

--Question Starting--

3. Which of the following statements best characterizes the debate between hashtag activism and slacktivism in the context of digital social movements?

- I. Hashtag activism often involves symbolic participation that can raise awareness but rarely leads to tangible policy change.
- II. Slacktivism refers to minimal online actions like sharing or liking, which are generally considered to have negligible impact on social change.
- III. Empirical studies suggest that hashtag activism can sometimes catalyze offline mobilizations, challenging the notion that online actions are purely superficial.
- IV. Both hashtag activism and slacktivism are mutually exclusive; one involves meaningful engagement while the other is superficial.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (1) I, II, and III only
- (2) I and IV only
- (3) II and III only
- (4) I, II, III, and IV

Answer Key: 3

Solution:

? Statement I(Correct): Hashtag activism often raises awareness but seldom results in direct policy change; it functions mainly as symbolic participation.

? Statement II(Correct): Slacktivism is characterized by low-effort online actions like liking, sharing, or retweeting, which are perceived to have limited real-world impact.

? Statement III(Correct): Research indicates that hashtag activism can sometimes serve as a catalyst for offline protests or policy discussions, thus challenging the purely superficial view.

? Statement IV(Incorrect): While often contrasted, both phenomena are part of a spectrum of online engagement; they are not mutually exclusive and can overlap.

Hence, Option (3) is the right answer.

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4. Which of the following statements regarding networked social movements and connective action, as discussed by Castells and Bennett & Segerberg, are accurate?

- I. Networked social movements rely heavily on traditional hierarchical organization structures for coordination.
- II. Connective action emphasizes personalized content sharing and individualization of participation, moving away from collective identities.
- III. Castells argues that networked movements are characterized by their capacity for rapid information dissemination and decentralized coordination.
- IV. Bennett and Segerberg propose that connective action diminishes the role of digital platforms by emphasizing offline face-to-face interactions.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (1) II and III only
- (2) I, III, and IV only
- (3) I, II, and IV only
- (4) All of the above

Answer Key: 1

Solution:

? Statement I(Incorrect): Networked social movements, especially as described by Castells and Bennett & Segerberg, tend to favor decentralized, networked structures over traditional hierarchies.

? Statement II(Correct): Connective action emphasizes personalized, individualized participation facilitated by digital platforms, reducing reliance on collective identities.

? Statement III(Correct): Castells highlights the importance of rapid, decentralized information flow in networked movements, enabling swift mobilization.

? Statement IV(Incorrect): Bennett and Segerberg actually argue that digital platforms are central to connective action, facilitating online sharing and coordination, not diminishing their role.

Hence, Option (1) is the right answer.

--Question Starting--

5. Consider the debates surrounding Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) in the context of electoral trust, transparency, and auditability. Which of the following statements are analytically consistent?

- I. The integration of VVPAT with EVMs enhances electoral transparency by providing a tangible paper trail that can be used for audits.
- II. Critics argue that EVMs, even when coupled with VVPAT, are susceptible to hacking and manipulation, which undermines electoral trust.
- III. Proponents contend that EVMs with VVPAT significantly reduce the likelihood of electoral fraud compared to traditional paper ballots.
- IV. The use of VVPAT introduces new logistical challenges without providing any meaningful increase in the auditability of election outcomes.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (1) I, II, and III only
- (2) I and III only
- (3) II, III, and IV only
- (4) I, II, and IV only

Answer Key: 4

Solution:

? Statement I(Correct): VVPAT provides a paper trail that enhances transparency and allows for post-election audits.

? Statement II(Correct): Despite technological safeguards, critics highlight vulnerabilities in EVMs and VVPAT systems, raising concerns about security.

? Statement III(Incorrect): While EVMs with VVPAT reduce certain types of fraud, they do not eliminate all possibilities of manipulation; absolute security claims are debated.

? Statement IV(Correct): VVPAT implementation involves logistical challenges such as printing, storage, and counting, which can complicate election processes, and its contribution to auditability is significant in ensuring result integrity.

Hence, Option (4) is the right answer.