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Relationship Between E-Government, E-Participation, Human Development, and Its Effect on Democracy in Asia

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ABSTRACT

This research explores the relationship between E-Government, E-Participation, Human Development, and their influence on peace in Asia. The purpose of this study is to uncover how the implementation of E-Government and the level of E-Participation affect Human Development, how Human Development impacts democracy, and how the third variable influences democracy in Asian countries. This study uses a quantitative approach and analyzes data from various reports to examine the construction of E-Government, E-Participation, Human Development, and Democracy using Smart Pls 3. The results of the study indicate that there is a positive and significant influence between E-government and E-Participation, secondly, E-Government does not affect Human Development. Third, Human Development influences Democracy positively and significantly. Fourth, E-government through Human Development does not affect Democracy, but E-Participation through Human Development influences democracy positively and significantly.

Keywords: E-Government, e-participation, human development index, democracy

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi hubungan antara E-Government, E-Participation, Human Development, dan pengaruhnya terhadap demokrasi di Asia. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menyelidiki bagaimana penerapan E-Government dan tingkat E-Participation mempengaruhi Pembangunan Manusia, dan selanjutnya, bagaimana Pembangunan Manusia berdampak pada demokrasi serta bagaimana pengaruh ketiga variabel terhadap demokrasi di negara-negara Asia. Studi ini menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif, menganalisis data dari berbagai laporan untuk mengkaji konstruksi E-Government, E-Participation, Human Development, dan Democracy menggunakan Smart Pls 3. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan ada pengaruh yang positif dan signifikan antara E-government dengan E-Participation, kedua E-Government tidak mempengaruhi Human Development. Ketiga, Human Development mempengaruhi Demokrasi secara positif dan signifikan. Keempat, E government melalui Human Development tidak mempengaruhi Demokrasi, tetapi E-Participation melalui Human Development mempengaruhi demokrasi secara positif dan signifikan.

Kata Kunci: E-Government, e-participation, human development index, demokrasi

INTRODUCTION

Asia is a vast continent with significant cultural, political, and economic diversity. Asian countries have different historical and development backgrounds, but all are faced with challenges and opportunities presented by digital transformation and global competition to improve the efficiency, transparency, and accessibility of public services, several Asian countries have implemented E-Government strategies and initiatives within their governance systems (Kaya, 2020; Warf, 2014; Wu et al., 2020). Countries such as Singapore, South Korea, and Japan have been leaders in developing sophisticated and integrated e-government systems. They have adopted digital technology and innovation to provide accessible public services and enable citizen participation in government decision-making. Through online portals, mobile applications, and social media platforms, citizens can interact directly with the government, provide feedback, and involve themselves in the policy-making process (Andita et al., 2022; Goede, 2019; Haneem et al., 2020; Rahman et al., 2020).

It is crucial to keep in mind that a country's level of democracy is not fixed and can be changed by a number of factors in a global context where many nations want to achieve democracy (Jati, 2021; Tomala & Zajêcki, 2019). Institutions and organizations frequently assess and examine the degree of democracy in a nation using reliable assessment tools, such as the Democracy Index created by the Economist Intelligence Unit. The Democracy Index combines important elements to assess democracy, covering topics like the election process, civil freedoms, the effectiveness of the government, political engagement, and political culture. The index evaluates the effectiveness of the government in addressing societal requirements by offering a summary of a nation's democratic status (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2022; Laishram & Kumar, 2021).

By giving citizens greater access and facilitating interactions between citizens and government, e-government helps expand democracy (Lee-Geiller & Lee, 2019). Although many countries around the world want democracy, some face difficulties in building and maintaining a strong democratic system, but the advancement of information technology and The internet has significantly contributed to the democratic process in numerous nations (Aziz & Hasna, 2020; Xu et al., 2022). However, in a democratic government, the interaction between representatives of the people and their citizens is the focus. This is because democratic government allows citizens to participate actively in the process of making policies, development, and services (Dedi, 2021). E-government allows citizens to access public services, participate in decision-making, and get information about the government. This can help strengthen democracy and promote democratic systems that are more inclusive and responsive to societal needs (Ariyanti et al., 2021).

The purpose of implementing E-Government is to increase openness, effectiveness, community involvement, and government responsibility. by using e-government is

expected to be able lighten the work of bureaucrats, provide public services quickly and accurately, and improve reciprocal relations between government and society (Alhassan et al., 2021; Alshamsi et al., 2019). The public can more simply and effectively access government information, conduct administrative tasks, offer suggestions and feedback, and take part in public decision-making processes thanks to online platforms and electronic communication tools (Stoica & Ghilic-Micu, 2021).

ICT plays a pivotal role in both E-participation and E-government, distinct yet interconnected concepts in governance (UN E-Government Survey, 2023). However, they have a complementary function in increasing the efficiency and involvement of citizens in government procedures. The primary distinction between E-Government and E-Participation lies in their emphasis. E-Participation prioritizes the utilization of information and communication technology to engage citizens actively in decision-making processes. Conversely, E-Government places greater emphasis on leveraging technology to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of public services (Boureggh et al. 2023). Within the realm of E-Participation, individuals can share their input, opinions, and suggestions through a government-provided online platform. In this way, the government can encourage wider public participation, explore citizens' aspirations, and strengthen the legitimacy of public policies (Demirhan 2023). However, the interconnection between E-Government and E-Participation has demonstrated a symbiotic relationship, where E-Government serves as the technical infrastructure supporting the more efficient execution of E-Participation initiatives (Boon et al. 2020). The impact of e-government on e-participation is shaped by various factors, including technical, social, and political elements, as well as perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. Research findings underscore the significance of these factors in influencing the relationship between e-government and e-participation (Aljazzaf, Al-Ali, and Sarfraz 2020).

Additionally, The Human Development Index (HDI) serves as a metric for assessing the quality of life and levels of human development across Asian nations. It encapsulates the endeavor towards enhancing overall human welfare and elevating living standards. This concept involves aspects such as health, education, living standards, gender equality, and individual freedom. Human development aims to increase individuals' ability to live with dignity, have fair access to resources, and be able to participate actively in social, political, and economic life (Utami 2020). Countries characterized by high levels of human development typically exhibit more robust democratic systems and experience advancements that have a positive impact on democracy. This is because a high level of human development can create a society that is more educated, healthier and has better access to information, thereby encouraging more active political participation and supporting the development of democracy (Shahraki and Ghaderi 2021)

Apart from that, The Human Development Index serves as a significant metric for examining the correlation between E-Government, E-Participation, and democracy in Asia. HDI, a measure of a country's human development level, is intertwined with e-participation as a mediating factor in this analysis. E-Participation, through online platforms, increases political awareness, broadens participation in public decision-making, and strengthens human development. This helps improve the quality of democracy by encouraging people's active participation in political and development processes (Esselimani, Sagsan, and Kiralp 2021).

Overall, E-Government, E-Participation, HDI, and democracy are interrelated and influence each other in the Asian context. E-Government development and the quality of democracy have a complex relationship, where the application of technology can contribute to transparency and accountability by strengthening public services through innovations such as online portals, mobile applications, and social media platforms. These innovations have opened up new spaces for active citizen participation in government processes (Chen & Aklikokou, 2021; Park & Kim, 2020). On the other hand, authoritarian regimes can also use e-government to strengthen their authority. Therefore, the influence of e-government on democracy depends heavily on the current political context, regulations in force, and the way the government uses them (Jaramillo, 2021; Kalathil, 2020). Therefore, it is important to examine the relationship between E-Government, E-Participation, HDI, and democracy to understand the dynamics of governance in Asia as a whole and see how these factors interact with each other to form more effective and inclusive governance.

THEORY DEVELOPMENT AND HYPOTHESIS

E-Government and E-Participation

E-Government and E-Participation share a strong correlation as they work together to enhance the efficiency and engagement of the public in governmental processes. E-Government creates a technological foundation that enables governments to provide public services digitally, such as mobile applications, online portals, and e-payment systems. With good E-Government adoption, public participation can be increased because people can more easily access government information and interact with public services (Ali & Anwar, 2021; Ghareeb et al., 2019). E-Participation, on the other hand, plays a role in encouraging the active participation of citizens through online platforms, such as social media, discussion forums, and electronic polls. With E-Participation, the public can provide input, convey aspirations, and participate in policymaking, thus strengthening public involvement in government decision-making processes (F. Hidayat et al., 2021). In conclusion, the symbiotic link between e-government and e-participation offers chances to improve government accountability, responsiveness, and transparency to societal needs. Additionally, this can support the advancement of sustainable development and the

bolstering of democracy (Abdulkareem et al., 2022). Therefore, this study hypothesizes that:

H1 E-Government influences E-Participation positively and significantly

E-Government and Human Development

E-government and human development are linked and have a mutually beneficial influence on one another. Human development may benefit from the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in governance, or “e-government,” when it is implemented. Through the effective adoption of E-Government, the accessibility of essential public services, such as education, healthcare, employment, and other necessities, can be enhanced. This contributes to improving the quality of life and human development by providing easier and more efficient access to resources that are important for individual and societal development (Maulina & Andriyani, 2020; Muliawaty & Hendryawan, 2020). In addition, E-Government can also increase government efficiency and transparency. By utilizing technology, the government can improve service quality, reduce bureaucracy, and increase accountability. Consequently, these improvements resulting from E-Government implementation can positively influence the components that contribute to the Human Development Index (HDI), including enhanced education, increased accessibility to healthcare services, and economic empowerment. In other words, E-Government can help improve the social and economic dimensions which are the basis for human development (Diva Cantika & Harapan Tua RFS, 2021). Therefore, this study hypothesizes that:

H2 E-Government influences Human Development positively and significantly

E-Participation and Human Development

E-Participation and Human Development maintain a close connection as the active engagement of citizens in decision-making processes and community development contributes to the advancement of the Human Development Index (HDI). Through E-Participation, the community can play a role in conveying aspirations, providing input, and being involved in policymaking. By giving citizens wider access and increasing their involvement in the decision-making process, E-Participation can strengthen the dimensions of political participation and social engagement which are an important part of human development (Pirannejad et al., 2019).

The elements that affect HDI are positively impacted by community development involvement. Through E-Participation, people can be involved in issues that affect their lives, such as education, health, environment, and gender equality. By giving their voices, citizens can influence public policies and ensure that their needs are considered (Dema, Astinah, and Yusmaeni 2020; Hidayat et al. 2018). Thus, E-Participation can encourage more inclusive social and economic development, increase access to basic services, and strengthen the human dimension which is the foundation of HDI. Therefore, this study hypothesizes that:

H3 E-Participation influences Human Development positively and significantly

Human Development and Democracy

Human Development and Democracy share a closely intertwined relationship with the social and political progress of a nation. The Human Development Index (HDI) evaluates a nation's level of human development by considering factors such as life expectancy, education, and income. Democracy, on the other hand, is a system of government that involves the active participation of citizens, protection of human rights, freedom of opinion, and the existence of a fair and transparent election mechanism (Damanik and Lubis 2022). A strong and inclusive democracy tends to provide space for better human development, because it involves citizens in making political decisions, encourages the sharing of power, and upholds individual and collective rights (Ahmad et al., 2022).

An effective and inclusive democracy can provide opportunities for citizens to influence policies and engage in social and economic issues that affect their lives. This has an impact on increasing access to education, health services, decent work, and participation in economic and political activities. In a strong democracy, citizens have the freedom to express their aspirations, get involved in civil society organizations, and take part in elections and decision-making processes (Leiwakabessy and Amaluddin 2020; Saukani, Nurdin, and Aji 2020). thus, the interplay between Human Development and Democracy highlights that sustainable human development is often observed within a robust and inclusive democratic framework, enabling active citizen participation, freedom, and the protection of human rights. therefore, this study hypothesizes that:

H4 Human Development influences Democracy positively and significantly

RESEARCH METHOD

Data

Drawing from established reliability in previous studies (Alhassan & Adam, 2021; Hussain et al., 2020; Bashar & Tsokos, 2019). this research relies on multiple secondary data sources. The study primarily utilizes three reputable data sources: the UNDP Survey 2022, the UN E-Government Survey 2022, and data from the Economic Intelligence Unit 2022. data taken from 41 countries in Asia, namely Tajikistan, China, Thailand, North Korea, Timor-Leste, Bahrain, Turkmenistan, Viet Nam, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, Maldives, Qatar, Myanmar, Brunei Darussalam, Nepal, Oman, Iran, Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Mongolia, Pakistan, Iraq, Japan, Singapore, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, South Korea. By using this data source, this study was able to gain significant insights into the relationship between the variables studied. Variables, indicators, and data sources are described in Table 1.

There is data from some countries that are not available. Missing values in the indicators in this study can be replaced with the average value of the available data. If the amount of data available for an indicator is less than 5%, using the average value of the existing data can be a common approach to fill the void (Edeh et al., 2023).

Table 1. Variables, Indicators, and Data Sources

Variable	Indicator	Data sources
E Participation	E-Participation Index	UN E-Government Survey (2022)
E-Government Development	Human Capital Index	UN E-Government Survey (2022)
	Online Service Index	
	Telecommunication Infrastructure Index	
Human Development	Human Development Index	UNDP (2022)
Democracy	Electoral Process and Pluralism	Economic Intelligence Unit (2022)
	Functioning Of Government	
	Political Participation	
	Political Culture	
	Civil Liberties	

Data Analysis and Research Model

For data analysis in this study, SmartPLS 3 software was used. PLS-SEM provides the required flexibility to effectively combine theory and data, making it suitable for exploratory research employing secondary data (Hair et al., 2019). The data analysis process with

SmartPLS comprises multiple stages, starting with the evaluation of indicator validity and reliability. At this stage, tests are carried out to make sure the indicators used have sufficient validity. Validity can be tested in two different ways: convergently and discriminantly. Hypothesis testing is the final step (Hair et al., 2019). At this stage, statistical tests were carried out to test the hypotheses proposed in the study. The study utilized the bootstrapping method, which involves multiple iterations to create a sampling distribution of tested coefficients. Analysis of the bootstrapping results involved examining T-Statistics and P-Values. Hypotheses were accepted if the P-Value was below 0.05 and the T-Statistics value was less than 1.96. Leveraging SmartPLS, the research conducted a comprehensive analysis to evaluate the validity, reliability, and interrelationships among the variables studied.

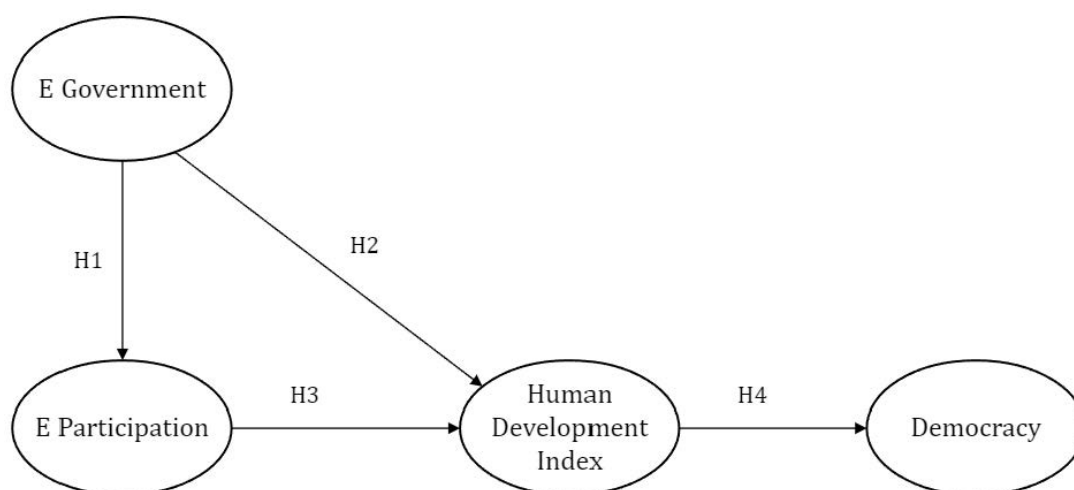


Figure 1. Research Model

RESULTS

Table 2. Construct Validity and Reliability

	Cronbach's Alpha	rho_A	Composite Reliability	AVE
Democracy	0.929	0.960	0.945	0.775
E-Government	0.896	0.905	0.935	0.827
E-Participation	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Human Development	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

Cronbach's Alpha should ideally be higher than 0.7 to be considered reliable. Both the AVE and the Composite Reliability ought to be higher than 0.7. (Hair et al., 2019; Sarstedt et al., 2022). The deductions drawn from the data presented in Table 2 indicate that all

the research constructs demonstrate a high degree of validity and reliability. The E-Participation and Human Development structure has great validity and reliability. Composite Reliability: 0.935, Rho_A: 0.905, Cronbach's Alpha: 0.896, and AVE: 0.775. The Democracy construction also has a Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.929, rho_A 0.960, and Composite Reliability of 0.945. The findings suggest that the indicators employed to assess these frameworks exhibit consistency and reliability. Consequently, the data presented validates the quality and appropriateness of the model utilized in this study.

Table 3. Discriminant Validity; Fornel-Larcker Criterion

	Democracy	E-Government	E-Participation	Human Development
Democracy	0.881			
E-Government	0.135	0.910		
E-Participation	0.559	0.412	1.000	
Human Development	0.358	0.442	0.661	1.000

Table 4. Cross Loadings

	Democracy	E-Government	E-participation	Human Development
Civil Liberties	0.943	0.138	0.583	0.336
Electoral Process and Pluralism	0.864	0.029	0.405	0.164
Functioning Of Government	0.907	0.189	0.662	0.330
Human Capital Index	0.055	0.881	0.331	0.349
Human Development Index	0.358	0.442	0.661	1.000
Online Service Index	0.226	0.908	0.444	0.378
Political Culture	0.828	0.166	0.487	0.394
Political Participation	0.856	-0.017	0.418	0.242
Telecommunication Infrastructure Index	0.078	0.938	0.342	0.427
E Participation Index	0.599	0.412	1.000	0.661

The Fornell and Larcker criteria are used in the evaluation model to check the reliability of differences. The Fornell and Larcker criteria state that no single construction variance can be greater than the average AVE value. Cross-loading is an indicator capacity term to appear significantly on construction projects that originate from different construction projects. With the help of these two guidelines, one can assess the uniqueness of the design and ensure that it does not have excessive correlation, indicating that the measurement model used is valid (Hair et al., 2019). In Table 3, The fact that all Average Variance Extracted (AVE) values exceed the squared correlation between associated constructs implies that the Fornell-Larcker criterion for discriminant validity is satisfied. According to Chin in Henseler et al., 2015 the criterion for cross-loading validity is satisfied when each indicator's loading on its respective construct is higher than its loading on other constructs. The cross-loading analysis, as depicted in Table 4, confirms the fulfillment of discriminant validity, as no indicator shows a higher loading on a construct it is not intended to measure. Tables 3 and 4 collectively demonstrate that the examined constructs meet the criteria for discriminant validity using both Fornell-Larcker and cross-loading methods. This indicates that the constructs can be distinguished from each other and possess sufficient discriminant validity.

Hypothesis Test

Table 5. Direct Effects

	Original sample	Means	Standard Deviation	T Statistics	P Value	
E-Government ->E Participation	0.412	0.407	0.113	3,652	0.000	accepted
E-Government ->Human Development	0.205	0.205	0.116	1,771	0.077	rejected
E-Participation ->Human Development	0.577	0.583	0.091	6,329	0.000	accepted
Human Development -> Democracy	0.358	0.375	0.114	2,496	0.013	accepted

Table 6. Indirect Effects

	Original sample	Means	Standard Deviation	T Statistics	P Value	
E-Government - >Human Development -> Democracy	0.073	0.079	0.053	1,388	0.166	rejected
E-Participation - >Human Development -> Democracy	0.207	0.222	0.099	2098	0.036	accepted

In addition to examining the impacts of endogenous factors on exogenous variables, the bootstrap resampling method also studies the effects of endogenous variables on endogenous variables. A test is considered significant if the T statistic exceeds 1.96 and the P value is below 0.05. The results presented in Table 5 indicate a significant and positive direct effect of E-Government adoption on electronic participation, as evidenced by the t statistic value of 3.652. Second, the relationship between e-government and human development lacks statistical significance, as indicated by a p-value of 0.077. This suggests that the utilization of e-government by the study group did not influence human development. Third, a significant direct effect between electronic participation and human development was found, with a statistical t-value of 6.329. This demonstrates how electronic participation significantly and favorably affects human development. Finally, with a t statistic value of 2.496, Democracies and human development are strongly correlated. This demonstrates that democracy is positively and significantly influenced by human development.

Based on Table 6, the p-value of 0.166 suggests that within the sampled population, there is no significant association between e-government, human development, and democracy. meaning that e-government does not affect human development and does not affect the human development of democracy. Second, with a p-value of 0.036, there is a significant direct effect from E-Participation to Human Development and Human Development to Democracy. This demonstrates that in the sample used, e-participation significantly influences both human development and human development of democracy.

DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis results, several findings emerge. Firstly, it's evident that E-government exerts an influence on E-Participation, indicating a strong potential for E-Government to impact E-Participation positively. With an effective e-government system in place, Governments have the capacity to offer citizens easily accessible and interactive online platforms to engage in decision-making processes. Citizens can offer feedback, make ideas, and express their wants and goals through the e-government platform. In addition, e-government also allows the government to publish public information openly and transparently. This provides easier access for citizens to understand public policies, budgets, and other government programs (Abdulkareem et al., 2022; Alarabiat et al., 2021). With better knowledge of government actions, With the availability of e-government, citizens can engage in discussions and provide more informed contributions. The existence of e-government can streamline the process, facilitating public participation in legislation. With an online platform that allows citizens to provide feedback on new draft laws or regulations, the decision-making process can become more inclusive. Citizens can provide direct input and influence the final policy outcome (Aljazzaf et al. 2020; Molnár 2022). The research by Lee and Shi (2020) show that E-government and e-participation significantly influence the behavior and perceptions of government among citizens in both Korea and China. Technology adoption is influenced by ease of use and trust in digital platforms. E-participation improves civic engagement and public service delivery. In China, various sectors play a role in shaping intentions towards data sharing, underscoring the critical significance of trust and security in the adoption of technology. These findings have substantial implications for policymakers, emphasizing the need to enhance the efficacy of e-government services and promote citizen engagement in the digital age.

Second, E-Government does not affect Human Development encompasses multiple dimensions of human well-being, including health, education, poverty alleviation, and gender equality (Arisman 2018). Although E-Government can provide easy access and efficiency in the provision of public services, its impact on Human Development is still highly dependent on the social, economic, and political context in each country (Hussain et al. 2020; Khan, Ju, and Hassan 2019; Silal and Saha 2021). In developing countries in Asia, human development supporting institutions such as education and health institutions have not optimally used e-government due to limited infrastructure, this can affect the impact of e-government on human development. Effective e-government in these sectors can provide significant benefits for human development (Al Mudawi, Beloff, and White 2020). Utilizing e-government in the education sector can enhance accessibility, quality, and efficiency in education. For instance, e-learning platforms offer broader and more flexible access to education, along with enriched educational resources like online learning modules, video lessons, and virtual discussions (Shahadat et al. 2012; Sultana, Sultana,

and Shahabul 2018). The same applies to the health sector. In addition, E-Government also does not directly affect important aspects of Human Development such as education and health. These factors still depend on government policies that involve adequate budget allocations, holistic education strategies, and equitable and quality health services (Fajar and Indrawati 2020; Mahendra 2020).

Third, E Participation affects Human Development. E-Participation enables individuals to engage in decision-making processes that influence their lives. This active involvement can foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among citizens towards public policies, consequently enhancing their quality of life and overall well-being. Through digital platforms and social networks, citizens can interact with governments and express their opinions on relevant issues (Silal and Saha 2021). In the context of Human Development, inclusive public participation can strengthen democracy, produce policies that are more responsive to community needs, and strengthen social justice and respect for human rights (Janowski, Estevez, and Baguma 2018; Khan, Krishnan, and Arayankalam 2022). E-Participation can also contribute to educational development. With access to information and educational resources through digital platforms, citizens can access a wider range of learning opportunities and upgrade their skills. Communities that are actively involved in the learning process can create an educational environment that is more inclusive and centered on individual needs, enabling better development of human potential (Al-Omairi et al. 2021; Jiang, Meng, and Zhang 2019).

Fourth, Human Development affects Democracy, high Human Development supports the creation of a more inclusive and participatory society. When individuals have broad access to quality education, good health, and a decent life, they tend to have a better understanding of their rights and the importance of participation in decision-making processes. Educated and healthy individuals tend to be more able to actively contribute to public discussions, elections, and other participatory activities which are pillars of democracy (Couture and Breux 2017; Iqrima, Zakso, and Supriadi 2019; Singh and Sharma 2017). When people have equitable access to education, information, and economic opportunities, they can develop critical skills, analyze multiple perspectives, and make informed decisions. Individuals who have this capability are more likely to be involved in constructive debates and discussions, which enrich the democratic process with diverse views (Abednego and Astrika 2019). Not only that, but strong Human Development can also reduce poverty and socioeconomic inequality, which can threaten political stability (Khan et al. 2020).

Finally, looking at the role of the mediating variable, namely Human Development, namely E-Government through Human Development does not affect democracy, and E-Government through Human Development does not directly affect democracy. Although E-Government can provide easy access and efficiency in the provision of public services,

and Human Development plays a role in improving the quality of life of individuals and communities, their influence on democracy has a more complex relationship. Then, E-Participation Through Human Development Affects Democracy, E-Participation through Human Development has significant potential to influence democracy. E-Participation, characterized by citizens' active involvement in governmental decision-making processes facilitated by information and communication technology, holds the potential to substantially reinforce and broaden democratic principles through human development. Specifically, it can enhance the quality of life and welfare of both individuals and society as a whole. Additionally, citizens in developing nations can have better access to the education, information, and skills required to participate in a democracy.

Although technology can improve the accessibility and efficiency of government services, there are still challenges related to the diversity of technological infrastructure in various regions, as well as data security issues that can hinder the widespread adoption of this technology luas (Iswandari 2021) In addition, it also includes barriers to effective citizen participation. This includes low levels of digital literacy in some regions, as well as unequal access to technology which can limit community participation in democratic processes. Furthermore, the complexity of encouraging human development in a democratic context also needs further attention. Even though technology can provide access to information and education, there are still challenges related to gaps in access to technological and educational infrastructure in society which can hamper efforts for equitable human development. Apart from that, Ensuring community participation in democratic processes poses certain complexities regarding its potential positive impact on overall human development, including advancements in health, education, and overall welfare (Pérez-Morote et al., 2020; Zainal & Megasari, 2019; Obaid et al., 2022).

IMPLICATIONS, LIMITATIONS, AND FUTURE RESEARCH

Theoretical implications of this research suggest that in the Asian context, the connections between e-government, e-participation, human development, and democracy are intricate and interlinked, displaying complex dynamics. These findings highlight the importance of considering local social, economic, and political factors in understanding the impact of information and communications technology on human development and democracy in developing countries. The practical implication is the need for a holistic approach in developing e-government and e-participation policies that considers local context and ensures equal access to information technology and quality education. This can help increase people's active participation in decision-making processes and strengthen the foundations of inclusive and responsive democracy in Asia.

Some limitations of this research include the use of secondary data which may have limitations in describing the dynamic situation in the field, especially because some data

may be incomplete or not available for all countries. In addition, this research focuses on countries in Asia only, so the findings and conclusions may not be directly applicable to contexts outside the region. Furthermore, the use of the PLS-SEM method allows comprehensive exploration but can have weaknesses in estimating causal relationships between variables. Therefore, additional research is warranted, incorporating diverse methodological approaches to enhance comprehension of the interplay between e-government, e-participation, human development, and democracy, as well as their practical ramifications.

The development of more comprehensive theoretical models could also be a focus of future research. This will help in understanding the mechanisms underlying the influence of E-Government and E-Participation on Human Development and democracy, as well as the mediating and moderating factors that may influence this relationship.

CONCLUSION

From the explanation above, it may be inferred that e-government itself does not directly affect human development in Asia. This can be the result of inadequate e-government adoption in educational and healthcare organizations. However, e-participation, which involves the active participation of citizens in decision-making processes through electronic platforms, has the potential to influence human development. Through e-participation, citizens can have a bigger role in shaping policies that affect their lives, fight for justice, and strengthen their rights.

Then, E-Government through Human Development does not directly affect democracy. Although E-Government can provide easy access and efficiency in the provision of public services, its influence on basic aspects of democracy such as active participation and collective decision-making still depends on other factors, such as the social, political, and cultural context. Meanwhile, E-Participation through Human Development has significant potential in influencing democracy. Democracy can be reinforced by encouraging citizens to actively participate in decision-making processes that are supported by information and communication technology, as well as through enhancing people's welfare and quality of life. Active and inclusive participation of citizens in the political process, supported by quality education and access to information, can make an important contribution to creating responsive and sustainable policies. It is in this context that Human Development plays an important role. Strong human development can create more inclusive, educated, and healthy societies, which in turn can increase political participation and the quality of democracy. Therefore, to strengthen democracy, it is necessary to continue to encourage E-Participation through Human Development, by providing equal access to information technology, improving education, health, and social equality, and creating an environment that supports the active participation of citizens in the political process.

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