

## 2E2a

### Online to Offline to Online: Changing Sociality Through Social Media in Bangladesh

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Have you ever wonder why a post, comment, or picture shared by users in social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Blog sites) suddenly creating a significant impact among other users and resulting into massive socio-political mobilisation such as Arab Spring, Occupy Wall Street, Gezi Park Resistance, #MeToo to # BlackLivesMatter? Many scholars tried to answer the questions, but they tried only focusing on one aspect emphasizing on social media or the socio-economic condition. The digital activities, debate and discussion in the online space are translating into physical activities and actions in offline spaces, local issues spreading across the globe and engaging other people from a diverse background. At the same time, events and issues from the offline space affecting the online spaces in a congregation of ways. The advent of social media challenged the traditional idea of the public and private sphere, communication and socialization. This challenge can be best visible during the time of social movements where social media used as a protest mobilization tool, a space for socialization, an online protest entity, a bridge between online and offline spaces. The process is a very dynamic and complex relationship between technology and society. This research tries to unmask this relationship in the context of the social media movement of Bangladesh. The movement is known as the 2013 Shahbag movement.

Blogger and online activists (educated, middle-class urban youth) of the online space, initiated the movement which translated into offline protest and later evolved into a mass movement which continued for one month demanding capital punishment of convicted war criminal of liberation war of Bangladesh. During this movement, numerous people showed solidarity online, 100,000-500,000 people joined in the street protest. (5th February to 5th March 2013). Spread in different cities in Bangladesh (e.g. Barisal, Sylhet). Bengali diaspora across the globe showed solidarity online and arranged street protest in different cities (e.g. London, New York). The main query in this research is, if the discussion of social media bringing substantive insights into the understanding of this dynamic relationship, concerning political public sphere? If so, how? Which way? To what extent?

The central research queries can be addressed through an analysis of the localization process of social media, the emergence of digital resistance, dominant digital culture, forms of digital activism. Addressing the transformability of spaces through social media is also crucial because it will put light on the emergence of resistance in physical spaces. To understand what happens when digital resistance in physical space such as fluidity of collective identity, contamination of resistance-call, sporadic growth of transnational resistance activities.