uses a qualitative research method with a literature review approach. The data used in this study were obtained from various written sources, including scientific journals, books, seminar proceedings, and academic articles relevant to the research topic. Because the discussion in this article focuses on the study of the idea of just democracy, the advancement of digital technology, and its impact on democratic life in Indonesia, the literature review technique was chosen. This research data comes from various written sources, including books, academic articles related to the research topic, scientific journals, and seminar proceedings.

A qualitative approach is used to more deeply understand the phenomenon of democracy in the technological era. Qualitative research does not emphasize numbers or statistical calculations, but rather focuses on understanding a social phenomenon based on various sources of information. In this research, democracy is understood as a social and political system that continues to evolve due to changes in technology and societal communication patterns.

Scientific journals discussing digital democracy, civic education, social media, digital literacy, and Pancasila democracy served as the primary data sources for this research. Among the cited publications were studies on digital citizenship (Abiyuna, 2023), digital politics (Lubis, IAR, Ramdan, ATM, & Wiryany, 2022), political justice (Arfa, M., 2025), and digital democracy in Indonesia (Sardini, 2018).

In addition to scientific journals, this research also utilized books to strengthen its theoretical foundation. Several journals discussed digital democracy, civic education, social media, and Pancasila Democracy as the foundation of democratic life in Indonesia.

Data collection was conducted by reading, understanding, documenting, and reviewing various literature sources related to the research topic. Each piece of information was then selected based on its relevance to the research theme. No references unrelated to democracy, technology, or civics education were used in the analysis.

The next stage is data analysis, which involves identifying various challenges to democracy in the digital age and then linking them to the concept of just democracy from the perspective of Pancasila. The data is then systematically organized to produce a coherent and understandable discussion. From the perspective of Pancasila, this research involves identifying various challenges to democracy in the digital age and then linking them to the concept of just democracy. After analysis, the evidence is systematically organized to create a logical and understandable discussion.

The literature study method was chosen because of several advantages. First, this method allows researchers to obtain information from various academically grounded sources. Second, literature studies can be used to gain a broader understanding of the development of digital democracy issues. Third, this method is effective for examining social phenomena related to technological developments and social life.

However, this study also has limitations. The data used came solely from written sources, so the study did not involve interviews or direct field observations. Therefore, the results focus more on theoretical analysis based on published academic references.

Through this research method, it is hoped that the discussion on just democracy as the foundation of national progress in the technological era can be explained systematically, objectively, and in accordance with the current social conditions of Indonesian society.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Just Democracy from the Perspective of Pancasila

The characteristics of Indonesian democracy differ from those of other liberal democracies. The Pancasila ideology, which emphasizes the balance between individual freedom and the public interest, serves as the foundation of Indonesian democracy. Democracy must consider social justice and national unity, in addition to the right to freedom of expression.

Pancasila is the primary foundation for the implementation of democracy in Indonesia. The values of deliberation, mutual cooperation, and social justice are essential to the democratic life of the Indonesian nation. (Sovia, S., Fitri, AS, Asima, P., Syaputra, MK, Yanti, HS, & Hasibuan, 2024) explain that Pancasila Democracy is a crucial foundation for maintaining the unity of Indonesian society, which has diverse ethnicities, religions, and cultures.

Every member of society has equal political rights in a just democracy. No group should experience discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity, or social status. Everyone should have the opportunity to contribute to the nation's progress in a just democracy.

(Arfa, M., 2025) explains that political justice in modern democracy can be seen through equal rights, public participation, and public representation in government. This demonstrates that a good democracy is measured not only by the existence of elections, but also by the extent to which citizens actually receive political rights fairly.

Furthermore, just democracy is also related to law enforcement. Democracy will not function well if the law only favors certain groups. (Arfa, M., 2025) explains that a good democracy must be able to guarantee political justice, equal rights, and protection for fair public participation.

The Impact of Digital Technology on Democracy

Advances in digital technology have significantly transformed the landscape of Indonesian democracy. Thanks to technology, people can now access information more quickly and easily, and social media has emerged as a new platform for people to voice their ideas and discuss various political issues. Thanks to technology, people can acquire knowledge more easily and quickly. Social media has emerged as a new platform for people to voice their thoughts and engage in political discourse.

These changes have transformed political communication patterns. While previously people obtained political information through television or newspapers, today more information is obtained through social media platforms like Instagram, TikTok, X, and YouTube. This has led to a more active participation in political life.

(Lubis, IAR, Ramdan, ATM, & Wiryany, 2022) discuss how the digital era has given rise to a new form of political communication known as "digital politics." In digital politics, the public not only receives political information but also plays a role in its creation and dissemination.

Public involvement in democracy has also expanded thanks to technological advances. According to Fitriani et al. (2023), social media provides a broader platform for public participation in the political process. Citizens can voice their concerns, criticize government policies, and even monitor government performance.

While digital technology has positive impacts, it also presents various challenges to democracy. One of the biggest challenges is the spread of political hoaxes and disinformation. False information spread through social media can influence public opinion and trigger social conflict.

(Efendi et al., 2025) explain that democracy in the digital age presents both opportunities and threats. Technology can strengthen public participation, but it can also be used to spread propaganda, hate speech, and manipulate information.

The phenomenon of post-truth democracy presents a new challenge in modern democratic life. In this situation, society is more easily influenced by emotions and opinions than by actual facts. (Martitah, Hidayat, A., Gusthomi, MI, Septiani, N., Putra, TI, & Yusoff, 2025) explain that democracy

in the post-truth era can lead to a decline in the quality of democracy if society lacks critical thinking skills.

Digital Democracy and Youth Participation

In the digital age, young people play a crucial role in the advancement of democracy. In Indonesia, the majority of internet and social media users are young people. Therefore, they wield significant influence in the field of digital democracy.

(Abiyuna, 2023) shows that civics education is crucial in shaping digital citizenship in the younger generation. Digital citizens should not only be able to utilize technology but also understand the principles of democracy, ethics, and responsibility.

The younger generation's participation in democracy can be seen through various activities on social media. Many young people actively express their opinions on political, social, and environmental issues. Furthermore, young people are also involved in social movements through digital platforms.

However, excessive social media use can also have negative impacts if not accompanied by adequate digital literacy. According to Tricia et al. (2026), issues facing the younger generation regarding digital ethics must be addressed to prevent social media use from leading to disputes or violations of communication ethics.

Furthermore, the younger generation's sense of nationalism can be influenced by technological advances. According to Septiano, AK, & Najicha, 2022, civics education is crucial in helping the younger generation cultivate a sense of nationalism in this increasingly technologically advanced era.

In order for future generations to become active, critical, and responsible citizens in a democratic society, civic education must continue to be developed.

The Challenges of Just Democracy in the Technological Era

While technology offers many benefits, democracy in the digital age still faces a number of challenges. Increasing social polarization fueled by differing political views on social media is one major issue.

Political debates in digital spaces often escalate into conflict between community groups. This situation can disrupt national unity if not addressed wisely. (Purwaningrum, PW, Nurmalia, L., & Pangestu, 2021) explain that virtual spaces have become a crucial part of the democratization process of modern society.

Besides polarization, another challenge facing Indonesian democracy is the low level of digital literacy among the public. Many people still readily believe information that is not yet verified. This situation makes the spread of hoaxes increasingly difficult to control.

(Sardini, 2018) explains that digital democracy in Indonesia has great opportunities to develop, but also faces challenges in the form of misuse of technology and the weak quality of public literacy.

The next challenge is the abuse of freedom of expression. Democracy does grant people the freedom to express their opinions, but this freedom must be accompanied by responsibility. Hate speech and provocation spread through social media can undermine the quality of democracy and disrupt national unity.

Furthermore, people's privacy and data security are threatened by technological advancements. Because personal information can be exploited for financial or political gain, regulations and oversight regarding the use of digital technology must be tightened.

Efforts to Strengthen Just Democracy in the Technological Era

Just democracy can be strengthened through various efforts involving the government, educational institutions, and the community. One crucial step is improving the public's digital literacy.

Digital literacy is crucial for enabling people to use technology easily and intelligently. The public should be encouraged to verify information before sharing it on social media. This will help reduce misinformation and hoaxes.

Civics education, which can help shape citizens who understand their rights and obligations in a democratic society, is crucial to strengthening democracy, alongside digital literacy. Citizens who understand their rights and obligations in a democratic society can be developed through civic education.

(Manik, TS, Purwantiningsih, A., & Riyanti, 2024) explains how civic education contributes to the formation of democratic individuals who are able to participate actively and responsibly in society.

Furthermore, the government must increase the transparency of public services by utilizing digital technology, which can be used to increase public involvement in decision-making and facilitate

access to public information. Technology has the potential to increase public participation in government affairs and make public information more accessible.

Arifin, F., Maarif, I., Suryana, C., Permana, FC, & Murbani (2025) explain that the development of e-voting demonstrates the transformation of digital democracy in modern political systems. Technology can be used to increase the effectiveness and transparency of democratic implementation.

Furthermore, to ensure democracy remains aligned with the Indonesian nation's identity, the values of Pancasila must continue to be instilled in society. The common good and individual freedom must coexist in a just democracy.

CONCLUSION

Just democracy plays a crucial role in supporting national progress in the technological era. The development of digital technology has brought about significant changes in people's lives, including in the field of democracy. The presence of social media and the internet has made it easier for people to obtain information, express their opinions, and participate in political life. This situation demonstrates that technology can be a tool to strengthen democracy if used wisely.

However, technological developments also present various challenges to democracy in Indonesia. The spread of hoaxes, hate speech, social polarization, and low digital literacy are issues that can undermine the quality of democracy. Therefore, democracy is not simply about providing freedom of expression; it must also be accompanied by responsibility, ethics, and social justice.

Indonesian democracy must continue to be implemented based on the values of Pancasila to maintain national unity amidst increasingly rapid technological developments. Civic education, digital literacy, and character building among the younger generation are crucial steps in creating a critical, active, and responsible citizenry within a democratic society.

With a just democracy, people can have equal opportunities in political, social, and economic life. Technology should be utilized as a means to strengthen unity, increase public participation, and support the progress of the Indonesian nation.

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