

## REGIONAL IMPACTS OF MUSLIMS IN ARAB SPRING AND THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Dr. Syed Shahab Uddin<sup>\*</sup>

Dr. Masroor Khanam<sup>\*\*</sup>

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### ABSTRACT

In the Middle East the Arab Spring protests began for the reason of the oppression of the people and their rights. Like the countries of the Libya, Syria, Egypt and others. Tunisia continues and was just an inch closer to their overall freedom. Parliamentary elections took place which leads the citizens to have the freedom to stand out against the government without the fear of retaliation. Media played a significant role in it as well as the situations also altered the regional dynamics. The wave of Arab Spring uprising leads the way about an effort to terminate the oppression on the corruption, free speech, economic mismanagement, political dissent and to end the human right abuses. Those efforts were being recognized and are promoting so slowly to the country's views on justice and the human dignities which are significant for each citizen in the country.

**KEYWORDS:** Arab Spring, social media, Middle East, demonstration, governments

### INTRODUCTION

Arab Spring was the movement of anti-government violence and violent protests and civil wars that started in 2010 from Tunis on 18<sup>th</sup> December and expanded all over the Arab world.<sup>1</sup> From these initial days of the Arab uprising, Aljazeera figured out the important role of social media as the favorable tool of communication for activists who are on the streets wishing to "get the word out" as soon as possible. For example, Aljazeera was written in late December: 'for the first time, through with the use of social media, the world was seeing videos and pictures of the unrest protests, and how the government can't stand it.'<sup>2</sup>

During the "Arab Spring" uprisings, social media played a key role in the fast destabilization of at least two regimes (Tunisia and Egypt), as well as social and political mobilization in Bahrain and Syria. The underlying socio-political and socio-economic elements fueling the protest movement have

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<sup>\*</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Federal Urdu University Art's Science & Technology Karachi. [shahabhashmi2012@gmail.com](mailto:shahabhashmi2012@gmail.com)

<sup>\*\*</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Federal Urdu University Art's Science & Technology Karachi. [shahabhashmi2012@gmail.com](mailto:shahabhashmi2012@gmail.com)

little to do with ICT and social media.<sup>3</sup> The socio-political divide in Egypt between the small-scale ruling class and the densely packed populace of 4,444 people has long been significant, prompting most regional experts to predict massive uprisings at some point. The crisis, however, came sooner rather than later as a direct result of the Tunisian demonstrations. This is primarily due to ICT's initial mobilizing effect and social media.

The Arab Spring is a vote-based uprising that has cleared across North Africa and the whole Arab world beginning around 2010. It has been depicted as a grievous progressive wave that has seen the defeat of numerous political systems. This significantly affects the political turn of events and popularity-based administration of the Arab world and the whole world.<sup>4</sup>

It is nothing unexpected that the Aljazeera put enthusiasm on the web-based media from the underlying days thinking about that couple of months before the occasions the Aljazeera organization was closed by the Tunisian locale; "As the situation were unfurling in Tunisia, a nation where Aljazeera's office had been shut, the channels again advanced among entire Arab telecasters by utilizing cell phone' film and web-based media."<sup>5</sup>

It was against the drawn-out totalitarian standards of the tyrant rulers with the constant highly sensitive situation where the police and the Interior Ministry had an adequate number of inordinate abilities to smother individuals, joblessness, expansion, destitution and so forth online media was utilized in pretty much every nation where these distress fights occurred to assemble the consideration of the world local area. Every one of the frameworks which were impacted by the Arab Spring fights utilized their powers furiously to stifle the demonstrators and as needs be the serene dissidents likewise ultimately became rough. The normal trademark of the turmoil dissidents all through the Arab Spring was "the people want to bring down the system."<sup>6</sup>

In the wake of the Arab Spring protests, unique interest has been paid to the function of social media and virtual generation in allowing residents in regions laid low with the "Arab insurgency" to skip authorities' media channels. However, the effect of social media on political activism at some point of the Arab Spring has been hotly debated.<sup>7</sup> Demonstrations occurred in international locations that used the maximum Internet (which includes Bahrain, in which 88% of the population became the use of the Internet in 2011), and in international locations that used the least (Yemen and Libya). The usage of derogatory techniques and attempts to reduce competition, had the alternative impact of mobilizing extra individuals to participate in protest actions. The feature of dictatorship is that power is stabilized with

inside the arms of some human beings. Deprivation of primary rights which includes freedom of speech and association; use of pressure to suppress conflicts and critical violations of human rights. In addition, with the end of the last decade of social exclusion, the government has emerged as more and more depending on oppression and violence.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Howard (2011) in his writing, role of social media during the Arab Spring, gave a detailed sketch of the events contributed in this revolution with the effective role of social media.<sup>8</sup> He explained that, on 17 December 2010, a vegetable merchant name Muhammad Bouazizi, who was resident of little town of Tunisia. His death became reason of huge revolutionary across North Africa and the Middle East. He set himself on fire, his protest gone viral from Tunisia to Bahrain, Syria to Yemen, and Egypt to Libya people stated recording their chants and demands to the world. Content was unedited, uncensored, uninterrupted and it caught everyone off-guard to many the use of social media in those demonstration was one of the most important reasons for its huge spread across the world. People across the world named this alteration of democracy as “Arab Spring”.

According to some freedom fervor journalists; social media play a vital role in spreading of Arab springs, it includes Twitter and Facebook, both platforms perform best duties as search engines, and journalists also elaborated; social media always plays reason of awareness of social issues and considered medium for spreading issues to the world.

Comunello in his work titled, a conceptual framework for understanding the social media and the Arab Spring discussed the effective role of social media in the Arab Spring by saying that widespread of discontent with the establishment in the Arab regions prior to the 2011 uprisings was nothing new.<sup>9</sup> But the help of social media freedoms and organized dissent largely restricted people had very less opportunities to voice their unfair treatment and mobilize. The introduction of social media changed things completely. It provided people with an alteration space to meet or reach one another, campaign for change and show it to the world. An unfiltered image of the injustice they are facing all with lower risk of government censorship and control, this democracy demanded protests were visible after the images of Muhammad Bouazizi, setting himself on fire were shared on Facebook, In the months of that followed, protests across the region did same, this act inspired people to organize protest, rise voice against government and most importantly spread idea about democracy.

He further argues that, the people in the region also documented government brutality, the protest their solidarity with one another and sent it to the world.

Poor quality but strong content those videos and images ultimately helped to galvanize people who flooded the streets. Journalists, internet scholars and international relation scholars rise their questioned about role of social media in “Arab Spring” and presented their opinions some part of that is given in coming paragraph: Protestors demands became center of attention in public debates, with the help of social media platforms, in the starting of the debates understandably, empirical research was not supportable to assumptions.

Protestors organized their protests in very fashioned and effective manners to get people to the streets. Place, time and plans were often shared on Facebook, while this was not the case of different countries and throughout all the protests, it was certainty a hallmark of the Egyptian demonstration, in regions where internet signals or usage was lower like in Libya and Yemen, social media was not utilized to mobilize people as much, at least not in the stating. It was more prominent in Tunisia and Egypt regions, where Facebook was used to organize protests and plan awareness campaigns. The best example of this is perhaps “We are all Khaled Said” campaign in Egypt which had been popular for months prior to 25 January 2011. It was an important point that raised awareness about force brutality and corruption and ultimately used to mobilize and plan schedules of protests. The role of images on social media was not just gone viral, but it reflects what people had been talking about for a while led to this critical phase. But it was not simply technology it is built on the long legacy of activism.

In the article, the Arab Spring and social media audiences: English and Arabic Twitter users and their networks, Bruns 2013 put some light on the connection between social media and Arab revolution<sup>10</sup> and said that the main tool of revolution during the Arab Spring was built on two important pillars in a region, like Egypt which is very long entrenched history of union activity and also of protests of workers protest for example, bread riots. And so if it was not for the long history of activism, it can’t have built on it with the role of technology, while technology and social media arguably played an important role in protest movement some analysts have argue that its role has been overstated, when government eventually cut off access to social media and the internet during the protests people continued to demonstrate. A prime example of that was in the early days of the Egyptian protest when twitter and Facebook eventually blocked before the internet was completely shut down in the country on 28 January for 5 days almost 95% of the total population had no access to internet but only seemed to fuel peoples anger more in results, and much of the interaction between citizens was occurred

in that time untapped space of political activists which was the mosque and universities squares.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The cited research is a qualitative exploration and document analysis of the theme, role of social media in Arab Spring with its regional impediments. Different previous relevant materials were under review in this piece of writing. Some statistics were also utilized in analyzing the event in fruitful manner.

### **ARAB SPRING AND CIVIL RIGHTS**

The platform that once give Arabs the space to demand rights, their freedom and dignity may not be the same anymore, but very little suggest that those demands has changed, sporadic protests across the region continues until today as the underlying roots of the 2011 protest remain and people continue to turn social media to expose corruption and express their anger despite all the risk involved. Video being released with high risk indicate a few things, number one, that the moment of Arab spring that people continue to take risks, the second is protests being held the internally things is that protests (Egypt 2019) were happening in rural areas, that could actually by galvanised by individuals, whether internally or publically, that we are not analysing and third is more critical is the continued response of the attack on the truth, the attack on what people actually see with their eyes as being untrue, that there is no repression, there is not violation of human right, there is no pandemic, that there is equality that regimes can put out these narratives and people start to believe them is an indicator throughout the world that Arabs are all suffering from the attack on truth, and the attack on reality.<sup>11</sup> social media played a role is of providing a platform to Arab for speak for freedom, rights and dignity which is basic need of every human being.

Geostrategic relations have put a strain on an assortment of political networks beginning around 2011. Vulnerability over past administration elites' abroad arrangement aims, just as the idea of the creating territorial security framework inside the Middle East, has impacted the essential issues the area should address. The Arab Spring disturbances irritated the generally anarchic Middle East environment, expanding doubt and hatred in Israel, as indicated by the evaluation. The direness of protectionism and militarism's fascination in Israel turned into an outflow of the pragmatist way to deal with Israel's main key union.<sup>12</sup>

Revisionist perspectives of Arab underdevelopment are becoming increasingly prominent as neoliberal ideals dominate the region's development strategy. It focuses on the limitations of Arab countries and

the chief executive's (national) development strategies in relation to so-called Arab socialism, and it has gotten widespread support from Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser. Revisionist perspectives of Arab underdevelopment are becoming increasingly prominent as neoliberal ideals dominate the region's development strategy.<sup>13</sup> It focuses on the limitations of Arab countries and the chief executive's (national) development strategies in relation to so-called Arab socialism, and it has gotten widespread support from Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser.

The concept of stations is rooted in the region's long history of orientalizing, as if what transpired in the Arab people's history prior to 2011 was irrelevant. Recognizing that local governments have battled western colonialism, invasion, and injustice for more than a century have the energy, the struggle, and the struggle for a better life. Simultaneously, as in the past, the human energy of people on the ground will test the boundaries of Western involvement again and time again in the ongoing battle for decolonization and true emancipation from this nightmare. This type of resistance can also be found in the form of writing and intellectual resistance. One of the initiatives at counter-intervention can also be found in the magazine.<sup>14</sup>

The Arab Spring, which toppled dictatorial administrations in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya, was widely anticipated, especially because it offered promise for democratic development. Unfortunately, the Arab Spring will merely prolong political uncertainty in the affected nations and increase the risk of political instability in the Sahel and Sub-Saharan Africa. Armed non-state actors have been able to reach the Sahel and Sub-Saharan Africa as a result of the instability of African governments and the resulting governance weaknesses, which has had a negative influence on the region.<sup>15</sup>

#### **ARAB SPRING VIS-À-VIS MULTIPLE GROUNDS**

There are multiple complicated causes of the revolutions in the Arab world. The researchers point out that the impact of youth bulges on political violence might fade in the Arab region over the next decade as fertility is on a decline and reduced youth bulge. If countries facing these grim issues implement various policies which might take an advantage over this demographic bend, they might be able to maintain and balance the relationship between conflict and age structure. Unfortunately, countries, for example Yemen, Somalia, and Sudan, there is less hope as the demographic potential for conflict is bound to be a cause of concern. To top it off, major forced internal displacement of masses continues to be a serious obstacle to countries suffering from the aftermath of the Arab Spring.

Some political thinkers were taking the functioning of two forms of the states of the Arab East, monarchies and republics, as examples, traces the evolution of the modernization and analyses directions in their reforms based on identifying key issues of Arab society after the Arab Spring of 2011-2013. The high-level unemployment, illiteracy, and limited opportunities for women's participation in economic development are a barrier to the modernization of Arab countries.<sup>16</sup> If Arab wishes for an involvement in global processes, its traditional institutions must adapt to the modern political realities of Islamic societies and must also transform society itself on the basis of new forms of the political process and political culture.

It is contended that old arrangements can't address the disappointments of the pre-Spring financial approach in the Arab nations. For instance, the comrade free enterprise which created out of progression should be addressed and the defilement that follows it should be disposed of. An allure is made for the turn of events and execution of monetary strategy recommendations by reformist states of more explicit financial approach proposition which could be utilized to challenge tyrant legislatures that are hesitant to change.<sup>17</sup>

It is more difficult to assess the revolutionary waves for the simple reason that there have been so few of them in the modern history. Arab spring accelerated the regional losers without any producing clear winners. In the very few instances the central power breakdown, revolutionary turmoil is commonly limited to a small part of the population through its scope is often wildly overstated by the mass media.<sup>18</sup> The Sunni Arab states weathered the storm a lot but remain geostrategic ally weak, whereas Iran has been a in power and able to destabilize some Arab states.

In the past years, human development in Arab spring has big impact on the Middle East side. All the countries in Arab spring have changed a lot they have a rapid growth in their infrastructure. They have taken their women in frontlines for better growth of their country. They also improve their education sector as well so their children learn well and help in development of their future.<sup>19</sup> They have updated their policies and increased in political prepositions and knowledge. Each proposition builds on new theories of human capital.

As of late Arab nations have encountered significant disturbances. Most eyewitnesses concur that the beginning of the current disturbance is because of disappointment of government in these nations, that is the dismissal of fascisms/the exchange of Arab world nation's focal point of gravity of bay nations and the expanding force of Turkey and Iran.<sup>20</sup> The year 2015 will

be the distinct advantage every one of the world eyes are on Tunisia, which complete its change and progress to majority rule government yet they are as yet battling for observing another improvement model. Despite the fact that the issues are much comparable and less difficult as we as a whole find in Egypt, Yemen and Syria.

### **REGIONAL IMPACTS OF ARAB SPRING ON WOMEN DEVELOPMENT**

The challenge of women's empowerment has evolved as a parallel motion inside the Middle East and North Africa after the 2011. Giving Yeman's iconic without violence protestor, Tawakkul Karman, the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011, conveyed an unmistakable message to the sector that peaceful protestor against tyranny and authoritarianism ought to be rewarded, and that ladies at the front lines of this battle ought to be diagnosed. However, attitudes on women's rights and freedom within the Middle East continue to be some distance from revolutionary and difficult to adjust. Women's participation in anti-regime rallies and revolutions changed into deemed proper in 2011,<sup>21</sup> although shifts far from misogynist policies and rules towards greater revolutionary and liberal ones face huge competition, especially from Islamists, but not exclusively.

Since, Arab women have worked with men in the Arab to accomplish public liberation and advancement. Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, the Palestinian Territories, and other Arab countries are examples. However, some restricted assumptions, such as in Tunisia, their active commitment did not result in an extension of women's rights.<sup>22</sup> Aside from humble public exposure designed to impress Western crowds and worldwide associations that characterized women's rights globally, nationalist and revolutionary powers in Algeria, Iraq, Yemen, and Syria restrict women from the public exposure.

The need of a more inclusive way to deal with temporary processes was shown by the Arab Spring Revolutions. Women's capacity to take an interest and utilize their ability and maximum capacity to add to change was strengthened by the Arab revolutions. Women from many different backgrounds have participated in the Arab Spring as protestors. They were well organized and actively took part in Arab disturbances,<sup>23</sup> according to the experiences. Some came to protest with their youngsters to request change. A huge number of men joined the protest to show their support for the women.

Tunisian women's battle to deal with the unexpected dangers to their rights that happened with the Arab Spring and the country's remarkable wave of violence. The object of Tunisian women since the beginning of the so-called



Arab Spring, just as the unexpected occasions that have come to overcome these expectations, but also threaten to return women's rights to a Middle Ages position. As a result, women's battle has centered on two fundamental objectives: protecting advances won since 1956,<sup>24</sup> when the Code of Personal Status was ordered, and proceeding with the march toward full equality with males.

The Arab Spring has been completely studied, but the presence or absence of violent protests, just as the dissimilar results of the rise that cleared the Arab world, presently can't seem to be in terms of the importance of gender and women's assembly. Preceding the Arab Spring, women's legal standing, social positions, and collective action, impacted the personality of major protests in 2011, as well as the political and financial results of specific nations.<sup>25</sup>

Authoritarian governments were surprised by the huge investment of women in the Arab Spring revolutions, since they had expected women to be careful and try not to take part in public rallies that might have their lives at serious risk. Women's participation in the 2011 protests confused fascisms and knowledge services since it exhibited the full depth of the public's rejection of such elements and led to the fast destruction of a few harsh governments.<sup>26</sup> Women in Arab Spring countries are suffering because of their ability to stand up for change.

In most Arab Spring countries, women's rights have not improved. Their social, economic, and political desires have not been met; all things being equal, psychological forceful gatherings have attracted them into battlegrounds in various nations, where they have been enslaved, widowed, or deprived.<sup>27</sup> Women in few Arab Spring countries face a reality that is past whatever has at any point existed outside of legend.

The Arab world's revolutions upset many recently held prejudices about Arab women.<sup>28</sup> They marched alongside males and participated in all structures and phases of the uprisings, Arab women played a crucial role in the new uprisings. Women's voices and activities straightforwardly effect on the Arab Spring, and the revolution would not have been finished without them.

Tunisian authorities declared that gatherings should have an equal number of people on their electoral lists as they get ready for the election of a constituent assembly. Tunisia is presently the primary country in the region to accomplish gender equality.<sup>29</sup> Tunisian women as of now have a larger number of rights than almost some other women in the region, but the most recent decision provides them with unmatched freedom to take part in the country's public life. Women's rights are on the agenda in post-authoritarian

Arab countries, but they can't be underestimated.<sup>30</sup>

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

The Arab Spring was the revolutionary outbreak of violent and as well as non-violent protests, aided by social media in Middle East. In recent years, many conflicts are still arising as a result of Arab Spring. The civil war has caused much political and economic oppression in Syria. By using western power, a huge civil war was recently ended in Libya. Like all social disruption Arab Spring also has several causes and consequences short terms as well as long terms. In Yemen and Lebanon, a major banking crisis is affecting the country's economy as well of the neighboring Syria because of civil war. And some of the countries have experienced political crisis because of their own government actions to events and reactions which their own people are watching from abroad. Second Arab Spring was commonly known as the Arab Winter. And it was distinguished by civil wars, regional uncertainty, economic problem, social problem, political problem and decline in demographic of the Arab League. But the long terms consequence of the Arab Spring is yet to be shown, its short terms impacts varied across the North America and Middle East.

In the Arab spring, e-registration networks and social media performed an important function in elevating awareness of abuse (specially the self-destruction of Mohammad Bouazizi, which induced the rebellion in Tunisia), mobilizing the protesters and maintaining the motion alive at some point of the riots; and 'cancellation' of protection proposals. It has become a positive impact that sustained the Arab Spring, as evidenced with the aid of using the media velocity with which riots observed by all of us.

In Egypt and Tunisia, the existing government was ousted through the process fair and free elections but these were considered short term accomplishment. These protests and the efforts have been vital for the respective countries' government in order to bring down the existing political systems. If those injustices somehow being addressed, no one could have predicted that by Mohammed Bouaziz setting himself in a fire would fire the whole Arab world. Arab Spring Protest have spread enough to impact the change on the national level. The discovered changes had been carried out in one of a kind, and have an effect on the political landscape of Arab countries. Thinking approximately the reasons of the so-known as Arab Spring, we can examine the political scenario in one-of-a-kind countries, which includes Morocco and Egypt, and have a take a observe the monetary scenario of Arab countries earlier than and after the revolution and observe them.

The journey of the Arab Spring that started in 2010, when Mohammad

Bouazizi died from his injuries after setting himself on fire and passing away from his injuries had sparked a revolution that resonated in the hearts of the people of Tunisia and later on to the rest of the neighboring Arab countries hearts. As the protestors also rallied against corruption, economic inequality, joblessness unemployment and to demand the downfall of the authoritarian regime that was ruling. The MENA countries being rich in oil and resources had a downfall in its economic development due to Arab Spring. Since the corruption, inequality and inflation of prices in its economy making it harder for the average individual to survive and work for a living and had experienced a further major downfall in economic development amongst the regions during the Post - Arab Spring.

The situation brought people to their knees and enraged onto the streets due to the political instability and meddling corruption as an example, Tunisia was hit with the worst of it all as the situation in terms of institutional, social and economics levels does not seem to be recovering as many of the young people who held degrees and graduates were part of the high unemployment rate amongst the population as well as political instability and unrest such was the same case for the other neighboring regions like Egypt, Syria, Yemen, etc. Syria that leads an uprising from the spark of the Arab Spring, an uprising that had led to a civil war with many losses and casualties and evidently the rebels losing against Al-Assad's regime and followed by Yemen becoming the poorest Arab country as it too had also descended into violence as well.

The uprising showed that previously the women were presented with limited opportunities for them in the society be it economic, financial or political and their rights were also being limited as well but the protests had further sparked an influx of women leading to more protests and fighting for their right for equality and voice against the authoritarian regimes in the Arab Spring countries. The protests had significantly raised many notions for women's rights as their voices and actions had played a bigger role in the revolution and that later brought development in their sector yet in most Arab Spring countries, women's rights have not much improved as their social, economic and political aspirations have not been met yet to this day as many of the protests and revolution were also backed and had involvements from international communities and western countries which built up and fueled the fire of "hope" as ongoing protests across the MENA regions as well as through the help of social media use but many of those "dreams" and "hopes" were left shattered and lost after the people were of no longer use and had served their purpose in destabilizing their country into turmoil.

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