

Impact of Social Awareness, Attitude, Self Esteem, and Subjective Norm on the Citizen's Civic Engagement on the National Security

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Abstract:

Empowering the central government is one of the ways to improve national security in countries facing national crises. One of the main pillars of these efforts is the supporting society or the environment in which civil society participates and engages in the government's efforts to re-stabilize national security. The main aim of identifying the critical factors of civic engagement and readiness to change in national security efforts from the citizen's perception in Libya. Two theories support the study thoughts: theory of social intelligence, and theory of change. According to recent reports, the population is estimated to be 4,713,534 people and according to Morgan's equation, 384 people is a valid sample size. A printed survey was used by the researcher's team to collect data directly. A questionnaire in Arabic is derived from literature and have 29 questions. The conceptual framework of this study has five variables which are civic engagement (CE), attitude toward participants (ATP), social awareness (SA), self-esteem (SE), and subjective norms (SN). This study has four hypotheses, three hypotheses were accepted and one rejected. Based on the quantitative analysis, it can be found that subjective norm has no significant impact, social awareness has the highest impact (0.209), attitude towards participation has the second impact (0.106), and self esteem has the third impact (0.086). To enhance the citizens' participation the decision makers need to increase the social awareness as it has the major impact. Additional qualitative research studies can be conducted using interviews to further explain the non-significant relationship.

Keywords: Civic Engagement, Social Awareness, Self-Esteem, Subjective Norm, Libya, National Security

I. Introduction

Governments should be applauded for their efforts in involving citizens into the programs of national security especially with the increase in the number of threats and the increase demand to improve security in society (Zhang, 2021). With improved community relations as a motivating goal, governments should push for national and regional enhancements in citizens' voluntary participation with national efforts in different issues including security (Dang, Seemann, Lindenmeier, & Saliterer, 2022; Simonsen, 2018). Citizen participation programs have been launched since the 1950s at all levels of government, with the primary assumption that if citizens actively participate as participants in their democracy, the governance resulting from this process will be more democratic and more effective (Roberts, 2015).

With every breach to international security and radical attack around the world such as the Manchester Arena, the world remember the open case of weak national security and the central government in countries such as Libya (Chitadze, 2022; Olawile Ismail, 2018). At the guardian newsletter (online), Alia Barhami reported the Libyan messy security case and its consequences in the whole area. It is possible, therefore, that the radical threat in Europe have a long-running challenge in Libya. In many areas, extremist groups took advantage of the failure of governance and the poor management of the post-Gaddafi transition (Boening, 2014; Olawile Ismail, 2018). The failure central authorities which include the government of 2014 and the new government in 2016 that was backed up by the UN, led to the collapse of the justice system, corruption,

economic stagnation and the empowerment of violent and uncontrollable militia which includes jihadist groups (Bdiwi, 2014; Olawile Ismail, 2018). Therefore, improving the national security in Libya become urgent need for Libyan people, regional neighbours in Europe, and international parties.

Empowering the central government is one of the steps to enhance the national security in countries that suffering from national crises management (Boin, Stern, & Sundelius, 2016; Satizábal, Cornes, Zurita, & Cook, 2022). One of the main pillars of these efforts is the supporting society or the environment in which civil society participates and engages in the government's efforts to re-stabilize national security (Tay & Zarsky, 2017). Previous studies found that civic engagement and public engagement can help the government to control and manage issues, which have the publicity characteristic, such as traffic management, geographical information; health care; agriculture issues, election monitoring, and safety in public events (Argenti & Saghabalyan, 2017; Baci, Negussie, Geller, Weinstein, & National Academies of Sciences and Medicine, 2017; Boin et al., 2016; Tay & Zarsky, 2017). Previous studies shows that public engagement and civic engagement help governments in traffic management, healthcare, elections, and many other civil-based issues. However, there are a gap of knowledge in civic engagement in national security-based issues.

In order to enhance resident engagement, the government and residents would need to engage in intentional and energetic conversations. Furthermore, civic engagement and involvement are very similar. However, they are different. Citizens' engagement and engagement have the same end goal, which is to improve civil service distribution and policy projects (Edelenbos, van Meerkerk, & Schenk, 2018). However, they weren't started by the same people. Residents' engagement is a more detailed campaign. A government agency like the city or town administers it. It is the city officials who encourage residents to dispute plans, evaluate them, and participate in project (Edelenbos, van Meerkerk, & Schenk, 2018; Fung, 2015). While civic engagement is a key instrument for residents to express their views about public plans, or to empower public efforts, it is a casual process. Since it is not the government's responsibility, it does not require formal regulations. However, given that it is informal, it cannot be related to all policy projects. For instance, it is challenging to apply to bigger policies like participatory budgeting, which requires a greater degree of awareness and inclusiveness (Edelenbos et al., 2018; Fung, 2015; Woolley et al., 2016). In addition to policies, there are many other personal, social, and political factors that affect citizens' willingness to participate in a crisis (Lyhne, Aaen, Nielsen, Kørnøv, & Larsen, 2018; Michels, 2019). It is clear that civic engagement is important to society and national issues. However, the factors that motivate citizens for this voluntary effort are unclear. In voluntary national issues, such as national security, there is a theoretical gap to revealing the critical factors of civic engagement.

The improvement of national security in Libya is an urgent need for the Libyan people, regional neighbours in Europe, and international parties. Studies have shown that civic and public engagement help governments manage traffic, health, elections, and many other civil-based issues; however, there is a knowledge gap when it comes to civic engagement in national security issues. Civic engagement in society and national issues is of clear importance; however, it is not clear what motivates citizens to participate in these voluntary efforts. As mentioned above, there are theoretical gaps in identifying critical factors of civic engagement in voluntary national issues such as national security; and there are theoretical gaps in identifying how civic engagement is related to

readiness to change and civic engagement. The study's main question is "what is the critical factors of civic engagement and readiness to change in the national security domain in Libya".

II. Literature Review

A. *Relationship between Social Awareness and Civic Engagement*

Social Awareness is the capacity to understand and empathize with people from various backgrounds and lifestyles, to understand socially acceptable and reliable norms for behaviour, and to recognize community resources and solve problems in the world (Stefaniak, 2017). Civic participation is any kind of participation by individuals or groups to assist and solve problems of public concern. The most prevalent forms of civic interaction are citizens working together or individually to shield social values or bring about a change or variation in the area. Based on that, the study hypothesized that social awareness will have a significant positive direct impact on civic engagement in the Libya's national security (Koc-Michalska, Lilleker, & Vedel, 2016). This article assumed a positive direct effect of social awareness on civic engagement in the national security. The following hypothesis is compatible with other previous studies such as (Borgi et al., 2020; Sabia, Price, Peters, & Covington, 2018; Skarmas, Leonidou, Saridakis, & Musarra, 2019)

- Hypothesis 1: Social awareness has a significant positive direct effect on civic engagement in the Libyan national security.

B. *Relationship between Attitude toward Participation and Civic Engagement*

In psychology, attitudes are psychological and emotional attitudes that are innate in people, or characterize them. A person's attitude may affect their motivation, preparedness, participation, choices, and more (Stefaniak, 2017). While, civic engagement refers to the method in which individuals join the life of a community if you want to improve their condition or to help shape their future (Kim, Franco, & Rennick, 2016). So far, this term has been used in relation to young individuals but recently, a new movement has actually surfaced to promote greater civic participation among older adults (Abdu-Raheem & Olorunda, 2020). On the basis of that, this study expects a significant positive direct effect of Attitude on civic engagement in Libyan national security. This is in harmony with other some previous studies such as (Abdu-Raheem & Olorunda, 2020; Chomsri, Likhitsathian, Aramrattana, & Siviroj, 2018; Olayinka & Elijah, 2019).

- Hypothesis 2: Attitude has a significant positive direct effect on civic engagement in the Libyan national security.

C. *Relationship between Subjective Norm and Civic Engagement*

The concept of subjective norms refers to the belief that a group of people will be able to accept and encourage a particular behaviour (Chomsri et al., 2018). Subjective norms is based on the perceived social pressure of others on an individual to behave in a particular way. Civic engagement, in general, includes service-learning, but it is not limited to it, and can be described as the identification and management of social

problems in an individual or collective way (Epstein-Sher et al., 2017). Civic engagement can take several forms, from individual voluntarism to organizational involvement to selecting engagement. It can be defined as the act of directly responding to an issue, interacting with others in a community to solve a problem, or being social with companies that serve representative rights (Wang et al., 2017). According to the definition of subjective norm, the researcher is anticipating a positive direct effect on the civic engagement in Libyan national security. The hypothesis is incompatible with some previous studies such as (Riedel et al., 2017; Sia & Jose, 2019; Suhud & Wilson, 2016).

- Hypothesis 3: Subjective Norm has a significant positive direct effect on civic engagement in the Libyan national security.

D. Relationship between Self Esteem and Civic Engagement

The concept of confidence in psychology refers to a person's sense of self-esteem and value (Gelmon, Holland, & Spring, 2018). In other words, how much respect a person have for himself. It can be thought of as a characteristic, which implies that it is enduring and dependable (Sia & Jose, 2019). In comparison, civic engagement or even civic participation can be thought of as any type of personal or even group activity addressing social issues (Chen & Su, 2019). Communities working independently or even collectively to protect public values or create an improvement or even variation in the area are actually types of civic engagement (Gant, 2019). Based on that, the study anticipates significant positive direct effect of Self Esteem on civic engagement in Libyan national security. This is consistent with other hypotheses in other studies such as (Ballard, Hoyt, & Pachucki, 2019; Gant, 2019; Gelmon et al., 2018; Lee, 2017).

- Hypothesis 4: Self Esteem has a significant positive direct effect on civic engagement in the Libyan national security.

E. Conceptual Framework

The study has four intended variables that have impacts on the civic engagement as the sole dependent variable. The proposed conceptual framework is imported from a previous study by Bishr, Albattat, and Tham (2020). The framework is supported by Social Intelligence Theory, which was introduced by E.L. Thorndike in the 1920s (as mentioned in Harris, 2017) which was defined as "the ability to comprehend and manage guys and children, ladies and women - to act carefully in human partnerships". In addition, the theory of change is supporting the research assumptions because it assumed that a particular kind of involvement, assessment, and planning approach utilized in business, humanitarian, and not-for-profit government fields to advertise social adjustment. The theory of change recognizes lasting goals and then maps in reverse to figure out the necessary prerequisites (Brest, 2010). Figure 1 shows the infographic of the proposed conceptual framework.

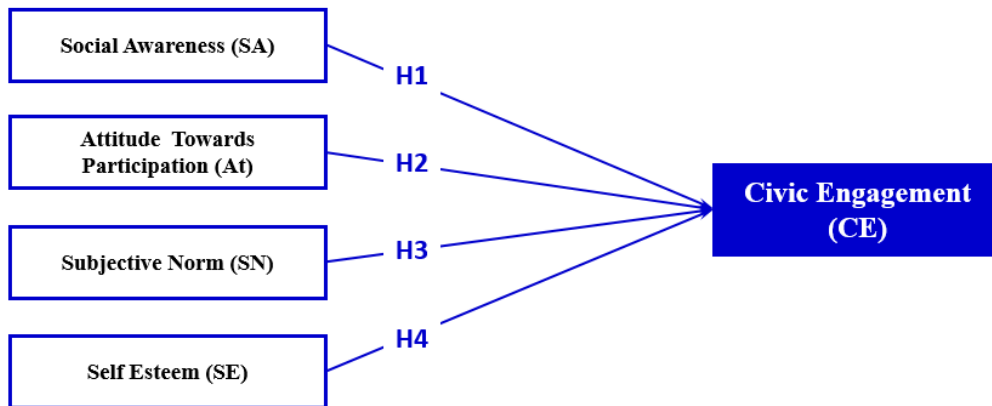


Figure 1: Research Conceptual Framework(Bishr et al., 2020)

III. Methodology

This study is following the scientific approach, therefore quantitative approach and deductive approach are applied. In addition, the study uses different statistical techniques that applied via two statistical packages, SmartPLS for advanced PLS-SEM analysis, and SPSS for essential analysis. SmartPls is used in many studies in social science research such as (Salem and Alanadoly 2020).The population for this research is all the Libyan citizens from the age of 18 years or more and who are living in Libya; therefore, quota sampling is the sampling technique suitable for this research. The samples were collected from four main cities: Tripoli, Benghazi, Misratah, and Sabha. The estimated population is 4,713,534 people and the actual sample size is 384 subjects based on Morgan's sampling table. Data will be collected via direct collection, by distributing the survey at a variety of locations within the four cities. The direct collection was chosen for its own precision, as well as for its higher rate of collection in Libya. Questionnaire is the main instrument for collecting data, the questions addressing civils' opinion about their civic engagement and its antecedents. The questionnaire is built based on different sources from previous studies. And the questionnaire sources are listed in the following Table.

Table 1: Questionnaire Sources

Variable	Items	Sources
Social Awareness (SN)	6	(The Government of Japan, 2019)
Attitude towards Participation (At)	6	(Leonidou & Skarmeas, 2017; Skarmeas et al., 2019)
Subjective Norms (SN)	6	(Han, 2015; Skarmeas et al., 2019)
Self Esteem (SE)	6	(Rosenberg, 2015)
Civic Engagement (CE)	5	(Kumar & Pansari, 2016; Skarmeas et al., 2019)

IV. Findings

A. *Validity and Reliability of Constructs*

Any loading above the threshold of 0.708 is sufficient and any loading below the threshold of 0.4 is inadequate. Any measure between 0.4 and 0.7 is suspected and can be deleted or kept based on the unique conditions for every study (Hair Jr et al., 2016). As seen in Table 2, three item were omitted due to weak loading and all other 26 item have adequate loading. For composite reliability, all the variable have suitable internal consistency above the value on 0.7. In addition, the convergent validity shows an adequate level above the threshold of 0.5 for the AVE score.

Table 2: Constructs Reliability and Validity

construct	Item	Loading	AVE	Cronbach's alpha
Social Awareness (SA)	SA1	X	0.680	0.840
	SA2	X		
	SA3	0.719		
	SA4	0.899		
	SA5	0.788		
	SA6	0.880		
Attitude Towards Participation (ATP)	ATP1	0.713	0.599	0.832
	ATP2	0.769		
	ATP3	0.813		
	ATP4	X		
	ATP5	0.816		
	ATP6	0.756		
Subjective Norm (SN)	SN1	0.708	0.584	0.857
	SN2	0.765		
	SN3	0.886		
	SN4	0.707		
	SN5	0.701		
	SN6	0.778		
Self Esteem (SE)	SE1	0.806	0.683	0.907
	SE2	0.775		
	SE3	0.909		
	SE4	0.767		
	SE5	0.856		

construct	Item	Loading	AVE	Cronbach's alpha
	SE6	0.838		
Civic Engagement (CE)	CE1	0.785	0.622	0.848
	CE2	0.791		
	CE3	0.759		
	CE4	0.833		
	CE5	0.771		

The Fornell&Larcker criterion matrix. The matrix is a refined matrix of the latent variable's correlations. Table 3 shows the results, in which all diagonal scores are higher than other scores in the same row and column; therefore discriminant validity is achieved.

Table 3: Discriminant validity – Fornell-Larcker Criterion

	ATP	CE	SA	SE	SN
ATP	0.774				
CE	0.656	0.788			
SA	0.441	0.631	0.825		
SE	0.486	0.531	0.273	0.827	
SN	0.353	0.429	0.271	0.224	0.764

B. Relationships Examinations and Discussions

Testing the hypothesis of the study is essential and only can be acquired by estimating the path coefficient values of the different relation within the model. P-values and T-statistics is the commonly used techniques to tests the significance of a relation; T-statistics is the significance of path coefficient and P-value is significant level or probability estimate value. In addition, path coefficient is calculated to reveal the extent level of the relation. As Jr-Hair, Hult, Ringle, and Sarstedt (2016), the rule of thumbs for assessing the values is: For P-value (probability estimate value), the most common used threshold in psychological research is 0.05 (5%). However, some studies can use the level of 0.01 (1%) or 0.1 (10%). For T statistics, any value above 1.96 is significant with a two-tailed test.

First hypothesis states that social awareness has a significant positive direct effect on civic engagement in the Libyan national security. After analysing the data, the researcher found out that the Path Coefficient is 0.209 and the effective size score is 0.028. Furthermore, T-statistics is 7.398 which is bigger than 1.96 and P-value is 0.000 which is lower than 0.05. Whereby both are indicating to a significant relationship.

Based on that, the researcher can conclude that there is a significant relationship between social awareness and civic engagement, with a positive impact. Therefore, H1 is accepted, and this result agreed and support by (Lambin et al., 2018; Sabia et al., 2018; Skarmeas et al., 2019).

Second hypothesis states that attitude has significant positive direct effect on civic engagement in the Libyan national security. After analysing the data, the researcher found out that the Path Coefficient is 0.106 and the effective size score is 0.039. Furthermore, T-statistics is 2.688 which is bigger than 1.96 and P-value is 0.007 which is lower than 0.05. Whereby both are indicating to a significant relationship. Based on that, the researcher can conclude that the relationship between attitude and civic engagement is a significant relationship with a positive impact. Therefore, H2 is accepted which is agree and support by (Olayinka & Elijah, 2019).

Third hypothesis states that subjective norm has significant positive direct effect on civic engagement in the Libyan national security. After analysing the data, the researcher found out that the Path Coefficient is 0.032 and the effective size score is 0.029. Furthermore, T-statistics is 1.100 which is less than 1.96 and P-value is 0.272 which is more than 0.05. Whereby both are indicating to a non-significant relationship. Based on that, the researcher can conclude that the relationship between subjective norm and civic engagement is a significant relationship with a positive impact. Overall, H3 is rejected.

Fourth hypothesis states that self-esteem has significant positive direct effect on civic engagement in the Libyan national security. After analysing the data, the researcher found out that the Path Coefficient is 0.086 and the effective size score is 0.035. Furthermore, T-statistics is 2.484 which is bigger than 1.96 and P-value is 0.013 which is lower than 0.05. Whereby both are indicating a significant relationship. Based on that, the researcher can conclude that the relationship between self-esteem and civic engagement is a significant relationship with a positive impact. Therefore, H4 is accepted which agree by (Olayinka & Elijah, 2019).

Table 4: Path Coefficient Assessment of the Study Variables

		Path Coefficient	Standard Deviation	T Statistics	P-Value	f2 Effective Size	Status
SA → CE	H1	0.209	0.028	7.398	0.000	0.028	Significant
ATP → CE	H2	0.106	0.039	2.688	0.007	0.039	Significant
SN → CE	H3	0.032	0.029	1.100	0.272	0.029	Non-Significant
SE → CE	H4	0.086	0.035	2.484	0.013	0.035	Significant

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

The developed conceptual framework is new and is considered a modified model based on various theories. The model also provides a new approach to distinguish between the dimensions of civic engagement. Model relationships were tested, and the redefined model was proposed for testing by other researchers. In Civic Engagement (CE) in Libya, understanding the interaction of factors that affect readiness to change in civic engagement is an exceptional study with new findings. What distinguishes this research is to come up with results related to factors that affect civic participation. The result of this study should further raise awareness among decision maker of the public participation regarding the importance of attitude toward participants, social awareness, self-esteem, subjective norms, and civic engagement. Civic engagement can be improved if decision makers took the suitable decisions by increasing the tested factors.

This study offered a model developed with new relationships and constructs. The model was carefully evaluated. However, further research needs to be done to evaluate the model in different settings. A limitation that occurred was the limited approach to implementation, which prevented the research from being generalized. For that reason, it is recommended that the same evaluation be repeated in the field of civic engagement in several countries to gain better understanding and generalization. Another limitation is the diversity of participants' selection; thus, we recommend applying the same assessment on larger and more diverse group of participants. Based on the quantitative analysis, it can be found that the subjective norm variable does not affect civic engagement in Libya. Therefore, additional qualitative research studies can be conducted using interviews to further explain the findings.

VI. References

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