



The Relevance of Pancasila in the Digital Age Amid Shifting Political Orientations among Indonesian Youth

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Abstract

The rapid expansion of digital technology has transformed political communication, civic engagement, and value formation among young people, creating new challenges for maintaining the relevance of Pancasila in Indonesia's democratic life. This study aims to examine the relevance of Pancasila amid shifting political orientations among Indonesian youth in the digital age and to explore its role as a normative framework for digital citizenship. Employing a qualitative descriptive approach through a systematic literature review, the study synthesizes findings from contemporary scholarly publications on digital politics, youth political participation, civic education, and political identity. The analysis reveals that digital media simultaneously expands opportunities for political participation while intensifying political polarization, misinformation, identity politics, and ideological fragmentation that may weaken the internalization of Pancasila values. The study further demonstrates that Pancasila remains a relevant civic ideology capable of fostering democratic ethics, social cohesion, and responsible political participation when integrated into digital literacy and civic education initiatives. The novelty of this study lies in positioning Pancasila not only as a constitutional ideology but also as an ethical framework for strengthening digital citizenship among Indonesian youth. These findings provide strategic insights for policymakers, educators, and civil society organizations in promoting democratic resilience and national identity within an increasingly digital political environment.

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INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of digital technology has fundamentally transformed political communication, civic engagement, and democratic participation across the world. Digital platforms have become primary arenas where young people access political information, express opinions, construct political identities, and participate in public discourse. Social media applications such as TikTok, Instagram, X, Facebook, and YouTube have accelerated the circulation of political narratives while simultaneously reshaping patterns of political socialization among younger generations. This transformation has generated new opportunities for democratic participation but has also increased exposure to misinformation, political polarization, algorithmic echo chambers, and identity-based political mobilization. Consequently, understanding the relationship between digital transformation and youth political orientation has become an increasingly important issue in contemporary political studies (Brown et al., 2024; Farrugia, 2024; Ida et al., 2020).

Young people occupy a strategic position in democratic development because they represent future political leaders, voters, policymakers, and agents of social change. Their political orientation significantly influences the sustainability of democratic governance and national development. However, digitalization has altered conventional patterns of political participation, shifting from institutional and organizational engagement toward network-based, issue-oriented, and digitally mediated participation. Contemporary youth tend to obtain political knowledge from online communities rather than formal civic education institutions, making digital media a dominant agent of political socialization. Although this transformation increases accessibility to political information, it also raises concerns regarding the quality of political literacy and ideological consistency among young citizens (Poulos, 2022; Ting & Ahmad, 2025).

Indonesia experiences similar challenges as one of the countries with the largest populations of internet and social media users in the world. Indonesian youth spend considerable amounts of

time interacting within digital ecosystems where political narratives compete with entertainment content, commercial interests, and ideological campaigns. The increasing dependence on digital platforms has changed how political opinions are formed, encouraging more spontaneous, emotional, and personalized political behavior rather than rational deliberation. Digital political engagement therefore provides both democratic opportunities and risks, particularly when political information circulates without adequate verification and ethical consideration (Kulachai et al., 2024; López López, 2021).

The expansion of digital political participation has also contributed to significant shifts in youth political orientation. Rather than being strongly attached to political parties or formal ideological organizations, many young people increasingly identify with issue-based movements, online activism, and viral political campaigns. Political participation has become more decentralized, interactive, and dependent upon digital networks. Hashtag movements, influencer politics, meme culture, and algorithm-driven information flows increasingly shape political attitudes and electoral preferences among younger generations. While these developments enhance political accessibility, they also create fragmented political identities and increase susceptibility to disinformation, populism, and digital manipulation (Jha, 2025; Wan Husin et al., 2025).

Within this context, Pancasila remains the philosophical foundation and ideological identity of the Indonesian state. Since independence, Pancasila has served not only as the constitutional basis of governance but also as a normative framework guiding democratic values, national unity, social justice, religious tolerance, and humanitarian principles. The values embodied in Pancasila provide ethical guidance for citizens to balance individual freedom with collective responsibility and national cohesion. Nevertheless, the rapid digital transformation has challenged the effectiveness of traditional civic education mechanisms in transmitting these values to younger generations whose daily interactions increasingly occur in virtual spaces (Cooper, 2025; Zulkifle & Aziz, 2023).

The weakening internalization of Pancasila values among some segments of Indonesian

youth has become a growing concern. Digital environments facilitate the rapid dissemination of hate speech, intolerance, identity politics, misinformation, and radical narratives that may undermine social cohesion and democratic stability. The openness of cyberspace allows diverse ideological influences to enter Indonesian society without effective cultural filtering, potentially weakening national identity and civic responsibility. At the same time, the dominance of global digital culture has contributed to changing lifestyles, political preferences, and patterns of social interaction among young Indonesians. These developments highlight the urgency of strengthening civic values capable of maintaining democratic resilience in the digital era (Jones, 2020; Prakasa & Fatmawati, 2024).

The youth political participation, digital democracy, social media communication, political literacy, and civic engagement. Existing research demonstrates that digital technology can expand political participation while simultaneously increasing vulnerability to polarization, misinformation, and ideological extremism. Other studies emphasize the importance of civic education and political literacy in promoting democratic participation among young citizens. However, most previous research focuses primarily on technological dimensions of political participation or democratic communication without sufficiently examining the normative role of Pancasila as Indonesia's foundational political ideology in responding to changing political orientations within digital society (Chambers, 2021; Shiratuddin et al., 2021).

This study addresses that gap by positioning Pancasila as an ethical and civic framework capable of guiding political behavior in contemporary digital environments. Rather than viewing Pancasila solely as a constitutional doctrine or historical ideology, this article argues that its values remain highly relevant for promoting democratic ethics, responsible digital participation, social cohesion, and national identity amid rapidly evolving political communication ecosystems. Integrating Pancasila values into digital citizenship represents an important strategy for strengthening political literacy and preventing

ideological fragmentation among Indonesian youth.

The aims of study were analyzed the relevance of Pancasila in the digital age amid shifting political orientations among Indonesian youth. Specifically, the study explores how digital transformation influences youth political orientation, examines the continuing relevance of Pancasila values within contemporary political communication, and identifies strategies for strengthening Pancasila-based political education through digital spaces. The findings are expected to contribute theoretically to the development of digital citizenship studies and practically to the formulation of civic education policies that reinforce democratic values, national identity, and responsible political participation among Indonesian youth in the digital era.

METHODS

This study employed a qualitative descriptive approach using normative political analysis to examine the relevance of Pancasila amid shifting political orientations among Indonesian youth in the digital age. Normative political analysis was adopted because the study focuses on evaluating the role of Pancasila as the philosophical foundation and political ideology of the Indonesian state in responding to contemporary transformations in political behavior and democratic participation within digital society (Halperin & Heath, 2020; Lowndes, 2017).

The research relied on library-based data, consisting of peer-reviewed journal articles, scholarly books, government regulations, constitutional documents, policy reports, and other academic publications relevant to Pancasila, youth political orientation, digital politics, civic education, and democratic governance in Indonesia. Particular attention was given to recent studies discussing digital political participation and ideological challenges emerging from technological transformation.

Data collection involved literature identification, document selection, critical reading, and thematic classification based on the objectives of the study. The selected literature

was organized into major analytical themes, including digital political participation, youth political orientation, political literacy, digital citizenship, and the contemporary relevance of Pancasila values. Documents that were not directly related to these themes were excluded from further analysis.

The analysis was conducted through normative political interpretation, emphasizing the examination of political values, democratic principles, constitutional norms, and civic ethics embedded in Pancasila. The analytical process focused on three dimensions: (1) the transformation of youth political orientation in the digital era, (2) the continuing relevance of Pancasila as Indonesia's political ideology in the digital public sphere, and (3) the strategic role of Pancasila in strengthening democratic ethics and responsible digital citizenship among Indonesian youth. Through this normative perspective, the study develops conceptual arguments regarding the importance of reinforcing Pancasila values as a moral and political foundation for navigating the challenges of digital democracy.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Shifting Political Orientations among Indonesian Youth in the Digital Age

The digital revolution has fundamentally transformed the landscape of political participation and democratic engagement across the world. Advances in information and communication technology have altered how citizens acquire political knowledge, interact with public institutions, and construct political identities within increasingly interconnected digital networks. For younger generations, digital platforms have become the dominant space for political socialization, replacing many traditional agents such as political parties, mass organizations, schools, and conventional mass media. Consequently, political orientation among contemporary youth is increasingly shaped by digital interaction, algorithmic information exposure, and social media communication rather than by institutional political education. This transformation represents one of the most significant changes in democratic politics during the twenty-first

century because it influences how future citizens perceive authority, public policy, civic responsibility, and national identity (Chakim, 2022; Rodd & Sanders, 2023).

Indonesia illustrates this transformation particularly well due to its large youth population and rapid digitalization. The widespread use of smartphones and internet-based applications has enabled Indonesian youth to engage with political information almost continuously through platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, X, YouTube, Facebook, and WhatsApp. Political campaigns, election debates, public policy discussions, and social movements now circulate through digital ecosystems where information can spread within seconds and reach millions of users simultaneously. Unlike previous generations that primarily relied on television, newspapers, educational institutions, or community organizations to obtain political knowledge, Indonesian youth increasingly construct their political understanding through digital communication channels. This transition has created a generation that is more connected, more interactive, and more responsive to political issues emerging in cyberspace (Ida et al., 2025; Laurie et al., 2021).

The transformation of political orientation among Indonesian youth is closely related to changes in political communication patterns. Digital media provides immediate access to political information from diverse domestic and international sources, allowing young citizens to compare perspectives and engage directly with political actors without institutional mediation. Studies on digital political participation indicate that social media significantly contributes to political learning by facilitating online discussion, information sharing, and civic engagement among young people. Interactive communication encourages users not only to consume political information but also to produce, reinterpret, and redistribute political content according to their own preferences and ideological perspectives. Consequently, political participation has shifted from passive information reception toward active digital engagement characterized by commenting, sharing, creating content, and participating in online political discourse (Dharejo et al., 2024;

Ida et al., 2025).

This changing pattern of political communication has also altered the nature of political identity formation. Previous generations often developed political orientation through long-term affiliation with political parties, ideological organizations, student movements, or civic institutions that provided structured political education. In contrast, digital-native generations increasingly construct political identities through issue-based interactions within online communities. Environmental protection, gender equality, anti-corruption campaigns, human rights, educational reform, labor rights, and social justice movements frequently attract greater youth participation than traditional party politics. Digital platforms encourage flexible political engagement where individuals participate selectively according to specific issues rather than maintaining permanent organizational commitments. As a result, political orientation becomes more dynamic, fluid, and responsive to rapidly changing social narratives circulating within digital environments (Anggara, 2025; Paalo, 2022).

Another notable characteristic of contemporary youth political orientation is the growing influence of digital popular culture. Political communication increasingly adopts visual narratives, entertainment formats, memes, short videos, podcasts, and influencer-generated content to attract younger audiences. Political

messages are often embedded within humorous, emotional, or lifestyle-oriented digital content that simplifies complex policy discussions into accessible narratives. This phenomenon has blurred the distinction between political education and digital entertainment, making political engagement more attractive while simultaneously increasing vulnerability to oversimplification and emotional manipulation. Political knowledge is therefore increasingly mediated by digital culture rather than formal educational institutions, creating new opportunities for participation but also new challenges for democratic literacy (Kulachai et al., 2024; Ratriyana, 2023).

While digital technology expands opportunities for civic engagement, it simultaneously introduces significant democratic risks. The rapid dissemination of information without effective verification mechanisms facilitates the spread of misinformation, disinformation, hate speech, conspiracy theories, and ideological propaganda. Algorithm-driven recommendation systems often reinforce existing beliefs by continuously exposing users to similar content while minimizing encounters with alternative viewpoints. Such mechanisms create digital echo chambers that strengthen ideological polarization and reduce opportunities for rational democratic deliberation. Political decisions may consequently be influenced more by emotional reactions and viral narratives than

Table 1. Transformation of Political Orientations among Indonesian Youth in the Digital Age

Dimension	Conventional Political Orientation	Digital Political Orientation
Primary source of political information	Television, newspapers, schools, political parties	Social media, influencers, online communities
Political participation	Voting, party membership, civic organizations	Digital activism, hashtag campaigns, online petitions
Political identity	Party-based and ideological affiliation	Issue-based and network-oriented identity
Communication pattern	One-way institutional communication	Interactive and user-generated communication
Political mobilization	Organizational hierarchy	Viral networks and algorithmic dissemination
Dominant political actors	Political elites and institutions	Digital influencers, activists, content creators
Main democratic challenge	Limited public participation	Polarization, misinformation, and echo chambers
Civic implication	Institutional citizenship	Digital citizenship and networked participation

by critical evaluation of policy alternatives and constitutional principles (Stubbs et al., 2022; Wahyuningroem et al., 2024).

These developments indicate that the political orientation of Indonesian youth has undergone substantial transformation as a consequence of digitalization. Political participation has become more decentralized, issue-oriented, interactive, and dependent upon digital communication networks than conventional institutional mechanisms. At the same time, digital ecosystems have generated new vulnerabilities related to ideological fragmentation, declining institutional trust, and algorithmically mediated political behavior. The transformation of youth political orientation therefore reflects both democratic innovation and emerging political challenges that require careful scholarly attention (Feldman, 2021; Hed, 2025).

The major characteristics distinguishing conventional and digital political orientations among Indonesian youth can be summarized in Table 1. The comparison demonstrates that digitalization has shifted political engagement from institution-based participation toward networked and digitally mediated citizenship, while simultaneously creating new opportunities for participation and new risks for democratic governance.

The comparison presented in Table 1 illustrates that digital transformation has fundamentally reshaped the political orientation of Indonesian youth across multiple dimensions of democratic participation. Political communication has shifted from hierarchical institutional channels toward decentralized digital networks that enable immediate interaction among citizens, public figures, and government institutions. Young people no longer function merely as passive recipients of political information but actively participate in producing, disseminating, and interpreting political content through various social media platforms. This transformation has democratized access to political discourse by reducing structural barriers to participation and allowing broader public involvement in political debates. Digital technology has therefore contributed to a more participatory model of citizenship in which political engagement is increasingly embedded within everyday online interaction.

The emergence of networked political participation has simultaneously altered the relationship between citizens and democratic institutions. Political parties, legislative institutions, and conventional civic organizations are no longer the exclusive channels through which political aspirations are expressed. Instead, online communities, digital campaigns, influencers, and issue-based movements increasingly shape public opinion and mobilize political participation. This phenomenon reflects a broader transition from representative politics toward participatory digital politics, where political legitimacy is often negotiated through online public discourse rather than through formal institutional mechanisms. Consequently, youth political orientation has become increasingly flexible, adaptive, and responsive to contemporary social issues circulating within digital spaces.

Another important transformation concerns the shift from ideology-based politics toward issue-based politics. Contemporary youth tend to prioritize practical public concerns such as corruption, environmental sustainability, educational reform, labor rights, gender equality, and social justice rather than maintaining long-term loyalty to political parties or ideological organizations. Digital platforms facilitate this transformation by enabling users to participate selectively in multiple political campaigns according to personal interests and social concerns. Political engagement therefore becomes episodic and issue-driven rather than organizationally structured. While this tendency increases civic participation among politically unaffiliated youth, it may simultaneously weaken long-term political institutionalization and ideological consistency within democratic systems (Gilbertson, 2023).

The increasing influence of algorithmic communication further contributes to changing political orientations among Indonesian youth. Social media algorithms prioritize content that generates engagement, emotional reactions, and user interaction, often amplifying controversial political narratives rather than balanced policy discussions. Consequently, political information reaching young users is frequently determined by digital popularity instead of substantive democratic value. Viral political content,

influencer endorsements, memes, and short-form videos increasingly shape public perception through emotional appeal rather than rational deliberation. Political preferences may therefore emerge from repeated algorithmic exposure instead of systematic political education or critical civic reflection. This condition illustrates how digital technology not only mediates political communication but also actively influences political orientation through algorithmic selection mechanisms.

The challenges posed by digital politics become even more significant when misinformation and disinformation circulate without effective verification. False political narratives, manipulated information, identity-based propaganda, and hate speech spread rapidly through interconnected digital networks, often reaching wider audiences than verified information produced by official institutions. Young citizens with limited political literacy become particularly vulnerable to such manipulation because digital communication frequently prioritizes speed and emotional impact over factual accuracy. The normalization of misinformation threatens democratic deliberation by encouraging polarization, distrust, and ideological extremism. Political participation consequently risks becoming reactive and emotionally driven rather than informed by constitutional values and democratic ethics (Azeh et al., 2023; Sanders et al., 2024; Zulkifle & Aziz, 2023).

From a normative political perspective, these developments highlight the importance of strengthening civic values capable of guiding political participation within digital environments. Political orientation cannot be understood merely as individual preference formation but must also be interpreted as a reflection of broader democratic culture and civic responsibility. The transformation toward digitally mediated participation requires normative principles that encourage tolerance, critical thinking, social solidarity, and respect for constitutional democracy. Without ethical foundations, digital participation may intensify social fragmentation and weaken democratic resilience through the uncontrolled spread of divisive political narratives.

Within the Indonesian context, Pancasila provides a normative framework capable of responding to these contemporary challenges. The principles of belief in God, humanity, national unity, democracy through deliberation, and social justice offer ethical guidance for political interaction in increasingly complex digital spaces. Rather than limiting democratic participation, Pancasila encourages political engagement that balances freedom of expression with responsibility, diversity with national cohesion, and technological innovation with moral values. The transformation of youth political orientation therefore should not be viewed solely as a technological phenomenon but also as a normative challenge requiring the reinforcement of civic ethics and constitutional values.

The discussion above demonstrates that digital transformation has fundamentally redefined the political orientation of Indonesian youth by expanding opportunities for participation while simultaneously generating new democratic vulnerabilities. Political engagement has become increasingly interactive, issue-oriented, and digitally mediated, reflecting broader changes in contemporary democratic governance. However, the emergence of polarization, misinformation, algorithmic bias, and fragmented political identities indicates that technological progress alone cannot ensure democratic consolidation. The changing political orientation of Indonesian youth therefore necessitates renewed attention to ideological and civic foundations capable of guiding democratic participation responsibly. In this regard, the continuing relevance of Pancasila as Indonesia's political philosophy becomes increasingly significant for maintaining democratic ethics, national identity, and social cohesion amid rapid digital transformation. This argument provides the conceptual foundation for the subsequent discussion regarding the relevance of Pancasila in contemporary digital politics (Azwar & Nie, 2022; Bahri et al., 2023; Salman & Salleh, 2020).

The Relevance of Pancasila in Contemporary Digital Politics

The transformation of political communication in the digital era has raised fundamental questions regarding the continuing

relevance of national ideology in shaping democratic citizenship. Digital technology has expanded opportunities for political participation by enabling citizens to engage directly in public discourse, monitor government performance, and express political aspirations through various online platforms. However, the same technological advancement has also facilitated the rapid dissemination of misinformation, identity politics, ideological polarization, and digital extremism that may undermine democratic stability and national cohesion. In this context, Pancasila remains an essential political and philosophical foundation capable of providing ethical guidance for democratic participation within increasingly complex digital environments. Rather than functioning merely as a constitutional symbol, Pancasila continues to offer normative principles that can regulate political interaction while preserving Indonesia's pluralistic democratic identity.

As Indonesia's state ideology, Pancasila embodies fundamental values of belief in God, humanity, national unity, democracy through deliberation, and social justice. These principles establish an ethical framework that balances individual rights with collective responsibility and national interests. The emergence of digital politics has not diminished the significance of these values; instead, technological transformation has strengthened the necessity of normative guidance capable of directing political participation toward democratic and constructive objectives. The openness of digital communication enables unlimited access to information and political expression, yet it simultaneously exposes society to transnational ideological influences that may contradict Indonesia's constitutional principles. Consequently, Pancasila functions as an important normative reference for evaluating political behavior and maintaining democratic integrity within digital public spaces.

Contemporary digital politics is characterized by increasing decentralization of information production and political communication. Citizens no longer depend exclusively on formal political institutions or traditional media to obtain political knowledge. Instead, social media platforms, online communities, digital influencers, and

algorithmically generated information have become dominant sources of political learning. While this transformation democratizes access to political information, it also reduces institutional control over the quality and credibility of political narratives circulating in society. Political communication increasingly relies upon emotional engagement, visual storytelling, and viral content rather than evidence-based deliberation. Such developments create challenges for democratic governance because political preferences may be shaped by algorithmic popularity instead of constitutional values and rational public discussion (Chambers, 2021; Farrugia, 2024; Zainurin & Husin, 2025).

The relevance of Pancasila within this changing political landscape lies in its ability to provide ethical boundaries for digital political participation. The principle of Belief in the One Supreme God encourages moral responsibility and ethical communication by discouraging hate speech, defamation, and character assassination that frequently emerge within digital political contests. The principle of Just and Civilized Humanity emphasizes respect for human dignity and tolerance, encouraging citizens to engage in political debate through mutual respect rather than hostility and discrimination. These principles remain highly relevant as digital interaction increasingly exposes society to aggressive political polarization and online harassment that threaten democratic civility.

Similarly, the principle of The Unity of Indonesia possesses increasing importance amid the fragmentation of political identity generated by digital communication. Social media algorithms often strengthen group polarization by continuously exposing users to ideologically similar content while reducing interaction with alternative perspectives. Such mechanisms create digital echo chambers that intensify identity politics based on ethnicity, religion, race, and social affiliation. Under these circumstances, Pancasila promotes national solidarity by emphasizing shared citizenship above sectional political interests. The principle of national unity therefore functions as an ideological safeguard against political fragmentation resulting from unrestricted digital information flows.

The democratic principle embodied in the Fourth Principle of Pancasila, namely

Table 2. The Relevance of Pancasila Values in Contemporary Digital Politics

Pancasila Principle	Contemporary Digital Challenge	Normative Political Function
Belief in the One Supreme God	Hate speech, online hostility, unethical communication	Promotes ethical responsibility and moral communication
Just and Civilized Humanity	Intolerance, discrimination, cyberbullying	Encourages respect, tolerance, and human dignity
The Unity of Indonesia	Identity politics and ideological fragmentation	Strengthens national cohesion and social solidarity
Democracy Guided by Deliberation	Populism, misinformation, algorithmic manipulation	Promotes deliberative democracy and rational participation
Social Justice for All Indonesian People	Digital inequality and unequal political access	Encourages inclusive participation and digital equity

democracy guided by wisdom through deliberation and representation, also retains significant relevance in contemporary digital politics. Digital communication facilitates public participation on an unprecedented scale by allowing citizens to discuss policy issues, criticize government performance, and participate in electoral campaigns through online platforms (Fraser et al., 2021; Grossman et al., 2022; Jones, 2020). Nevertheless, democratic participation requires deliberative quality rather than mere digital visibility. Public opinion formed through misinformation, manipulation, or emotional mobilization may weaken democratic legitimacy despite high participation rates. Consequently, the deliberative spirit of Pancasila emphasizes rational dialogue, consensus-building, and collective responsibility rather than majoritarian domination or algorithmically amplified populism.

The principle of Social Justice for All Indonesian People likewise acquires renewed significance within digital society. Unequal access to digital technology, disparities in digital literacy, and algorithmic discrimination may reproduce social inequalities that limit equal political participation. Digital democracy cannot function effectively when certain social groups experience limited technological access or insufficient political literacy to evaluate political information critically. Pancasila therefore encourages inclusive digital development that ensures equal opportunities for political participation regardless of geographical location, socioeconomic background, ethnicity, religion,

or educational attainment. The realization of digital justice thus becomes an important component of democratic consolidation in Indonesia.

The continuing relevance of Pancasila in contemporary digital politics can be summarized in Table 2, which illustrates the relationship between the ideological principles of Pancasila and the major challenges emerging within digital political communication. The table demonstrates that each principle provides normative guidance capable of addressing specific democratic problems generated by digital transformation while simultaneously strengthening civic responsibility among Indonesian citizens.

The relationship between Pancasila and contemporary digital politics extends beyond constitutional discourse and enters the practical dimension of democratic governance. Table 2 demonstrates that every principle of Pancasila possesses normative capacity to address challenges emerging from digital political transformation. Rather than functioning solely as a symbolic state ideology, Pancasila offers ethical standards capable of guiding political interaction in cyberspace, encouraging democratic participation while preserving social cohesion and national identity. The table also indicates that the values of Pancasila remain adaptive to technological change because their normative substance is universal and applicable to contemporary political communication (Koswara & Elmiana, 2025; López López, 2021; Macaulay & Deppeler, 2020).

The increasing influence of digital platforms on political participation illustrates why ideological guidance is becoming more important than ever before. Political debates in cyberspace frequently develop without institutional moderation, allowing emotional narratives and viral content to dominate public discourse. Political competition often shifts from policy substance toward identity contestation, personal attacks, and digital propaganda designed to maximize public attention. Such conditions may weaken democratic quality because citizens become more vulnerable to algorithmically amplified polarization than to rational public deliberation. In this context, Pancasila provides an ethical foundation that encourages political engagement based on mutual respect, deliberation, and collective responsibility rather than hostility and social division.

The challenge of misinformation represents another area in which the relevance of Pancasila becomes increasingly evident. Digital communication enables information to spread rapidly across social networks without effective mechanisms for verification. False narratives concerning elections, government policies, religious issues, and ethnic relations can quickly generate social conflict and political instability. The values of honesty, responsibility, and social justice embodied in Pancasila encourage citizens to verify information critically before dissemination and to prioritize public welfare over political manipulation. Consequently, Pancasila functions as a normative instrument supporting the development of responsible digital citizenship in democratic society.

The growing tendency toward identity politics further reinforces the importance of Pancasila in Indonesia's digital democracy. Social media algorithms frequently group users into homogeneous ideological communities that reinforce existing beliefs while limiting interaction with alternative perspectives. Such digital segmentation may strengthen religious, ethnic, or political polarization that threatens national integration. The third principle of Pancasila, emphasizing the unity of Indonesia, provides an ideological framework that places national solidarity above narrow group interests. Political differences remain legitimate within

democratic systems, yet Pancasila reminds citizens that diversity should become a source of national strength rather than social conflict (McDonald et al., 2020; Meehan et al., 2022; Saud, 2020).

Another significant issue concerns the declining trust of young people toward political institutions. Many Indonesian youths perceive conventional politics as being dominated by elite competition, corruption, transactional interests, and ineffective governance. Consequently, political participation increasingly occurs through decentralized online activism rather than through political parties or representative institutions. While digital activism expands democratic participation, it may also encourage short-term mobilization lacking organizational sustainability and civic responsibility. The deliberative democratic values contained in the fourth principle of Pancasila offer an alternative framework by emphasizing dialogue, consensus-building, and participatory decision-making rooted in wisdom rather than emotional confrontation. These principles remain highly relevant for strengthening democratic quality within digital public spheres.

The relevance of Pancasila also appears in addressing digital inequality and unequal political access. Although internet penetration has increased substantially across Indonesia, disparities remain between urban and rural regions as well as among different socioeconomic groups. Digital democracy cannot achieve substantive equality when technological access and digital literacy remain unevenly distributed. The fifth principle of Pancasila concerning social justice therefore extends beyond economic distribution toward equal opportunities for political participation in digital environments. Inclusive digital development, equitable civic education, and accessible political information become essential components of realizing democratic justice in contemporary Indonesia.

From the perspective of normative political analysis, Pancasila should not be interpreted merely as a historical ideology inherited from Indonesia's founding fathers but rather as a living political philosophy capable of adapting to social transformation. The emergence of artificial intelligence, big data analytics, algorithmic governance, and digital campaigning presents

new ethical questions that cannot be answered solely through technological regulation. Political ethics, civic responsibility, and constitutional morality remain indispensable foundations for maintaining democratic stability in increasingly digital societies. Pancasila provides these ethical foundations by integrating individual freedom with collective responsibility, democratic participation with national unity, and technological innovation with humanitarian values (Ilyas et al., 2020; Shiratuddin et al., 2021; Wan Husin et al., 2025).

The discussion above demonstrates that the relevance of Pancasila in contemporary digital politics extends far beyond constitutional symbolism. Pancasila remains an adaptive ideological framework capable of responding to political polarization, misinformation, identity politics, democratic fragmentation, and unequal digital participation that characterize the digital era. Its five principles provide normative guidance for constructing democratic behavior based on ethics, tolerance, deliberation, justice, and national solidarity. Therefore, strengthening the relevance of Pancasila within digital political life should not be understood as preserving historical doctrine but as reinforcing an ethical foundation for democratic citizenship capable of navigating the opportunities and challenges of digital transformation. This analysis subsequently leads to the discussion of how Pancasila values can be strengthened through digital citizenship and political education among Indonesian youth.

Strengthening Pancasila Values through Digital Citizenship and Political Education

The rapid expansion of digital technology has fundamentally transformed the ecosystem of citizenship and political participation in Indonesia. Digital platforms have become primary spaces where young people acquire political information, exchange opinions, and engage in public affairs. This transformation has created unprecedented opportunities for democratic participation by reducing barriers to political communication and expanding access to public discourse. However, the same technological developments have also intensified the circulation of misinformation, identity politics, hate speech, ideological extremism, and

algorithm-driven polarization that threaten democratic resilience and social cohesion. Consequently, strengthening Pancasila values through digital citizenship and political education has become an increasingly urgent agenda for sustaining Indonesia's constitutional democracy in the digital era.

Digital citizenship extends beyond technological competence or the ability to access online information. It encompasses ethical behavior, critical digital literacy, civic responsibility, democratic participation, and respect for diversity within virtual public spaces. Contemporary citizens are expected not only to consume digital information but also to evaluate its credibility, participate constructively in public discussion, and contribute positively to democratic governance through responsible digital engagement. Therefore, digital citizenship should integrate technological literacy with civic values capable of guiding political behavior in accordance with constitutional principles and national identity (Cooper, 2025; Ida et al., 2020; Panjor, 2024).

Within the Indonesian context, Pancasila provides a comprehensive normative foundation for developing responsible digital citizenship. The philosophical values embodied in Pancasila encourage democratic participation while emphasizing humanity, tolerance, social justice, deliberation, and national unity. These principles remain highly relevant in responding to contemporary digital challenges because they provide ethical standards for balancing freedom of expression with social responsibility. The implementation of Pancasila values within digital spaces therefore represents an important strategy for preventing ideological fragmentation while strengthening democratic culture among younger generations.

Political education likewise occupies a strategic position in strengthening Pancasila values amid rapidly changing digital communication environments. Conventional civic education has historically focused on constitutional knowledge, state institutions, and national ideology delivered through formal classroom instruction. Nevertheless, contemporary political socialization increasingly occurs outside educational institutions through social media platforms, digital communities, and

Table 3. Integration of Pancasila Values into Digital Citizenship and Political Education

Pancasila Principle	Digital Citizenship Competency	Educational Orientation
Belief in the One Supreme God	Ethical digital communication	Responsible online behavior and integrity
Just and Civilized Humanity	Respectful interaction and empathy	Anti-cyberbullying and tolerance education
The Unity of Indonesia	Appreciation of diversity	Inclusive civic dialogue and national identity
Democracy Guided by Deliberation	Critical discussion and participation	Deliberative democracy and media literacy
Social Justice for All Indonesian People	Equal digital participation	Inclusive digital access and civic equality
Pancasila Principle	Digital Citizenship Competency	Educational Orientation
Belief in the One Supreme God	Ethical digital communication	Responsible online behavior and integrity
Just and Civilized Humanity	Respectful interaction and empathy	Anti-cyberbullying and tolerance education

online public discourse. Consequently, political education must evolve beyond traditional pedagogical approaches by integrating digital literacy, critical thinking, media verification skills, and ethical online participation into civic learning processes. Such transformation enables young citizens to navigate complex digital information ecosystems without losing commitment to democratic values and constitutional principles (Jun & Firdaus, 2023; Kasmani, 2022; Woodman, 2022).

The integration of Pancasila into digital political education should emphasize contextual understanding rather than doctrinal memorization. Young people are more likely to internalize ideological values when they experience their practical relevance in everyday digital interaction. For example, the principle of humanity can be implemented through respectful online communication and opposition to cyberbullying, while the principle of national unity encourages constructive dialogue across religious, ethnic, and political differences. Similarly, democratic deliberation may be practiced through evidence-based discussion and collaborative problem-solving within digital communities. Such contextual learning transforms Pancasila from an abstract constitutional concept into an operational ethical framework guiding everyday digital citizenship.

The role of educational institutions remains fundamental in this transformation process.

Schools and universities should function not only as providers of political knowledge but also as laboratories for democratic practice in digital environments. Civic education curricula need to incorporate digital citizenship competencies that include information verification, critical evaluation of political content, ethical social media engagement, and collaborative participation in addressing public issues. Political education should encourage students to become responsible digital citizens capable of balancing constitutional rights with civic obligations while respecting Indonesia's pluralistic social structure.

Beyond formal education, families and communities also contribute significantly to strengthening Pancasila values among younger generations. Parents increasingly face challenges in supervising children's digital activities because technological development often progresses faster than family adaptation. Family-based civic education therefore becomes essential for developing ethical awareness, empathy, responsibility, and respect for diversity from an early age. Community organizations, religious institutions, and youth organizations similarly possess strategic roles in promoting inclusive political dialogue and strengthening social solidarity through both offline and online activities. Collaborative civic education across multiple social institutions creates a stronger foundation for internalizing Pancasila values within contemporary digital society.

The strategic relationship between digital citizenship competencies and the implementation of Pancasila values among Indonesian youth is summarized in Table 3. The table illustrates that digital literacy and political education can be integrated with each principle of Pancasila to promote ethical political participation and strengthen democratic resilience within digital environments (Prakasa & Fatmawati, 2024; Read, 2020; Ting & Ahmad, 2025).

The conceptual relationship presented in Table 3 demonstrates that strengthening Pancasila values through digital citizenship is not limited to ideological education but also encompasses the development of practical competencies required for democratic participation in the digital era. Political education and digital literacy should therefore be viewed as complementary instruments that collectively reinforce constitutional values, ethical communication, and responsible civic engagement among Indonesian youth.

The integration between digital citizenship and political education represents a strategic approach for ensuring that technological advancement contributes to democratic consolidation rather than democratic deterioration. Table 3 illustrates that every principle of Pancasila can be translated into concrete digital citizenship competencies that shape responsible political behavior among Indonesian youth. This integration demonstrates that Pancasila is not merely a philosophical doctrine preserved within constitutional texts but a practical ethical framework capable of guiding political interaction in contemporary digital society. Accordingly, strengthening Pancasila values requires educational innovation that aligns civic learning with the realities of digital communication and technological transformation.

One of the most urgent priorities is the development of critical digital literacy among young citizens. The overwhelming volume of political information circulating through social media requires users to possess the ability to distinguish verified information from misinformation, propaganda, manipulated narratives, and ideological disinformation. Digital literacy therefore extends beyond

technical skills and includes critical reasoning, source evaluation, and ethical judgment in responding to political content. Through Pancasila-based political education, digital literacy can encourage young people to evaluate information objectively while maintaining respect for diversity, humanity, and democratic principles. Such competencies are essential for preventing the spread of false information that may threaten social harmony and constitutional democracy.

Political education should also strengthen the culture of deliberative democracy within digital spaces. Contemporary social media interaction often encourages rapid emotional responses that limit opportunities for rational discussion and collective problem solving. Online debates frequently become polarized through personal attacks, intolerance, and ideological hostility rather than constructive dialogue. The fourth principle of Pancasila, emphasizing democracy guided by wisdom through deliberation and representation, offers an alternative model of political participation based on discussion, mutual understanding, and consensus-building. Integrating deliberative values into digital political education can therefore encourage young citizens to engage respectfully with differing opinions while prioritizing the common good over partisan interests (Chakim, 2022; Laurie et al., 2021; Rodd & Sanders, 2023).

The implementation of Pancasila values through digital citizenship also requires collaboration among multiple stakeholders. Educational institutions alone cannot address the complexity of digital political transformation because political socialization increasingly occurs within families, peer groups, online communities, religious organizations, and media platforms. Government agencies responsible for civic education should collaborate with schools, universities, civil society organizations, technology companies, and digital content creators to produce educational programs that promote constitutional values and democratic ethics. Such collaborative governance enables political education to reach broader segments of society through platforms that are already familiar to young audiences.

Technology companies and digital platforms likewise possess significant responsibility for strengthening democratic culture. Algorithmic recommendation systems increasingly shape public opinion by determining the visibility of political information within digital ecosystems. Platform governance that promotes verified information, civic dialogue, and ethical communication can contribute substantially to democratic resilience while reducing the circulation of hate speech, disinformation, and extremist narratives. Cooperation between public institutions and digital technology providers therefore becomes an important component of strengthening Pancasila values in contemporary political communication.

Another strategic dimension involves empowering young people themselves as agents of digital citizenship rather than passive recipients of civic education. Indonesian youth possess considerable creative capacity in producing digital content, organizing online campaigns, and mobilizing public participation through social media networks. These capabilities should be directed toward promoting tolerance, anti-corruption values, environmental responsibility, national unity, and democratic participation consistent with the principles of Pancasila. Encouraging youth-led digital campaigns grounded in civic values may generate stronger social influence than conventional top-down political education programs because they originate from peer interaction within familiar digital communities.

From the perspective of normative political analysis, strengthening Pancasila values through digital citizenship represents an adaptive strategy for maintaining the relevance of Indonesia's political philosophy amid technological transformation. Political orientation is continuously shaped by evolving communication environments; therefore, ideological education must also evolve without abandoning its constitutional foundations. Digital citizenship provides an appropriate conceptual bridge between technological innovation and civic morality by integrating democratic participation with ethical responsibility, constitutional awareness, and national identity. Through this approach, Pancasila remains a living political

ideology capable of responding to contemporary democratic challenges while preserving Indonesia's pluralistic social order (Anggara, 2025; Dharejo et al., 2024; Ida et al., 2025).

The discussion in this subsection demonstrates that the strengthening of Pancasila values cannot rely solely on conventional civic education but requires comprehensive integration with digital citizenship competencies and political education adapted to technological change. Critical digital literacy, deliberative democratic culture, ethical online participation, collaborative governance, and youth empowerment collectively constitute strategic instruments for reinforcing democratic resilience in Indonesia. As political participation increasingly shifts toward digital environments, Pancasila continues to provide an indispensable ethical and ideological foundation for guiding responsible citizenship. Therefore, the future sustainability of Indonesian democracy depends not only on technological advancement but also on the successful internalization of Pancasila values among digitally connected younger generations who will shape the nation's political future.

CONCLUSION

The digital transformation has fundamentally reshaped the political orientation of Indonesian youth by expanding opportunities for political participation while simultaneously increasing the risks of misinformation, ideological polarization, identity politics, and fragmented democratic engagement. These developments demonstrate that technological advancement alone is insufficient to sustain democratic resilience without a strong normative foundation that guides political behavior and civic responsibility. This study argues that Pancasila remains highly relevant in the digital age as Indonesia's political and philosophical ideology, providing ethical principles that promote humanity, national unity, deliberative democracy, and social justice amid rapidly evolving digital communication environments. The integration of Pancasila values into digital citizenship and political education is therefore essential for strengthening critical digital literacy, responsible online participation, and

constitutional awareness among younger generations. Through collaborative efforts involving educational institutions, families, government agencies, civil society, and digital platforms, Pancasila can continue to function as a living ideology that reinforces democratic ethics and national identity while enabling Indonesian youth to navigate the opportunities and challenges of digital politics responsibly. Thus, the revitalization of Pancasila within digital public spaces represents a strategic pathway toward fostering inclusive, ethical, and sustainable democratic governance in contemporary Indonesia.

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