

RECONSTRUCTING SUBSTANTIVE DIGITAL LITERACY: A
CASE STUDY OF GENERATION Z'S CIVIC TRANSFORMATION
IN INDONESIAZindan Baynal Hubi¹, Karim Suryadi², Siti Nurbayani³, Asep Mahpudz⁴, Ibnu
Sulaiman⁵, Dzaka Ashriel Faris⁶¹⁾ Universitas Islam Syekh-Yusuf, Tangerang, Indonesia;^{2), 3), 4)} Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Bandung, Indonesia;⁵⁾ Universitas Padjadjaran, Bandung, Indonesia;⁶⁾ National Research Tomsk State University, Siberia, Russian Federation.Author Correspondence Email: [*sulaimanibnu867@gmail.com](mailto:sulaimanibnu867@gmail.com)

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ABSTRACT

Digital citizenship is frequently trapped in cyber performativity, ignoring the potential for substantive collaboration amidst algorithmic hegemony. This study aims to analyze the transformation of the digital citizenship paradigm into literacy-based collective action within the Civic Kolaborasik community in Tegal, Brebes, and Slawi. Utilizing a descriptive qualitative method with a case study design, data were gathered through in-depth interviews, participant observation of 20 informants, and documentation. Data validity was ensured through source triangulation until data saturation was reached. The results indicate that Civic Kolaborasik successfully operationalized a systematic informal curriculum as a critical ideological filter, transforming consumptive digital behavior into measurable social cognition through the "Ngopi Ngapak" culture as an egalitarian public sphere. This transformation proves that substantive digital literacy can foster meaningful civic participation beyond digital spaces. The findings emphasize that the integration of local wisdom and critical dialectics is key to addressing information polarization. This study provides a scalable model for social movements to mitigate algorithmic hegemony in local contexts across Indonesia.

ABSTRAK

Kewarganegaraan digital sering kali terjebak dalam performativitas siber yang mengabaikan potensi kolaborasi substansial di tengah hegemoni algoritma. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis transformasi paradigma kewarganegaraan digital menjadi aksi kolektif berbasis literasi kritis pada komunitas Civic Kolaborasik di wilayah Tegal, Brebes, dan Slawi. Menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif dengan desain studi kasus, data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara mendalam, observasi partisipan terhadap 20 informan, dan dokumentasi. Keabsahan data dijamin melalui triangulasi sumber hingga mencapai saturasi data. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Civic Kolaborasik berhasil mengoperasionalkan kurikulum informal sistematis sebagai filter ideologi kritis, mengubah perilaku digital konsumtif menjadi kognisi sosial yang terukur melalui budaya "Ngopi Ngapak" sebagai ruang publik egaliter. Transformasi ini membuktikan bahwa literasi digital substantif mampu mendorong partisipasi kewargaan yang bermakna di luar ruang digital. Temuan ini menegaskan bahwa integrasi kearifan lokal dan dialektika kritis menjadi kunci dalam menghadapi polarisasi informasi. Penelitian ini memberikan model yang dapat diskalakan bagi gerakan sosial untuk memitigasi hegemoni algoritma dalam konteks lokal di Indonesia.

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Zindan Baynal Hubi, Karim Suryadi, Siti Nurbayani,
Asep Mahpudz, Ibnu Sulaiman, Dzaka Ashriel Faris

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INTRODUCTION

Generation Z's massive dependence on TikTok's algorithms has constructed a culture of Fear of Missing Out (FoMO) and pathological consumerism, which adversely affects mental health and self-confidence (Cai et al., 2025). This crisis is further exacerbated by the dominance of the post-truth era and deficient digital literacy, causing objective facts to be frequently displaced by information manipulation and emotional resonance (Erduran, 2025). Consequently, the parameters of truth have shifted from scientific validity toward digital popularity metrics and subjective influencer validation, which destructively erodes critical reasoning and public trust in credible institutions (Ambardekar & Burkhart, 2025; Lin, 2025). As a strategic response to this phenomenon, the Civic Kolaborasik community emerged to revitalise critical thinking and authentic social action, aiming to liberate the youth from the pitfalls of social media validation.

Drawing upon MacIver's sociological perspective, this movement integrates the regions of Tegal, Brebes, and Slawi through emotional bonds to mitigate the degradation of civic literacy through actor synergy at the micro, meso, and macro levels (Fitriyanto & Sulaiman, 2025). By adopting Pancasila values and Paulo Freire's philosophy of liberating education, Civic Kolaborasik seeks to cultivate citizens as conscious subjects capable of transforming civic collaboration into a dynamic communication ecosystem. Through the reinforcement of critical reasoning and the actualisation of tangible contributions, this community serves as a vital instrument in enhancing national intellectual life while safeguarding the younger generation from destructive algorithmic influences (Maulana et al., 2025; Choi et al., 2021).

The exploration of these digital ecosystem dynamics has been comprehensively charted through several prior works that establish the framework for this research. The study by (Septrian & Nirmala, 2025; Fernandi et al., 2025), elucidates that systematic marketing strategies and content diversification are essential for fostering active dialectical interactions. In the socio-political dimension, the study by (Fadhilah, 2025; Fadhil & Syah, 2025), demonstrate that digital power is capable of mobilising the masses and converting virtual interest into substantive physical participation. Regarding the aspect of empowerment, the studies by (Adiebia et al., 2023; Fauzi et al., 2023; Lusiana et al., 2023), argue that creative technological mentorship and literacy communities serve as crucial instruments in driving inclusive social change.

Nevertheless, a synthesis of these studies reveals a critical research gap regarding the failure of algorithmic mitigation. Previous research has predominantly focused on technical-instrumental dimensions for performative interests, thereby neglecting the impact of algorithms in creating echo chambers and polarization among Generation Z. Furthermore, a philosophical vacuum persists in community empowerment, as existing studies have yet to incorporate critical pedagogy as an ideological filter. This deficiency triggers an imbalance between consumptive digital behaviour and the necessity for an egalitarian public sphere dialectic.

This research addresses these gaps by introducing the concept of "*Substantive Digital Literacy*," which integrates logic and philosophy with the local wisdom of the "*Ngopi Ngapak*" culture. Diverging from prior technocratic approaches, this study repositions coffee shops as Habermasian Public Spheres to deconstruct algorithmic bias through collective critical dialectics. This model offers a transformation of digital citizenship deeply rooted in tangible action within physical public spaces through a Civic Community perspective, wherein communities function as transformative incubators for Generation Z to transition into

empowered agents of change (Sagiv et al., 2022). This process is underpinned by philosophical digital literacy transcending technical proficiency toward an epistemological understanding of social reality (Alquaary et al., 2026) and the strategic utilisation of Civic Collaboration to bolster political efficacy and democratic values (Saud et al., 2023). Building upon these premises, this study aims to comprehensively analyse the reconstruction of digital citizenship identity. This is achieved by identifying the problematic hegemony of algorithms that distort critical reasoning, dissecting the mechanisms of transformation through informal pedagogy based on "*Ngopi Ngapak*" culture as a manifestation of the Habermasian public sphere, and evaluating the effectiveness of substantive civil movements in transforming performative digital activities into impactful collective action for community literacy in the Tegal, Slawi, and Brebes regions.

METHOD

This research employs a qualitative approach with a case study design to conduct an in-depth exploration of the Civic Kolaborasik movement through descriptive and substantive qualitative analysis. The research is geographically focused on Tegal City, Slawi Regency, and Brebes Regency. In this study, the primary researcher serves as the key instrument, adopting an observer-as-participant role. To ensure academic validity and neutrality, data collection was conducted longitudinally from November 2024 to January 2026, encompassing three strategic phases: conceptualization, organizational implementation, and the deliberative operational phase. Methodological rigor is reinforced through the application of triangulation techniques to ensure objectivity in mapping social constructions at the grassroots level (Akintunde, 2022; Ma'arif et al., 2024).

Table 1. Characteristics of Research Informants

Code	Informant Category	Role within the Community
P1	Founder / Chairperson	Lead Coordinator & Logic Mentor
P2	Core Executive / Co-founder	" <i>Ngopi Ngapak</i> " Discussion Facilitator
P3	Core Executive / Co-founder	Social Media Administrator
P4	Active Member	Social Action & Donation Coordinator
P5	Active Member	Participant in Philosophy Classes for Gen Z
P6	Active Member	Civic Kolaborasik Delegate (Brebes Region)
P7	Active Member	Civic Kolaborasik Delegate (Slawi Region)
P8	New Member	Undergraduate Student (Regular Discussion Participant)
P9	New Member	High School Student (Literacy-focused Gen Z)
P10-P15	New Member	Regular Participants in Interdisciplinary Discussions
P16-P20	General Participants	Stakeholders, Local Residents, and Action Sympathisers

Source: Research Results, 2025-2026

As illustrated in Table 1, the research informants are categorized based on their strategic roles and duration of involvement to obtain a holistic perspective. Informants P1 to P3 serve as the community's primary pillars (founders and core executives) with a two-year tenure; they are fundamentally responsible for the ideological direction and the facilitation of critical dialectics. The group comprising P4 to P15 represents active members and regional delegates (Brebes and Slawi) with one to two years of involvement, providing empirical data regarding field-level program implementation. Meanwhile, informants P16 to

P20 encompass stakeholders, general participants, and sympathisers, whose insights serve to evaluate the movement's impact within the broader societal scope. Data analysis was conducted systematically through data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The researcher employed manual thematic analysis to identify patterns of transformation in the informants' critical consciousness. To ensure the credibility of the findings, source and method triangulation were applied. It is imperative to note that data collection was terminated upon reaching data saturation, at which point the information gathered from informants P16 to P20 no longer yielded new categorical variations or theoretical insights (Hashimov, 2015).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Foundations and Strategies of the Civic Kolaborasik Community

This study demonstrates that engagement within Civic Kolaborasik functions as a vital ideological bulwark for Generation Z against the psychological precarity of algorithmic disruption. A central finding is the transformative role of digital citizenship literacy, which acts as the primary bridge between functional technicality and critical social agency. The data suggests that without this cognitive foundation, individuals remain susceptible to algorithmic hegemony, leading to an erosion of critical potency (Nikou & Aavakare, 2021; Alquaary et al., 2026). To counteract this alienation, the community operationalises the "*Ngopi Ngapak*" cultural framework as an incubator for human agency. By synthesising local wisdom with Freirean conscientization, this approach successfully repositions participants from passive technological "*objects*" to autonomous "*subjects*" (Asep, 2023). Ultimately, such civic empowerment facilitates a fundamental shift from performative slacktivism toward substantive participation. This evolution enables the younger generation to deconstruct power structures while reinforcing their moral accountability within a modern democracy (Fan & Ryu, 2023; Yang et al., 2025).

Through this dialectical space, community members do not merely learn to produce digital content but also generate social solutions based on valid information analysis. This aligns with digital citizenship principles that emphasize moral and social responsibility in cyberspace as the foundation of modern democratic life. Furthermore, this conscientization enables members to recognize the power structures operating behind algorithms, allowing them to utilize digital tools for emancipatory purposes. Moreover, Civic Kolaborasik operates as an antithesis within the post-truth landscape, where digital engagement is often dominated by performative narratives that disregard objective truth in pursuit of public validation (Diki Anggoro et al., 2025). This degradation of public discourse quality was empirically affirmed by the P1 and P2 of Civic Kolaborasik during an interview:

"Many social media posts that initially intended to criticize the government end up as mere insults and slander, creating public confusion. Amidst this situation, we are here to encourage Gen-Z to provide real solutions without disparaging others. Our focus is on building unity and positive impact to maintain national harmony."

This statement provides robust evidence that Civic Kolaborasik functions as a transformative vehicle unifying physical action and cognitive processes (*praxis*) to achieve collective well-being. The integration of critical reflection and tangible action is crucial because digital civic literacy is no longer understood as a static theoretical concept; instead, it manifests as the ability to verify information and engage in deliberative communication capable of dismantling disinformation structures. However, a critical analysis of the organization's internal dynamics reveals inherent structural dilemmas. The reliance on the

informality of *Budaya Ngopi Ngapak*, while effective in building organic participation, often clashes with the need for rapid strategic decision-making typically found in formal hierarchical organizations. This challenge is exacerbated by external pressures and resource constraints, which serve as latent stressors for membership stability. Despite these constraints, the community demonstrates remarkable resilience by utilizing external resistance such as the traditional patron-client mindsets in the Tegal, Slawi, and Brebes regions as material for critical reflection to strengthen member agency (Usmi et al., 2025). This continuous reflective process ultimately builds digital resilience, where individuals do not merely survive the onslaught of manipulative information but actively contribute through the contextualization of *Pancasila* values and the spirit of *Gotong Royong* (Inthaly & Almubaroq, 2022).

Grounded in Tocqueville's theory of civil society, the Civic Kolaborasik community manifests as a voluntary association for Generation Z, functioning to balance individual liberty with state authority. It simultaneously serves as a "*school of democracy*" designed to mitigate individualism through egalitarian collaboration and self-funding mechanisms (Neem, 2006). By integrating the development of Pancasila-based civic knowledge with digital literacy to counter disinformation (Siregar & Rachman, 2024), this community acts as a catalyst that transforms barriers to participation into tangible action and the articulation of youth aspirations (Rachman et al., 2024; Salis et al., 2025). Through an inclusive and solution-oriented approach, Civic Kolaborasik establishes a resilient citizenship model that contributes substantively to regional sovereignty and development.

Figure 1. Statutes and Bylaws of Civic Kolaborasik



Source: Research Results, 2024-2026

As illustrated by the Statutes (*Anggaran Dasar* or *AD*) and Bylaws (*Anggaran Rumah Tangga* or *ART*) document, the institutional existence of this movement is bolstered by a formal organizational foundation. This institutionalization reflects a comprehensive strategic vision aimed at catalyzing social impact toward the realization of civil society (*masyarakat madani*). Through these official regulations, "*Kolaborasik*" is established as an inclusive norm that radically reconstructs public policy models to be more participatory and

responsive to grassroots aspirations (Gallego & Maestripieri, 2024)). By integrating the formal structure of the Statutes and Bylaws with local cultural flexibility, Civic Kolaborasik successfully bridges abstract digital citizenship theories with substantive, measurable digital praxis. This achievement provides empirical evidence that collective agency rooted in locality can become a solid digital defense mechanism, safeguarding citizen sovereignty at both local and national levels, while serving as a model for developing digital civil society in other regions across Indonesia.

2. Discussion Patterns and Tangible Actions of the Civic Kolaborasik Community

Civic Kolaborasik consolidates demographic diversity through a shared teleological commitment to revitalise critical discourse amidst the ongoing degradation of the public sphere. By anchoring its movement in Pancasila as an axiological foundation, the community effectively mitigates the corrosive effects of digital globalisation, pivoting from individualistic consumption toward substantive regional empowerment (Syahwaliana et al., 2025; Kurniawan, 2022). Drawing upon Habermasian theory, this youth-driven collaboration functions as a countervailing force that leverages collective intelligence to deconstruct informational manipulation. This transformation of public discourse serves not only as a platform for policy validation but also as a democratic instrument that compels institutional power-holders toward heightened transparency and accountability (Nugroho, 2026).

Table 2. Scientific Discussion Activities

No	Schedule	Types of Activities / Discussion Themes
1.	Tuesday Evening	Tutoring sessions on Mathematics and Logic
2.	Saturday Evening	Discussions on Foundations of Philosophy, Stoicism, Human Civilization, and Indonesian Politics
3.	Wednesday Afternoon	Introductory Education, Stoicism, Philosophy, and Socio-Civic Issues
4.	Saturday Afternoon	Introductory Education, Stoicism, Philosophy, and Socio-Civic Issues
5.	Thursday Evening	Scientific Research Methodology and Academic Discussions

Source: Research Results, 2025-2026

Analysis of the activity patterns in Table 2 (Discussion Schedule) indicates that Civic Kolaborasik does not merely transfer knowledge rather, it operationalizes contextual literacy through a systematic informal curriculum. The selection of themes, such as "*Logic*" and "*Research Methodology*," serves as a direct response to the crisis of reason within the digital space. This practice aligns with the conceptual framework of (Alakrash & Abdul Razak, 2021), wherein raw information from social media is not permitted to proliferate as hoaxes but is instead transformed into contextualized social practice. In the era of disruption, literacy has evolved into a critical information management competence essential for national progress. Through this discussion pattern, the community functions as a strategic instrument that translates theoretical discourse into functional knowledge, thereby facilitating the deep empirical internalization of civic values (Setyawati & Aulia, 2023).

Civic Kolaborasik revolutionises Generation Z's civic engagement by synergising Freirean problem-posing pedagogy with Habermasian public sphere discourse, effectively

pivoting performative digital activities toward substantive collective action. By leveraging collective intelligence to validate policy and deconstruct informational manipulation, this movement successfully mitigates youth vulnerability to the pitfalls of virality and follower-centric metrics (Gherguț-Babii et al., 2025). Through rigorous, literature-based dialogue, the community elevates participant understanding into a state of conscientization, shifting digital literacy from mere technical proficiency toward an epistemological skill set essential for discerning truth within a post-truth landscape. Ultimately, this synergy of intellectual rigor and strategic communication cultivates analytical and innovative characters, empowering youth to navigate technological disruption with wisdom while initiating authentic social change (Niam et al., 2025).

Figure 2. Landslide Relief Donation for Banjarnegara and Ground Movement Donation for Padasari, Tegal



Source: Research Results, 2025-2026

Based on Figures 2, the synergy between theoretical reflection and social contribution manifests in substantive field engagement, such as the distribution of logistical aid to landslide victims in Banjarnegara and the victims of moving soil disasters in Padasari, Tegal. While the majority of digital communities are entrapped within *"performative aesthetics"* or *slacktivism* (shallow activism aimed solely at digital imagery), Civic Kolaborasik establishes a paradigm of tangible action that transcends mere digital symbolism. By operationalizing value clarification techniques (Kabatiah, 2021), this community transforms citizens from passive administrative objects into critically conscious subjects. This praxis manifests as intellectual activism (Manning, 2025), which prioritizes empirical social impact over the performativity culture prevalent on social media. Based on interviews with P4-P9 of Civic Kolaborasik, there is a clear shift in both mindset and behavioral patterns:

"We have genuinely experienced an increase in literacy and critical thinking, while also understanding the true essence of community service. Ultimately, we have become more selective regarding the information circulating on social media and are driven to provide maximum real contribution to the community."

Based on the interview excerpts, the *"Ngopi Ngapak"* activity initiated by the Civic Kolaborasik community has metamorphosed into an inclusive proletarian public sphere in the Habermasian sense, serving as a vital space where actors (P1–P20) cultivate social trust through egalitarian dialogue (Saud et al., 2023). This arena systematically converts public discourse into tangible movements, thereby strengthening the correlation between social stimuli and collective responses. From a psychological perspective, this practice operationalises the Law of Effect and the Law of Exercise to solidify value commitments and sharpen the members' critical acuity (Ni & Lu, 2020). Furthermore, the *"Ngapak"* dialect serves as an instrument for ideological filtration and substantive digital literacy,

dismantling algorithmic hegemony through the reclamation of cognitive sovereignty. Ultimately, this synergy validates youth self-efficacy, evolving transient interactions into a durable civic consciousness that reinforces the overarching democratic architecture (Pinedo & Kruger, 2025; Themelis & Hsu, 2021).

3. The Relevance of Independent Thinking and Tangible Action

Civic Kolaborasik operates as a hybrid democratic infrastructure, integrating Pancasila-based critical reasoning with pragmatic action to fortify Generation Z against the semantic erosion induced by digital algorithms (Bila et al., 2023). By repositioning civic education as a multifaceted literacy instrument, the community successfully reconstructs fragmented digital spaces into autonomous social spheres that prioritise critical validation and communicative action (O'Mahony, 2021; Eisenegger & Schäfer, 2023). This transformation fundamentally hinges on the cultivation of social capital specifically networks, norms, and trust which serves to reinforce democratic structures by fostering solidarity and reciprocal communal ties through active youth engagement (Putnam, 1995).

Within the Civic Community framework, these social assets are repurposed into a transformative incubator, enabling youth to evolve from digital participants into potent agents of change within the physical public sphere (Sagiv et al., 2022). The convergence of digital discourse and grassroots initiatives, such as charitable actions, exemplifies the manifestation of bridging social capital, effectively translating transient online interactions into a solid collective trust that mitigates social isolation amidst the decline of traditional institutions (Rodríguez-Pose et al., 2021). Ultimately, this organised synergy between digital narratives and field-based practice ensures that youth engagement matures into a substantive force, strengthening both civic sovereignty and national resilience in the contemporary era (Larsen, 2021).

The sustainability of the Civic Kolaborasik movement heavily depends on its ability to maintain independence from algorithmic hegemony and partisan interests, realized through the *holding the space* strategy as an ethical effort to preserve the purity of the deliberative space (Pinedo & Kruger, 2025). This strategy is achieved by strategically repositioning the use of digital technology, ensuring that technology serves as a tool supporting the movement rather than controlling the community's direction. Consequently, the community can focus on substantive goals and avoid the manipulation of digital narratives that could fracture solidarity. As emphasized by the P3 of Civic Kolaborasik regarding the organization's future direction:

"In our general meeting, we decided that strategic steps forward involve intensifying substantive social media activities rather than performative ones. Additionally, we will launch PCK (Pengenalan Civic Kolaborasik) as an entry point for new members and pursue collaborations with various stakeholders as part of a synergy of ideas for national unity."

This statement confirms a paradigm shift from performative activities (seeking digital validation) toward substantive activities (literacy-based movements). The inauguration of "Pengenalan Civic Kolaborasik" (PCK) signifies a strategic institutionalisation of the movement, pivoting recruitment from transient engagements toward the structured internalisation of civic values. Within the Connective Action framework, PCK repurposes social media as a robust organisational infrastructure that mitigates digital fragmentation through mechanisms of detribalisation (Robert & Walling, 2023; Lindqvist & Lindgren, 2023). By adopting a non-hierarchical architecture grounded in *"active egalitarianism,"* the community revitalises a Habermasian public sphere essential for the cultivation of social trust, as prescribed by Civic Community principles (Saud et al., 2023; González-Ruibal,

2025). Within this *"third space,"* informal discourses on public issues are systematically converted into collective movements that bridge the gap between social stimuli and pragmatic action, serving as a critical bulwark against post-truth narratives. Consequently, members' digital aspirations transcend mere rhetoric, evolving into a substantive social praxis that safeguards the integrity of the public sphere against algorithmic hegemony and partisan interests (Austin et al., 2023).

Substantially, this study extends the academic discourse established by (Septrian & Nirmala, 2025; Fernandi et al., 2025) by introducing the interstitial space variable as a pivotal determinant of digital engagement. While preceding research has concentrated on algorithmic influence and content diversification, these findings suggest that Civic Kolaborasik utilizes digital engagement merely as an initial catalyst; the sustainability of tangible action is, instead, predicated on the dialectical vigor of the physical public sphere. This evidence fundamentally challenges the reductionist view that Generation Z's activism is purely performative. Moreover, this research offers a significant departure from (Adiebia et al., 2023; Fauzi et al., 2023) by repositioning the community from a facilitator of technical information into a cognitive laboratory. This shift addresses a paradigmatic lacuna in Indonesian literacy studies which often lean toward technocratic approaches by demonstrating the informants' (P1-P20) capacity for the critical deconstruction of hoaxes and polarization.

Regarding mobilization, this research both validates and refines the perspectives of (Fadhilah, 2025; Fadhil & Syah, 2025). Although it acknowledges that digital platforms can effectively mobilize digital masses into physical spaces, such transitions remain precarious unless anchored by local wisdom. In this context, the *"Ngopi Ngapak"* culture serves as a *"social anchor,"* providing an organic verification space that fortifies collective action against political fragmentation. Ultimately, these findings complement the framework of (Lusiana et al., 2023) by proposing that social change agents in the post-truth era emerge from the synthesis of substantive digital literacy and egalitarian discursive practices. This study concludes that the transformation of digital citizenship reaches its zenith when technology is treated as an instrument, while human dialectics remain the quintessential spirit of collective movement.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that reconstructing digital citizenship among Generation Z necessitates a paradigmatic shift from technocratic proficiency toward substantive digital literacy. The analysis demonstrates that algorithmic hegemony has fostered restrictive echo chambers that distort critical inquiry and prioritise performative metrics over objective validity. In response, the *"Ngopi Ngapak"* cultural framework has successfully evolved into a Habermasian public sphere and a *"cognitive laboratory,"* where informational biases are deconstructed through critical pedagogy anchored in local wisdom. This synergy effectively translates virtual engagement into tangible collective action including social advocacy and philanthropic initiatives proving that the integration of cognitive autonomy with local cultural anchors is essential for safeguarding civic sovereignty against post-truth disruptions. Theoretically, these findings offer a transformative empowerment model that repositions the physical public sphere as a vital countervailing force, mitigating the destructive influence of algorithms to fortify the essence of digital democracy.

DECLARATIONS

1. About Authors

Zindan Baynal Hubi (ZBH) : <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0837-9305>

Karim Suryadi (KS) : <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3492-3175>

Siti Nurbayani (SN) : <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4786-3124>

Asep Mahpudz (AM) : <https://orcid.org/0009-0009-9555-1588>

Ibnu Sulaiman (IS) : <https://orcid.org/0009-0006-3676-5736>

Dzaka Ashriel Faris (DAF) : <https://orcid.org/0009-0008-4273-739X>

2. Authors Contributions

Authors Contributions on Conceptualization: ZBH, KS, SN, AM, and IS; Methodology: ZBH; Validation: IS; Formal Analysis: KS, SN, and AM; Investigation: ZBH, IS, and DAF; Resources: IS; Data Curation: ZBH; Writing & Original Draft Preparation: ZBH; Writing & Review and Editing: KS, SN, AM, and DAF; Supervision: KS, SN, and AM. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

3. Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no competing interests, financial or otherwise, that could be perceived as influencing the objectivity of this research. This study was conducted independently, and the findings are presented without any external influence.

4. Generative AI and AI-Assisted in the Writing Process

The authors utilized Gemini AI exclusively for linguistic refinement and grammatical optimization to meet international scholarly standards. The core intellectual content, data analysis, and scientific conclusions were developed solely by the human authors. Following AI-assisted editing, the manuscript underwent rigorous manual verification. The authors remain fully accountable for the accuracy, integrity, and originality of the final work.

5. Data Availability Statement

The qualitative data supporting the findings of this study, including interview transcripts and observational notes, are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request. The data are not publicly available due to privacy and ethical restrictions concerning the participants of the Civic Kolaborasik community

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