The Future of Human Rights in the Digital Age: Indonesian Perspectives and Challenges

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Abstract

Protecting human rights in the digital age remains a significant challenge globally, including in Indonesia. Issues such as lack of regulation, censorship and surveillance, cybercrime, technological inequalities, online hate speech and misinformation, and lack of accountability continue to pose significant threats to the protection and promotion of human rights online. Addressing these challenges requires ongoing efforts to promote and defend human rights online through the development of effective legal frameworks, the strengthening of international human rights norms and standards, and efforts to bridge the digital divide and improve access to information and technologies. This research aims to find out the various challenges that arise in the digital era related to human rights by analyzing and synthesizing information obtained through literature studies. There are several important contexts that concern human rights in the digital era, namely, privacy, freedom of expression, access to information, cybersecurity, online discrimination. Challenges that arise globally and nationally are expected to be resolved by the formation of various regulations related to the digital world.

Keywords: human rights, digitalization, cyber interaction, digital rights.

INTRODUCTION

Human rights in the digital age refers to the protection of the rights and freedoms of individuals in the online environment, including the right to freedom of expression, privacy, and access to information.1 The rise of the Internet and digital technologies has created new opportunities for the enjoyment of human rights, but has also brought new challenges and threats to these rights. In the digital age, individuals have a right to express

1 Andrew Murray and Mathias Klang, Human Rights in the Digital Age (Great Britain: Taylor & Francis, 2016).
themselves freely online, to access information, and to participate in the digital public sphere. However, this right to freedom of expression is not absolute, and can be limited in certain circumstances, such as where it incites violence, hatred, or discrimination. The right to privacy is also of particular concern in the digital age, as personal data collection, use, and storage has become increasingly common. In order to protect privacy, individuals have a right to control their personal information, including the right to know what information is being collected about them, and to have this information securely stored and processed.

The challenges faced globally in protecting human rights in the digital age are complex and multifaceted. In many countries, there is a lack of clear and comprehensive legal frameworks that govern the collection, use, and storage of personal data, leaving individuals and communities vulnerable to privacy violations and the misuse of personal information. Governments and other actors around the world use censorship and surveillance to restrict freedom of expression and access to information, undermining the ability of individuals to communicate freely online. Cybercrime, including cyberattacks, online fraud, and other forms of online misconduct, continues to pose a significant challenge to the protection of human rights online, particularly in the context of privacy and cybersecurity. Technological inequalities also become a global challenge to digital human rights. Technological inequalities, including the digital divide and unequal access to digital technologies, continue to pose significant challenges to the protection and promotion of human rights, particularly for individuals and communities living in poverty or in countries affected by conflict. The spread of hate speech and misinformation online poses significant challenges to the protection of human rights, including freedom of expression and the right to receive and impart information. The lack of accountability for human rights violations that occur in the digital context, including privacy violations and the spread of hate speech and misinformation, remains a major challenge to the protection of human rights online. These challenges require ongoing efforts to promote and defend human rights online, including through the development of effective legal frameworks and the strengthening of international human rights norms and standards.

Similar challenges to the protection of human rights in the digital age are also present in Indonesia. Some of the key issues privacy, freedom of expression, access to information, cybercrime, technological inequalities, online hate speech and misinformation. Privacy issues that been raised are, the collection, use, and storage of personal data by governments, businesses, and other actors are not regulated comprehensively in Indonesia, raising concerns about privacy and the protection of personal information. On freedom of expression issue, the Indonesian government has been criticized for its attempts to restrict freedom of expression online, including through censorship and surveillance, as well as its efforts to combat hate speech and fake news. Access to information and the Internet remains a significant challenge in Indonesia, particularly in rural and

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remote areas, which can limit access to education, employment, and other opportunities. Dynamic issues that also faced by the Indonesian government is Cybercrime. Cybercrime continues to pose a significant challenge to the protection of human rights in Indonesia, including the protection of personal information and critical infrastructure from cyberattacks. Cybercrime is an issue that arises from the use of technology, but there is also a gap in terms of technology use. Technological inequalities, including the digital divide, continue to pose significant challenges to the protection and promotion of human rights in Indonesia, particularly for individuals and communities living in poverty or in rural areas. From the user side, there are also problems regarding online hate speech and misinformation. The spread of hate speech and misinformation online continues to pose a significant challenge to the protection of human rights in Indonesia, including freedom of expression and the right to receive and impart information.⁶

Seeing the situation that occurred above, it is necessary to do a number of things, namely: examining the effectiveness of existing legal frameworks by conducting a comparative analysis of existing legal frameworks in different countries and their effectiveness in protecting human rights in the digital age; analyzing the impact of censorship and surveillance on freedom of expression and access to information, and assess the extent to which such measures are necessary to protect national security and public order; evaluating the impact of technological inequalities, including the digital divide, on access to information and opportunities, and assess the extent to which existing policies and programs are effective in bridging the divide; analyzing the spread of hate speech and misinformation online; Evaluating the accountability of actors; evaluate the accountability of governments, businesses, and other actors for human rights violations that occur in the digital context, including privacy violations, the spread of hate speech and misinformation, and other forms of misconduct.

METHODS

A literature review is a systematic examination of existing research on a particular topic.⁷ In the context of researching human rights in the digital age, a literature review could involve, searching for relevant academic journals, books, and other sources that relate to the research topic. Selecting relevant most relevant and recent sources to include in your literature review. Analyzing and synthesizing information to identify common themes, trends, and gaps in the existing research. Evaluating the quality of sources, paying attention to factors such as the author's credentials, the credibility of the journal in which the article was published, and the rigor of the research methodology used. Organizing and presenting the information, summarizing the main findings and synthesizing the information in a way that highlights the key themes and trends in the existing research.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The concept of human rights in the digital age

The concept of human rights has a long and complex history that spans across various cultures and civilizations. While the idea of human rights is often associated with modern Western political thought, its roots can be traced back to ancient civilizations such as the Greeks, Romans, and Egyptians. In ancient Greece, the philosopher Aristotle wrote about the concept of natural justice, which included the idea that all individuals are entitled to certain basic rights and freedoms.\(^8\) This idea was further developed in the Roman Republic, where the concept of *Ius Gentium* (law of nations) recognized that all individuals had certain universal rights and protections, regardless of their citizenship status. During the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church established the idea of "natural law," which stated that all individuals are endowed with certain inherent rights and freedoms that are essential to their human dignity. This concept was later developed by Enlightenment philosophers such as John Locke, who argued that individuals have natural rights to life, liberty, and property, and that governments have a duty to protect these rights.\(^9\) The modern concept of human rights took shape in the aftermath of World War II, with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. This document established a universal standard for human rights, including civil and political rights (such as freedom of speech and assembly), as well as economic, social, and cultural rights (such as the right to education and healthcare).\(^10\) In the digital age, the issue of human rights has become increasingly complex, with new challenges arising from the increasing influence of technology on our lives. For example, issues related to privacy, freedom of expression, and the right to access information have become more pressing as the use of digital technology has become more widespread. Overall, the idea of human rights has evolved over time and continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of society. Despite the challenges and controversies that accompany the concept of human rights, it remains an essential component of modern political discourse and continues to serve as a powerful tool for promoting and protecting individual dignity and freedom.\(^11\)

In the digital age, the issue of human rights has taken on new dimensions and complexities. Some of the key aspects of human rights in the digital age include:

1) Privacy: With the widespread use of digital technology, privacy has become a major concern, as personal data is increasingly being collected, processed, and shared by governments, corporations, and other actors.


This raises questions about who has access to personal information, how it is being used, and what rights individuals have to control their own data.12

2) Freedom of expression: The internet and other digital technologies have greatly expanded the ability of individuals to express themselves and share information. However, this has also created new challenges for the protection of freedom of expression, as governments and other actors may seek to limit or restrict access to information and silence dissenting voices.13

3) Access to information: The digital age has made a wealth of information available to individuals, but there are still barriers to accessing this information, such as digital divides and unequal distribution of digital technologies. Ensuring equal access to information and digital technologies is an important aspect of human rights in the digital age.14

4) Cybersecurity: With the increasing reliance on digital technology, cybersecurity has become a critical issue, as individuals, governments, and corporations are vulnerable to cyber attacks and other forms of digital insecurity. Protecting against these threats is an important aspect of human rights in the digital age.15

5) Online discrimination: The internet and other digital technologies have created new opportunities for discrimination, such as online hate speech, cyberbullying, and the spread of misinformation. Addressing these issues and ensuring that all individuals are treated equally online is an important aspect of human rights in the digital age.16

Overall, the digital age has brought about new challenges for the protection of human rights, but it has also created new opportunities for promoting and advancing human rights. As technology continues to evolve and influence our lives, it will be important to address the human rights implications of these developments and ensure that they serve the interests of all individuals.

The discourse surrounding human rights in the digital age is constantly evolving, as new technology creates new challenges and opportunities for the protection and promotion of human rights. In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the need to develop new norms and policies that can effectively address these challenges. One emerging norm in this area is the concept of "digital rights," which seeks to extend the traditional concept of human rights to include rights related to the use of digital technology. This includes rights such as privacy, freedom of expression, and access to information online, as well as the right to digital security and protection from online abuse and discrimination. Another emerging norm is the idea of "internet sovereignty," which seeks to balance the global nature of the internet with the sovereignty of states. This norm

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recognizes the importance of ensuring that the internet is governed in a way that promotes human rights, while also acknowledging the role of states in regulating the internet within their borders. The development of these norms has led to a number of policy challenges, as governments, civil society, and the private sector work to implement and enforce these principles in practice. However, by addressing these challenges and developing effective norms and policies, it is possible to ensure that the digital age serves the interests of all individuals and promotes the protection of human rights.17

Indonesian perspectives and challenges

The human rights situation in Indonesia has been a cause for concern in recent years, with several reported cases of violations, particularly in the areas of freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and freedom of religion. Digital rights in Indonesia are also a growing concern, particularly in the areas of privacy, freedom of expression, and access to information. In terms of privacy, there have been several reports of data breaches and the unauthorized use of personal information, which has raised concerns about the protection of personal data in the country. The government has also been criticized for its lack of clear regulations regarding data privacy and its use of personal data for surveillance purposes. Freedom of expression in Indonesia is also a concern, as the government has been known to censor or restrict access to websites and social media platforms that it deems to be spreading false or harmful information. There have also been reports of online censorship and the use of internet shutdowns during periods of political unrest or civil demonstrations. Access to information is also a challenge in Indonesia, as there is limited access to the internet in rural areas, and many people lack the necessary digital skills to fully participate in the digital economy. This has created a digital divide, with some segments of the population being left behind in terms of access to information and opportunities in the digital age. The human rights situation in Indonesia, including the state of digital rights, remains a cause for concern, and there is a need for continued efforts to promote and protect these rights in the country.

One of the main digital-specific challenges faced by Indonesia in ensuring human rights in the digital age is censorship. The government of Indonesia has been known to censor or restrict access to websites and social media platforms that it deems to be spreading false or harmful information.18 This has led to concerns about freedom of expression, as well as the right to access information and to receive and impart ideas and opinions through any media, regardless of the frontiers. Additionally, there have also been reports of online censorship and the use of internet shutdowns during periods of political unrest or civil demonstrations. This has raised questions about the government's commitment to freedom of expression and the right to access information, and has led to criticism from civil society organizations and human rights groups. Furthermore, the government has also been criticized for its lack of clear regulations regarding data privacy and its use of personal data for surveillance purposes, which has raised concerns about privacy rights in the country. This has led to calls for the government to ensure that personal data is protected and that individuals have control over their own data.


Censorship remains a significant challenge in Indonesia in ensuring human rights in the digital age, and there is a need for continued efforts to promote freedom of expression, access to information, and privacy rights in the country.

Cybercrime is another major digital-specific challenge faced by Indonesia in ensuring human rights in the digital age. This includes a range of criminal activities that are facilitated or committed using the internet, such as cyber-attacks, hacking, and the spread of false or harmful information. In Indonesia, cybercrime has become increasingly prevalent, with reports of large-scale data breaches, cyber-attacks on government and private organizations, and the spread of false information and hate speech through social media platforms. These activities pose a threat to the rights to privacy and freedom of expression, as well as the security of personal data and sensitive information. Furthermore, the lack of effective measures to address cybercrime has also raised concerns about the ability of the Indonesian government to protect the rights of its citizens in the digital age. This includes a need for better legislation and law enforcement to address cybercrime, as well as the need for greater awareness and education about cybercrime and how to protect oneself from it. Cybercrime is a significant challenge in Indonesia in ensuring human rights in the digital age, and there is a need for continued efforts to address this issue and to promote the rights to privacy and freedom of expression in the country.

The role of international and national legal frameworks

One of the main challenges in digital reality is to balance the protection of individuals' rights and freedoms with the need to ensure a safe and secure online environment. As such, many countries have enacted specific laws and regulations aimed at preventing cybercrime, such as hacking, fraud, and identity theft. In terms of privacy, digital reality laws aim to protect individual personal information, such as their names, addresses, and financial data, from unauthorized access and misuse. This has become a particularly important issue with the rise of data breaches and other cybersecurity threats. Intellectual property law also plays a significant role in digital reality, with laws aimed at protecting the rights of creators and owners of creative works, such as music, software, and written content. This includes issues related to copyright infringement, trademark protection, and patent law. The rapidly evolving nature of technology and the digital world means that the laws and regulations governing digital reality are continually being updated and modified to keep pace with the changing landscape. It is important for individuals and businesses to stay informed of these changes and to ensure they are in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations.

The digital age has brought with it many new challenges to the rule of law, and these challenges continue to evolve as technology continues to advance. The global nature of the Internet and digital technologies presents

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20 EDMON MAKARIM, PENGANTAR HUKUM TELEMATIKA SUATU KOMPILASI KAJIAN (Jakarta: Badan Penerbit FHUI, 2003).

challenges for the rule of law, as it can be difficult to determine which jurisdiction has authority over a particular online activity. This can lead to conflicts between nations and difficulties in enforcing laws and regulations. The rule of law in the digital age requires a delicate balance between protecting individual rights and freedoms, promoting the free exchange of information and ideas, and ensuring security and stability in the digital world. The challenge for governments, businesses, and individuals is to find ways to adapt to these changing circumstances and to ensure that the rule of law is upheld in the digital age.22

In addition to national legal frameworks, there are also several international frameworks that relate to the protection of human rights in the digital age. These include:

1) The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): This treaty sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals, including the right to freedom of expression and privacy, and applies to the online environment.23

2) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: This declaration sets out the basic human rights and freedoms that are recognized as universal, including the right to freedom of expression, privacy, and access to information.24

3) The Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime: This convention is the first international treaty that specifically addresses cybercrime and sets out measures for the criminalization of certain online activities, including hacking and the production and distribution of child sexual abuse material.

4) The UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace: This recommendation sets out principles for the promotion of multilingualism and universal access to the Internet and recognizes the role of the Internet in promoting freedom of expression, cultural diversity, and human rights.

5) The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: This set of principles sets out the responsibilities of businesses in relation to human rights, including the right to privacy and freedom of expression, and applies to the online environment.

These international frameworks provide a framework for the protection of human rights in the digital age and provide guidance to countries in their efforts to balance the right to freedom of expression and privacy in the online environment.

The effectiveness of these legal frameworks in protecting human rights in the digital age is a matter of ongoing debate and discussion. There are several factors that can impact the effectiveness of these frameworks, including:

1) Implementation: The effectiveness of a legal framework depends on its implementation and enforcement. In some countries, there may be challenges in enforcing laws related to the digital age, such as a lack of resources or technical expertise.

2) Balancing competing interests: The protection of human rights in the digital age often involves balancing competing interests, such as the right to freedom of expression and privacy. Balancing these interests can

24 Nation, “Universal Declaration on Human Rights.”
be challenging, and the effectiveness of a legal framework will depend on how well it balances these interests.

3) Technological developments: The rapid pace of technological change can make it difficult for legal frameworks to keep up, and new technologies may emerge that challenge the effectiveness of existing laws.

4) Global nature of the Internet: The Internet is a global network, and the effectiveness of legal frameworks can be impacted by the actions of other countries. For example, laws in one country may not apply to content that is hosted in another country.

Despite these challenges, legal frameworks play an important role in protecting human rights in the digital age, and their effectiveness can be improved through ongoing review and refinement. Additionally, the involvement of civil society, including human rights organizations and individual users, is crucial in holding governments and businesses accountable and ensuring that human rights are respected online.

Indonesia has a number of legal frameworks that relate to human rights in the digital age. These include laws, regulations, and policies that aim to protect the rights of individuals in the online environment. Some of the key legal frameworks are as follows:

1) The Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE) Law: This law governs electronic transactions and electronic information in Indonesia and sets out provisions related to freedom of expression, data protection, and privacy in the digital age.

2) The Privacy Protection Law: This law governs the protection of personal data in Indonesia and sets out obligations for data controllers and processors in relation to the collection, use, and storage of personal data.

3) The Broadcasting Law: This law governs the regulation of television and radio broadcasting in Indonesia and sets out provisions related to freedom of expression and the protection of minors in the online environment.

4) The Criminal Code: This code sets out criminal offenses that apply in the online environment, including offenses related to cybercrime, hate speech, and online harassment.

5) The Ministerial Regulation on the Implementation of the Protection of Personal Data in Electronic Systems: This regulation sets out detailed guidelines for the implementation of the Privacy Protection Law and includes provisions related to data protection, data security, and data retention.

6) The Ministerial Regulation on the Implementation of the ITE Law: This regulation sets out detailed guidelines for the implementation of the ITE Law and includes provisions related to electronic transactions, electronic signatures, and electronic evidence.

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7) The Ministerial Regulation on the Management of Content on Electronic Systems²⁹: This regulation sets out guidelines for the management of content on electronic systems, including provisions related to the regulation of hate speech, cyberbullying, and other forms of harmful content.

These legal frameworks aim to balance the right to freedom of expression and privacy in the digital age, while also ensuring that individuals are protected from harm and that their rights are respected online.

CONCLUSION

In the digital era, there are several important contexts that require attention in terms of human rights, such as privacy, freedom of expression, access to information, cyberspace security, and online discrimination. These challenges can threaten human rights and individual security, therefore, there is a need for clear and effective regulations to deal with these problems. These regulations must pay attention to aspects of human rights and individual security, while ensuring that digital technology and innovation can develop positively and provide benefits to society. In this case, collaboration between government, industry and society is essential to create inclusive and sustainable solutions.

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