



## Space for Public Democracy: The use of the hashtag #sahkanRUUTPKS on Twitter creates a New Social Movement

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### ABSTRACT

*The aim of the research is to discover a new social movement that deviates from the social and political communication of the hashtag (#), validating the RUUTPKS on Twitter social media, which is now a democratic public space. Twitter contributes to the context of social movements by becoming a vehicle for people to communicate their demands. This study focuses on how Twitter social media becomes a platform for democratic public space from the demands of the hashtag (#) to legitimize the RUUTPKS which embodies a new social movement. The entire study methodology is a qualitative research method with a case study approach. In this study, data was collected using the literature review method, retrieval of documents on Twitter using the hashtag (#), and validation of the RUUTPKS using Ncapture Nvivo 12 Plus. The results of this study is voicing one's opinion on Twitter has a positive impact by giving birth to a genuine protest movement. The stages completed by each individual or group can have an impact on the group's movement. People's collective efforts for equality and social justice are reflected in social movements, as is the struggle to defend their identity and cultural heritage. Collective action and social movements have evolved into universal forces of historical systems and social activities. As a result, social movements and social activities exist in society and are frequently involved in conflicts and struggles over inequality, dominance, freedom, and social justice.*

**Keywords:** Public Democracy, Twitter, Hashtag, Social Movement, Communication.

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## **1. Introduction**

The fourth generation of the Internet paradigm is built on many models, technological advances, and social interactions. This scenario has a long way to go before it becomes a reality on a large scale, but it is still relevant for now (Demartini & Benussi, 2017). It is possible to design a place for contemplation and listening to enhance public discourse and democracy in a practical way, especially in an environment prone to over-expression and the democratic pathology of many communicative (Ercan et al., 2019). In a society built on participatory logic, citizens are transformed into network users who equally participate using mobile devices as part of a digital transformation change. Continuous reflection on increasingly naturalized virtual interactions, against the backdrop of current events, such as the global lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic, is necessary for a society where communication and education are the most important determinants of societal progress (García-ruiz, 2020).

The social media can spread ideas between discussion rooms, can also help create part of a thriving network of public spaces as long as they invite opposing voices to participate in discussions, communicate in genres that facilitate discussion, and invite others to participate in discussions (Johannessen & Følstad, 2014). Social media users are not bound by social, economic, or political status in society. In conveying information to the public, social media and traditional mass media have quite different characteristics. In supporting the national democratic political communication network, social media is a strong supporter (Susanto, 2017).

Communication has several properties, some of which include distance, indefinite time, and the ability to occur anywhere and at any time. Distance is no longer a barrier to connecting thanks to social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and the like. The existence of social media can have a negative impact on social status and can distort many different ideas and views. Like women in Iran, increasingly using social media and online campaigns as an enabling platform to participate in communication discourse, raise awareness, practice democracy, mobilize the masses, and protest against social injustices in the absence of a free and democratic public space to negotiate their rights (Mohammadi, 2019). So self-awareness is needed when exchanging or disseminating information (Watie, 2016).

Most young people have personal social media accounts. Their social media platforms, in particular, are used to exchange points of view. Despite the fact that the tools used vary, almost all teenagers have access to internet-connected gadgets on a regular basis (Nugraheni & Anastasia, 2017). It is likely that students now receive more information through social media than they did through traditional media, and they read more information through social media than they do through traditional media that they are not familiar with (Azman, 2018).

Students are generally able to understand technology, especially computers, in order to understand the information in a timely manner. Among the responsibilities of information technology in education is to assist stakeholders in enriching teaching skills through the use of social media. In addition, social media is needed for knowledge exchange and friendship maintenance and is useful in the learning process and self-actualization process. Students are, for the first time, aware of the negative consequences and academic lapses that may arise from the irresponsible use of social media. But they still use social media because it has become a daily necessity (Budiman, 2017; Sultan & Istiyanto, 2019).

Social media has received much praise for its role in fostering a democratic debate on social and policy-related issues. Social networks are becoming more and more popular. Twitter will be used to disseminate information during the current Covid-19 outbreak, and information provided by the government, in this case, the Twitter account of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, will serve as a public reference. There are several social media campaigns discussing the coronavirus (Covid-19), as well as discussions about selling masks and hand sanitizers at high prices (Saputra et al., 2020).

Initially, Ferguson-related tweets in Missouri, America, along with the use of the hashtag (#) Ferguson, were at the core of a counter-public network that fueled and influenced public discourse on issues such as race and policing governance, and justice (Jackson & Foucault Welles, 2016; Grover et al., 2019). Social media can help citizens interact with the government in a timely manner, and technology can turn communications into interactive discussions. This has proven useful in viewing analytics through socialization on Twitter, which allows users to observe policies and responses from the public when using the Omnibus Law (#) hashtag as a hashtag (Habibie et al., 2021).

In student social movement activities, the hashtag (#) Gejayanmecal proved to be quite successful, according to data. It is possible that the use of social media on Twitter can lead to the formation of a new movement to improve people's welfare, and the movement can organize mass unity (Nofrima et al., 2020). The linkage between actors in terms of the use of social media Twitter puts pressure on public opinion around the world, creating a network pattern that connects countries in responding to the issue of intimidation against the Uighur Muslim community, social protests that are always given from Twitter users as a forum to pressure the Chinese government, and creating new social movements carried out by countries that support the rejection of intimidation by the Uighur community in Xinjiang province, all of which are facilitated by the use of Twitter (Buntoro et al., 2021).

The use of social media Twitter as a source of information is one hundred percent, with people using social media Twitter as a source of information on the draft law (RUU) on job creation in its development process, as well as a means of building political communication, according to 71 percent of those who participated in the survey. There are various efforts to develop political movements by 15 percent, political interests by 21 percent, power creation by 12 percent, and having political goals by 23 percent in the process of building political communication. With the public interest in urging the government and forming public opinion on the Job Creation Bill, as well as a forum for public space communication (Setiawan et al., 2021). Internet and public domain issues now have a permanent position in the study of deliberative political communication, and as a result, enter the mainstream of democratic public sphere studies. The emergence of similar ideas and points of view on social media platforms (such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram) can be a starting point for further conversations.

Twitter contributes to the context of social movements by becoming a vehicle for people to communicate their demands. This study focuses on how Twitter social media becomes a platform for democratic public space from the demands of the hashtag (#) to legitimize the RUUTPKS which embodies a new social movement. The Twitter platform has a function as social and political communication. In some cases, social media can be used to organize social movements, run campaigns, and even spark revolutions. The purpose of this research is to find out a new social

movement that departs from the social and political communication of the hashtag (#) validating the RUUTPKS on Twitter social media which is a democratic public space today.

## **2. Method**

The methodology used in this research is a qualitative research method with a case study approach. A case study is a type of research that performs a detailed assessment of one or more specific programs, events, processes, or activities within the context of a larger whole. Time and training can be saved by gathering the right information using various data collection procedures and continuous-time monitoring and reporting (Cresswell, 2015). Data collection in this study was carried out through the literature review method, retrieval of documents on Twitter with the hashtag (#) validate the RUUTPKS through Ncapture Nvivo 12 Plus. Then the next stage is the analysis through the Nvivo 12 Plus.

Describe the use of computers in qualitative data analysis. Instead of machines doing the coding or categorization, as Cresswell stated, the researchers do the work. In addition to the advantages and disadvantages of using computers in qualitative data analysis, they are especially useful for evaluating very large data sets, such as those containing 500 pages or more of written text. In qualitative research, it will reveal insights on socio-political issues such as gender, racism, and ethnicity, and so on. It helps in the formulation of research questions, data collection and analysis of that data (Sugiyono, 2018).

The NCapture function of the Nvivo 12 plus program is used to document social media news on Twitter, which is then archived. The NCapture Nvivo 12 plus feature is able to systematically document and explore news material in depth (Fallis, 2013). When the document triangulation approach is used in a study, it produces research findings that are able to answer the researcher's questions. The Nvivo 12 plus software is used to conduct research and evaluate papers and social media resources, as well as online. The use of 12 plus software in this project is intended to map and assess patterns and networks that will be studied further.

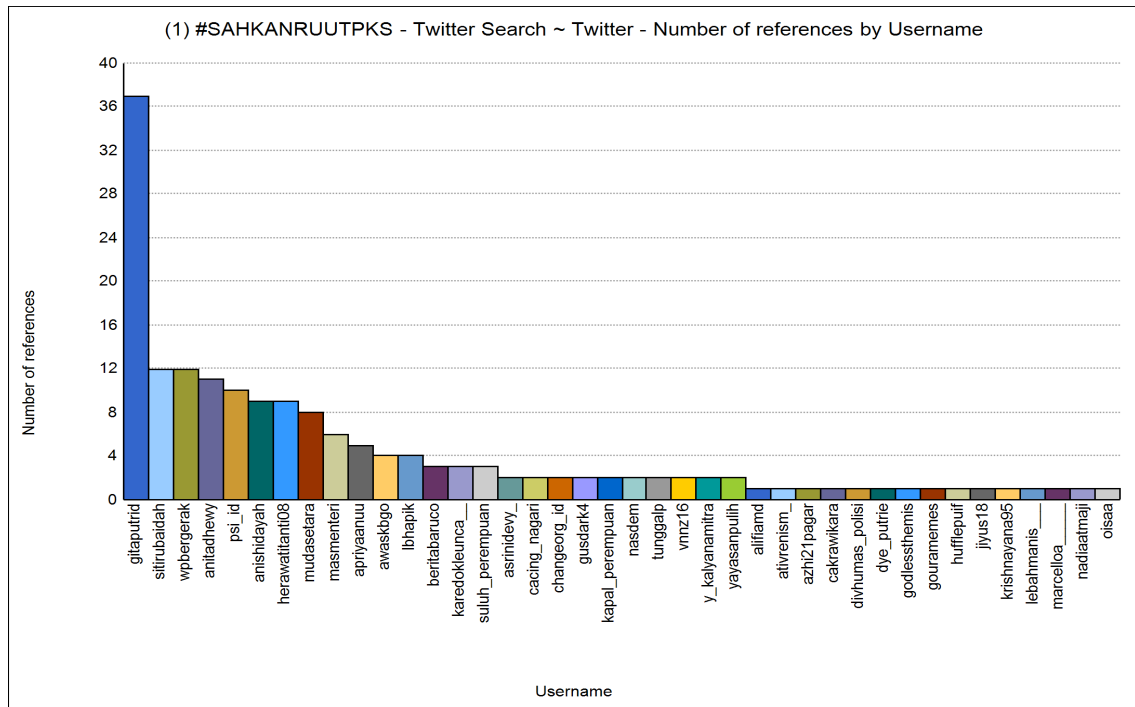
The Nvivo 12 Plus program is designed to analyze qualitative data from the internet, code the data, evaluate validity and reliability, and describe data analysis findings. To make the findings more professional, Nvivo 12 Plus analysis was used for the qualitative data analysis (AlYahmady & Al Abri, 2013).

## **3. Findings and Discussion**

The results of the Political Communication Research and Public Democracy Space Hashtag #sahanRUUTPKS on social media Twitter public communication in response to the issue of the Draft Law on the Elimination of Sexual Violence (RUU PKS) which is a bill proposed by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. The results obtained from analyzing the content of hashtags that discuss the PKS Bill include content, public domain, public sentiment and the role of social media. The results of this study were processed using the Nvivo 12 Plus software which helps in providing a visual description of the forms of public democracy that exist in the hashtag #sahanRUUTPKS and the patterns of interactions in it. In the process of this research, researchers need data about all interactions on Twitter. On the other hand, the study also developed a Twitter account and discussed the bill comprehensively. The results of the network analysis obtained are described based on predetermined variables below.

## Twitter Number of references by Username in hashtag #sahanRUUTPKS

**Figure 1.** Username relationship in hashtag #sahkan RUUTPKS.



Source: Nvivo 12 Plus.

Figure 1. shows the relationship between usernames and account activity in forming a public democracy when viewed this hashtag is popular in 2022 which shows a public response to an issue that is developing and is considered important for their lives. Judging from that, the most dominant Twitter account using the hashtag validate RUUPKS is @gitaputrid 37 or 21.64%. The things that gitaputrid tweets about the experiences of people who have been sexually harassed in public places. He also invited the entire Twitter user community to continue to oversee so that the proposed DPR bill passes into law. From these tweets, on average, they get as many as 20 (twenty) to 30 (thirty) retweets. In addition, the account @sitirubaidah (7.02%), @wpbergerak (7.02%), @Anitadhewy (6.43%). In the attention of these users, they highlight the increasing cases of sexual violence, many victims of sexual violence are children/women, victims of sexual violence need a legal that provides a sense of justice, and victims of sexual violence need protection.

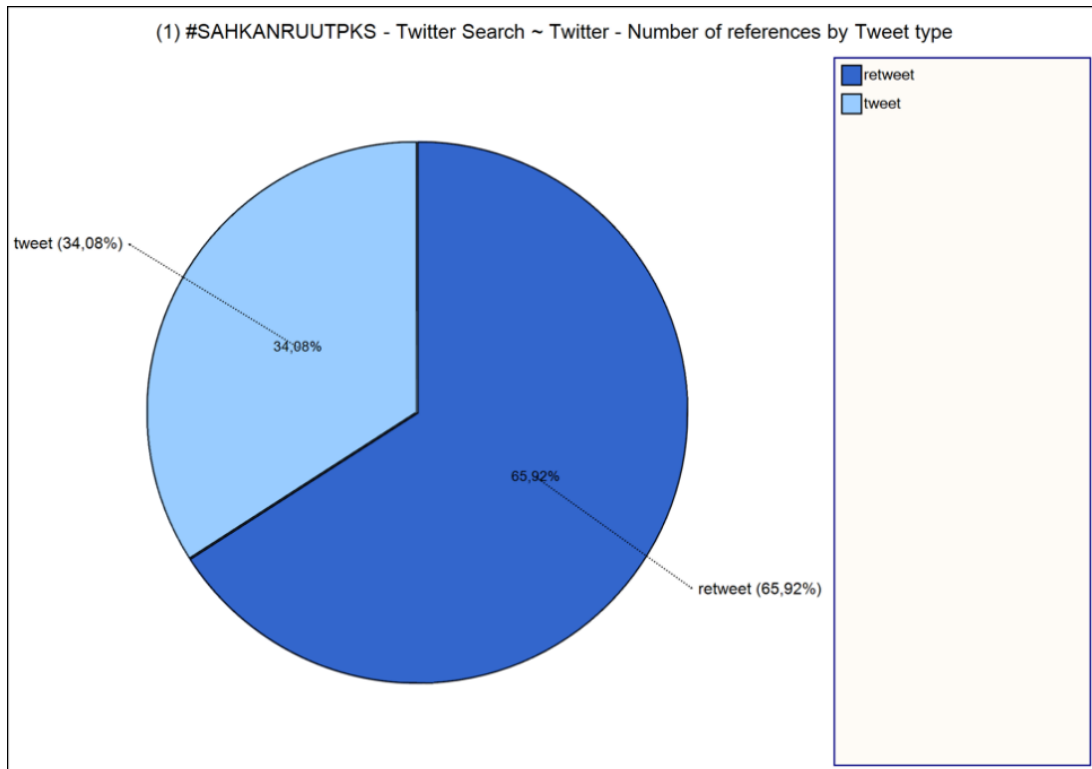
The method we can see stands is determined by the context, which includes each user's ability in social media. The use of media platforms in the political sector in various countries will generate many points of view, and there will be some overlap in different situations. Chadwick & May (2003) emphasized that the development of communication technology has a great impact on the political process; the development of digital communication through social media will give access to a new democratic spirit (Budyono, 2016). If traditional media relies on print and broadcast media, social media will rely on the internet. Therefore, as a means of communication, social media plays an active role in participating in society (its users) through public contributions and feedback, sharing information, and responding quickly online.

As too many social media users among supporters and sympathizers spread fake news that is incompatible with the official attitude of the political organization or group, social media in the official network of political groups does not gather information solely for the benefit of the group (Susanto, 2017). According to (Gottfried, Hardy, Holbert, Winneg, & Jamieson, 2017; Munger *et al.*, 2015), social media provides citizens with broad access to political content, whereas (Shehata & Strömbäck, 2018) skeptics believe that social media is useless for political knowledge because it is primarily used for entertainment or relationship-building (Park, 2019).

Lesson interesting can also be seen in the concern that one of the political concerns, namely the Indonesian Solidarity Party (PSI) which also enlivened this hashtag (5.85%) tweets issued by PSI was more for educating the public by creating a non-formal activity forum entitled to talk about RUUTPKS with sis @MiraclesImelda. Highlighting this is also conveyed as the point of this tweet, namely another thing that makes this bill important to support is the existence of an element of rehabilitation for perpetrators of sexual violence. The PKS Bill not only protects victims of sexual harassment but also provides rehabilitation for perpetrators of sexual violence (article 88 paragraph (3)). The function and purpose of this rehabilitation are to prevent acts of sexual violence from happening again.

The relationship between the actor's account linked to the hashtag #SahkanRUUTPKS on Twitter is polarized. This could get the public's attention. Therefore, there are types of tweets and retweets in this hashtag as shown below:

**Figure 2.** Tweet Type # SahkanRUUTPKS.



Source: Nvivo 12 Plus



### **Twitter as a Public Democracy Space in the Hashtag #sahanRUUTPKS**

The high popularity of Twitter has caused this service to be used for various purposes in various aspects, for example as a means of protest, political campaigns, learning tools, and as an emergency communication medium. Twitter is also faced with various problems and controversies such as user security and privacy issues, lawsuits, and censorship. Twitter is owned and operated by Twitter, Inc., based in San Francisco, with additional offices and servers located in New York City, Boston, and San Antonio (Munger *et al.*, 2015).

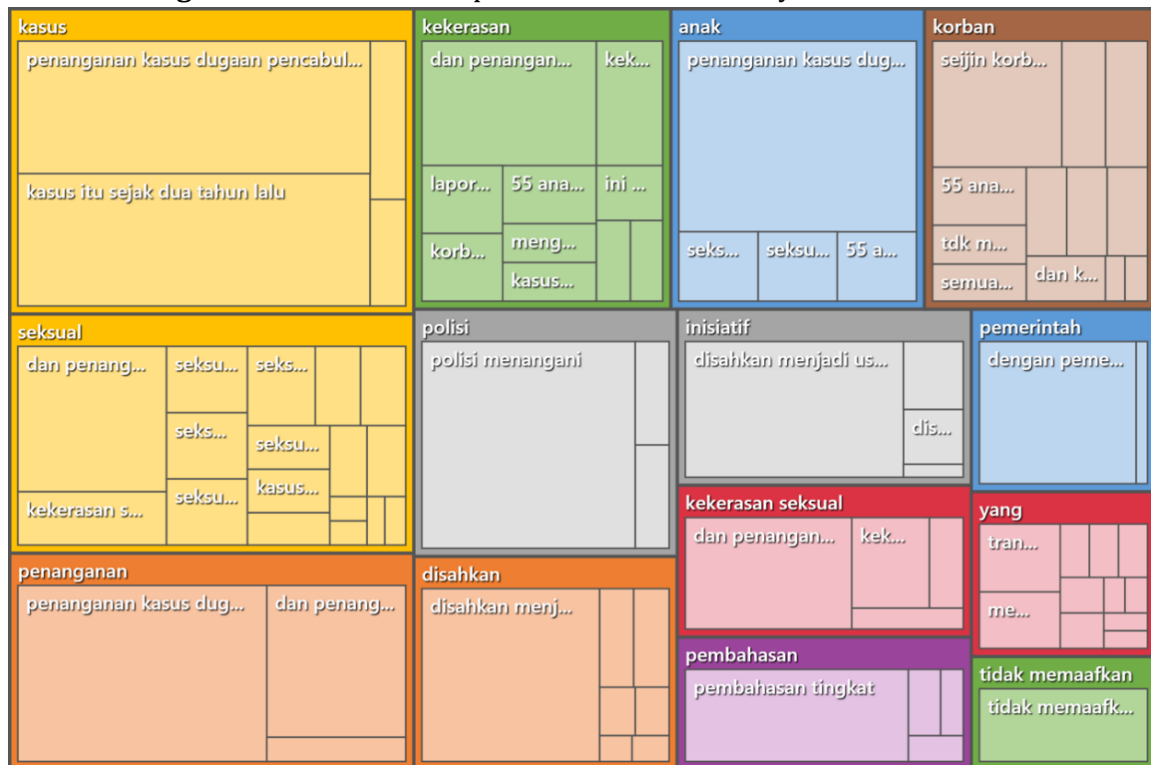
In the case of in some ways, this evidence can be used as an action-oriented democratic critique method. The media's presence Spreads is a performance. Some people believe This is a type of deliberation. When people learn to communicate with one another other, they believe most notable work is "invigorating Multiculturalism, "a substitute for deliberative democracy (Tomaselli, 2009; Teer-Tomaselli, 2009). These expressions imply democracy citizens' participation has an impact in the public eye via the media (Salgado, 2014).

The narrative above shows a transformation of public space, referred to as public space because discussions concerning common interests are stated openly there. The agenda of the Egyptian revolution is something that looks phenomenal, then the Green Movement revolution in Lebanon. And many things virtual revolution sticking out to the surface of the world. The public domain network has developed into an important place for discussion and debate on public interest issues in the last two decades, owing to the popularity of digital communication technology. Networked public space refers to various practices, organizations, and technologies that appear in network communication, alternative places for public discourse, political debate, and collective mobilization (Cropf & Krause, 2008).

Attention fluctuations can also provide more channels of participation than public domain mass communication, as well as more diverse opportunities to formulate and change agendas at the start of a debate - this is consistent with a shared understanding of the legal structure of the right to attend to the sharp contrast in digital media (Benkler *et al.*, 2015).

With this reality, Hashtag #SahkanRUUTPKS has a fairly sensitive communicative awareness by participating in shaping public opinion in terms of protecting victims of sexual violence. The Space for Public Democracy in the hashtag #sahanRUUTPKS can be seen from the following:

**Figure 3.** Themes in the Space of Public Democracy #sahanRUUTPKS



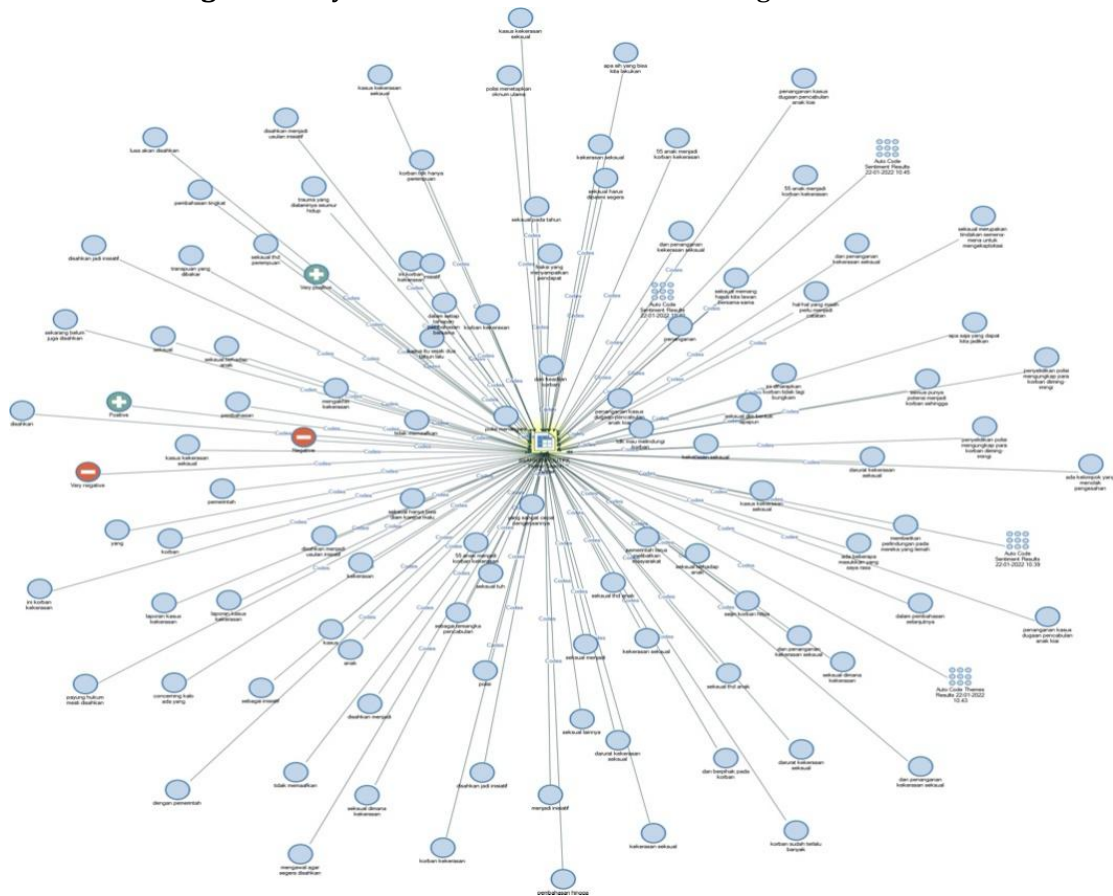
Source: Nvivo 12 Plus.

Figure 3. explains the themes contained in the conversation on Twitter which is the discussion of the handling of cases of alleged obscenity whose handling is too protracted and seems slow and not taken seriously by law enforcers. A case can be terminated, if insufficient evidence is found to open at least two pieces of evidence, or it has expired for 14 years. The case can be continued, if in the future at least two pieces of evidence are found and related to the alleged rape case involving one family, it will further prove the importance of regulations that favor the victim and his recovery. The DPR RI must immediately complete the discussion of the PKS Bill so that it can be ratified.

Public support for the ratification of the Draft Law on the Crime of Sexual Violence, which was conveyed through social media, namely Twitter. From the results of the conversation formed a pattern of interaction as follows:



Figure 4. Keyword Interaction Patterns Through social media



Source: Nvivo 12 Plus.

Figure 4 is the Pattern of Keyword Interaction Through Twitter social media which discusses the hashtag legalizing the TPKS Bill. The positive pattern is the key that emerges in this case. In a public conversation via Twitter, he also provided an emergency poster of sexual violence as a form of digital protest as follows:



Figure 5. Sexual violence Emergency Poster



Source: Twitter @cacing\_nagari and @Ayunin\_\_

A real protest as a form of the results of the Public Democracy Room in the hashtag #sahanRUUTPKS on Twitter.

The results of the Public Democracy Room on Twitter managed to produce a real protest action carried out by women in front of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, as follows:

Figure 6. Real actions demanding the ratification of the TPKS Bill





*Source: Twitter*

It can be seen from Figure 6 that giving opinions on Twitter has a positive impact by giving birth to a real protest movement. The stages carried out by each individual or group can affect the group's movement. Interests and shared vision in realizing common interests are the keys to the success of a new movement. This has made the hashtag legalizing the TPKS Bill to get responses from every twitter account in Indonesia, with positive and acceptable opinions and the impact of social protests that have an impact on new social movements. According to him, the theory of new social movements tends to question the fragile process of collective identity construction and identification of interest groups, not assuming that group conflicts and their interests are determined structurally.

Social movements express people's collective efforts for equality and social justice and reflect the struggle to defend their identity and cultural heritage. Social movements and collective action have become universal forces of historical systems and social activities. Therefore, social movements and social activities exist in society and often arise in conflicts and struggles around inequality, domination, freedom, and social justice. In addition, situations of inequality and social justice will produce opposite conditions, namely resistance, rejection, and opposition to the ruling system. Social structures are conceptualized as vicious and countless encounters for various dominant groups and social collectives.

The impact is the democratic cultural zeitgeist that is enacted and unleashed as a result of these protest movements circulating internationally among people from various linguistic communities and is not restricted to the realm of national politics. They are future-oriented, unlike revolutionary leftist groups, which are present-oriented, that is, tied to politics in daily life. The main thing to keep in mind is that there are significant points of convergence and divergence between this political definition of democracy and urban theory. The sticking issue is that for democracy to function, there needs to be some feeling of "we," some understanding that my exercise of personal freedom can affect others' ability to do the same thing or impact the common resources that we all need to draw on.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Violence against women is a form of violation of the rights of women as human beings. Various forms of violence against women continue to develop in people's lives, from offline



violence that requires physical contact to online violence through virtual media. The enforcement of women's human rights must of course be carried out in accordance with the mandate of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which does not allow discrimination against a certain group of people. This is what then makes the community encourage the government to enact a law that can be widely applied in order to eliminate various kinds of violence. Through social media Twitter, people called netizens can voice all forms of opinion, argumentation, and alignment with the problem.

Twitter, in particular, is being used as a public forum to express the dissatisfaction of participants from all walks of life via the hashtag #SahkanRUUTPKS. The hashtag #SahkanRUUTPKS contains a relationship between aspects and indicators. In the last two decades, public domain networks have evolved into essential venues for discussion and debate on issues of public interest, owing to the popularity of digital communication technology. Networked public space refers to the various practices, organizations, and technologies that emerge as alternative venues for public discourse, political debate, and collective mobilization as a result of network communication.

This study contributes to the current knowledge in the field of political communication. It is expected that this research will fill in the discrepancies or gaps from previous studies that investigate public democracy and its relationship to public space digitally, one of which is completed through Twitter. The limitation of this study though is that it discussed the hashtag #SahkanRUUTPKS on Twitter. Future research is expected to be able to analyze other social media platforms, such as Instagram, to use different hashtags, or even to discuss more than one hashtag. Furthermore, this study is limited to qualitative analysis; however, quantitative analysis might be possible in the future.

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