



CIVIC LIFE IN THE DIGITAL SPACE OF PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS

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ABSTRACT

In pursuit of securing sustainable development in communities through participatory and inclusive ways, the researcher investigates the profile and perceptions of respondents towards widely accessible social media platforms to identify key considerations in transforming online engagement into actual civic action. Quantitative in design, the questions from a prior study of the United Nations Development Programme on youth are adopted in surveying the digital engagement of 118 pre-service teachers. Utilizing descriptive statistics, Facebook is found as the most frequently used social media platform for creating and sharing content related to education, and health. Respondents concurred on widespread disinformation online and the complementary nature of civic engagement. Despite the manifested lack of trust and reservations due to the risk of data surveillance and breach, the respondents consider social media platforms as enabling venues for civic engagement. Corresponding policies and programs that institute gender-inclusive, safe, and participatory venues in all forms are necessary means for supporting the youth as key players in nation-building.

Keywords: Education and Teaching, Digital Engagement, Quantitative Research, Philippines.