Chapter 1
Digital Society:
Basic Framework and Concepts

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ABSTRACT

With the development of information technology, societies have become a part of both national and international progress by turning the opportunities using the tools offered by technology. The basic concepts that are important to better understand digital society and its relations with the general framework have been discussed. The 'digital society' consists of institutions, groups, and individuals organized cybernetically around a certain interest relationship, which realize their relations, interactions, connections, and communications with technology via the internet. The structure of the digital society reflects the nature of digital technology as people, technology, business, culture; and social interactions evolve and emerge. There is a need for new frameworks that can transform the complexity of the reshaped world into manageable ideas and shape our perspective.

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the millennium, the opportunities offered by technology to humans were quite limited. Information technologies, which are used as a universal progress tool day by day, have become an indispensable element of the globalizing world by increasing these opportunities. Nowadays, with the increase in digitalization, it is very difficult to keep up with the speed of technology. The technology century, which is called the digital age, has transformed individuals into technology-dependent individuals by offering innovations while making their lives easier. While technology is used in many areas such as health, education and transportation, with the change of human needs, traditional methods have been left aside and new technological products and services have begun to be preferred. This change has not only been limited to products and services but has also brought along a digitalization process that includes

people and society (Balsmeier & Woerter, 2019). With the development of information technology, societies have become a part of both national and international progress by turning the opportunities by using the tools offered by technology. In addition, it is seen that Digitalization and Information Technologies have positive and negative effects on society (Sacco et al.,2021)

The digitalization of many social interactions, the increasing daily use of social media, the development of literature with the definition of internet addiction, and the choice of people to communicate by correspondence instead of face-to-face or telephone are just some of the developments we have seen recently (Cemiloglu et al., 2022). These developments lead to a decrease in the use of traditional urban public spaces of contemporary society, as well as a change in the type of social activities (Kokcu, 2021)

With the new forms of communication of technology, it is necessary to rethink the public sphere within the framework of digitalization. People share photos and videos every day from their homes, which are their most private areas, and use their living rooms as a meeting room to address people they have never met. Space, target audience, inclusiveness, equality-freedom balance, democracy have been among the main topics of discussion in the transformation of the distinction between public and private spheres in parallel with the digitalization process (Floridi, 2015).

In this section, it have been discussed the basic concepts that are important to better understand digital society and its relations with the general framework. Since some concepts are still new, we have conveyed the ongoing discussions about these concepts in their current forms.

UNDERSTANDING OF DIGITAL SOCIETY

The foundation of the digital society is formed by internet activities. The 'Digital Society' consists of institutions, groups and individuals organized cybernetically around a certain interest relationship, which realize their relations, interactions, connections and communications with technology via the internet. Although the digital society seems to be a result of information technology, many economic, political, cultural and social factors are thought to be effective in the formation of the digital society (Schmidt, 2017). The reflection of digitalization in daily life also creates some problems in terms of the reliability of personal data. The effort to prove that ordinary people are not ordinary posts with excessive exhibitionism makes it difficult to protect the personal data of users. As the limits of time and space are exceeded in digital platforms, users experience unreal virtual satisfaction, which brings many changes in people's face-to-face communication habits (Sezgin, 2018).

Shayo et al. have presented an evolutionary model that aims to delineate the boundaries of the digital society, conceptualizing the driving forces behind the growth of digital societies and the hierarchy of existing arrangements at the individual, group, organizational and community levels (See Figure 1) (Shayo, 2007). Stated that the driving forces in the model are effective in the transformation of individuals and society into the digital society.

Conceptual Framework

There is a need for new regulations in the digital world, which is a part of every aspect of our lives. Of course, these are challenging and complex. Rather than just a few all-encompassing laws, regulation needs to cover a whole range of different rules, policy makers, and issues. The state of continuous self-regulation in the digital society is declining. A new approach is needed that blends innovation and

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