

# The suitability of telecommunication (wired and wireless) systems in the practice of democracy and human rights in Iraq

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**Abstract:** The 21st century is characterized by different trends, including advanced digital technologies and services. These technologies comprise advanced telecommunication systems that enhance communication between different parties thus, ease of information awareness between people in different locations. For this reason, telecommunication systems have been used by government agencies and NGOs to help promote the practice of democracy and respect for human rights. Countries such as Iraq have been identified as entities that use telecommunication systems to positively and negatively encourage the practice of human rights and democracy. This study aims to discuss the suitability of telecommunication systems in the practice of democracy and human rights in Iraq. The paper has used the case study data collection method to acquire an in-depth and multi-faceted understanding of the complex issue in its real-life context. The results show that telecommunications have been used often to ensure democracy and human rights are effectively practised. The paper's results comprise 4 case studies that show the positive use of telecommunication systems in the practice of human rights and democracy within a given country. In contrast, two case studies show examples of negative use of telecommunication systems based on retaining control or governmental power. Lastly, one case study shows how telecommunication systems can be important in regions where governance, democracy and human rights are not intact. The study's findings show that telecommunication systems benefit governments and citizens by ensuring that democracy and human rights are practised appropriately.

**Keywords:** Telecommunication systems, democracy, human rights, Iraq, government, NGOs, citizens

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Research scope

The 21st century is characterized by different trends aimed at improving human beings' social and economic status. Among the recognized trends is the emergence of telecommunications systems. This refers to a method of communication that uses electronic means, which are in the form of voice, video or data, to transmit information from one person to the other in different locations [1]. Telecommunication systems can be wireless or wired; this means that telecommunication systems use different types of technologies such as wired, electromagnetic, radio and optical systems to facilitate the transmission of information and data [3]. Further, telecommunication systems can be used in both local and wide area networks with the help of specific hardware and software that ensure the systems communicate with each other or the users reach one another effectively [2]. For this reason, telecommunication has been considered an entity that contributes to globalization and helps achieve the world goals such as increasing the literacy level of people and ensuring human rights are respected, and democracy is achieved. Thus, government agencies, including Iraq, have

adopted telecommunication systems to achieve their country's goals [4]. For instance, the government of Iraq has used telecommunication systems to ensure they practice democracy and respect for human rights.

Telecommunication systems supporting government agencies as well as the public are owned by commercial telecommunications service providers who manage these systems on behalf of the government [18]. Thereby, the government, as well as the public, can use these systems to ensure various aspects that are essential to their daily lives are met [5]. The study on the suitability of telecommunication systems in democracy and human rights is one subject that needs to be researched from a broader perspective. To be specific, Iraq is a country that can be included in the study [6]. Iraq being a country with poor telecommunication systems makes it interesting to research and identify how they use the available systems to practice democracy and implement human rights [20]. However, the study area has not attracted several authors and scholars to conduct in-depth research; hence, few studies have information on the topic. For this reason, this study discusses the suitability of telecommunication systems (wireless and wired) in practising democracy and human rights in Iraq. The study focuses on Iraq since the country has had challenges with their telecommunication systems; however, they have managed to use it when it comes to democracy and human rights matters. Also, focusing on a smaller geographical area enables the paper to acquire extensive factual information related to the subject. Limitations on either wireless or wired telecommunication systems are excluded in the study as both are discussed in different contexts.

### **1.2 Research objectives**

1. To determine the suitability of telecommunication systems in the practice of democracy and human rights in Iraq
2. To identify and discuss the role of telecommunication systems in the practice of democracy
3. To identify and discuss the role of telecommunication systems in the practice of human rights
4. To identify the factors encountered by Iraq when using telecommunication systems

### **1.3 Research questions**

1. How is telecommunication suitable in the practice of democracy and human rights in Iraq?
2. What is the role of telecommunication systems in the practice of democracy?
3. What is the role of telecommunication systems in the practice of human rights?
4. How is Iraq limited when using telecommunication systems in the practice of democracy and human rights?

### **1.4 Background of the study**

The adoption of the United Nations principles on human rights and democracy in 2011 has increased the attention of governments and organizations to implement the strategies outlined that focus on ensuring democracy and human rights are practised as gazette in the constitution of the respective countries [9]. These principles also affected countries that are not members of the UN as they also felt the urge to ensure such principles guide them to some point to ensure democracy and human rights are practised [7]. To begin with, democracy refers to a government system where the public can make legislative decisions or choose government officials who will present their decisions to the federal government [10]. Human rights are the principles and norms that are documented in the constitution to guide the behaviour of human beings as they protect them.

To ensure democracy and human rights are practised effectively, government agencies have employed different trends such as advanced technology (telecommunication) to facilitate the practice of democracy and human rights within their space [6]. This is because telecommunication systems are considered to increase connectivity and thus contribute to socio-economic development within a country. Although, governments have used these systems to restrict citizens from enjoying their freedoms and rights [8]. This has forced private sectors and organizations, including non-profit organizations, to discover the effectiveness of telecommunication systems in practising democracy and human rights. Therefore, different organizations, including the United Nations, established a common ground to protect the vulnerable and achieve global goals [11].

Telecommunication was adopted in Iraq during the 20th century. This trend has been used in different sectors of the country, including law enforcement, manufacturing and production industries [15]. The country has considered telecommunication as an entity that provides ease when it comes to ensuring government policies as well as the constitution is adhered to by all. Studies have shown that Iraq's internet

connectivity and telecommunication freedom have been limited over the previous years [13]. However, in the recent years, Iraq has invested in the telecommunication sector, especially in the Kurdistan area resulting in advancements in the country's practices and implementation of policies per the constitution. Despite the investments, other areas within the country still encounter challenges regarding the use of telecommunication systems in the practice of democracy and human rights, as well as other activities and industries [12]. The adoption of telecommunication systems in human rights and democracy has been contributed by the regular attack and harassment of citizens, social media users, journalists and activists. The attacks and harassment became severe to the extent that most people decided to self-censor their content and flee the country to avoid further adverse experiences [14]. Besides, law enforcement agencies restricted telecommunication users from discussing specific topics such as corruption in Iraq. Failure to adhere to the restrictions may lead to arrest or physical and emotional abuse; hence, media and communication platforms lack independent voices to ensure the right thing is done within the country.

However, due to globalization, various global and regional non-profit organizations and authorities came together to oppose the situation and unlawful practice by the government and its officials [12]. This made the country to be in the global limelight hence, forced to allow the country to be characterized by independent voices. In addition, the agencies introduced different methods of addressing unlawful legislative decisions and practices, including using advanced telecommunication systems such as radio and social media [16]. This made the country change and respect the normal citizen to the extent of including them in legislative decisions. For this reason, Iraq can practice democracy and ensure human rights are respected. Nonetheless, the adoption of telecommunication systems in democracy and human rights enables the country to hold elections that are aimed at ensuring the citizens are represented in the political as well as religious systems [14]. Also, through the use of telecommunication, corruption and security threats are discouraged, which encourages a democratic government system. Telecommunication systems have significantly contributed to democracy and respect for human rights in the country as the democratic facilities, especially in the Kurdistan region, could not contain the effect of long-standing power brokers.

### **1.5 Research rationale**

The lack of democracy and human rights practice within a country is considered a threat to the citizens of the country and global communities. Further, it affects the economic and social status of different personnel within the country. The prioritization of a country's lack of democracy and respect for human rights has helped solve the problem [15]. Thus, different scholars and authors have recognized the need to conduct research on the subject, especially in countries experiencing long-standing power effects, such as Iraq [17]. Also, adopting different strategies and trends such as telecommunication in addressing the issue has been a primary area of focus in the recent years. For this reason, this paper helps to identify and quantify the suitability of telecommunication systems in the practice of democracy and human rights in Iraq.

In addition, it helps understand the role of telecommunication systems in the practice of democracy and human rights, as well as the factors hindering the process within the country. Through the examination of the policies and constitution of the country, the study broadens the understanding of the actors responsible for the effective and appropriate practice of human rights and democracy within the country. Lastly, it validates the information with a case study methodology that gives an in-depth analysis of different instances where telecommunication systems have been used to ensure democracy and human rights practice is effective.

### **1.6 Organization of the research paper**

This paper includes sections that address the research objectives and find solutions to the research questions. The research begins with an abstract that briefly describes what is documented. Secondly, it has an introduction, divided into sub-sections that aim to give the paper's scope, research objectives and questions, background information on the subject, and research rationale. It is followed by a literature review section which identifies the different academic materials that have focused their research on the subject. This section will give additional information on the topic, enabling the study to identify the gaps in the subject. Afterwards, the methodology, results and data analysis/discussion section was included. Lastly, the main conclusions of the research study are documented.

## **2. Literature review**

### **2.1 The role of telecommunications in democracy in Iraq**

The thriving of the health of democracy fundamentally depends on access to information mainly for two reasons. First, it enables the people of a nation to make responsible and informed choices instead of acting out of misinformation or ignorance [11]. Second, information also serves the standard checking function since it ensures that representatives elected by the people carry out the tasks and needs of those elected them, hence maintaining and upholding their oaths of office [19]. The media and the government in some societies have an antagonistic relationship that represents a crucial and sustainable element of a democracy that is fully functional. However, this may not be suitable in a post-conflict relationship ridden with tension or an ethically homogeneous community. Still, the press plays a critical role in disseminating information as a technique in the mediation between all the modes of the civil population and the state [1].

Governance assistance and democracy critically depend on the support of media to increase the growth of a civil society that is politically active. This has provided sustainable media-related programming. The intermediate result is an improvement in the free flow of information, which sustains and upholds the dissemination and application of human rights in Iraq [17]. Humanitarian agencies consider wired and wireless telecommunication methods to be a facet of the civil society sector, but this is merely regarded since media overlaps other areas of governance and democracy that are functional. For instance, media support by the state positively yields outcomes in governance roles, especially those that focus on decentralization, citizen inclusion in policy processes and anti-corruption [21].

The support for an independent, suitable telecommunication media institutionalizes the rule of law. It plays a crucial role in sustaining democracy and human rights in Iraq by checking the judiciary, airing court reports and promoting a legal setting that suits the freedom of the press [17]. A suitable telecommunication media sector has proven to promote free and fair elections. They are conducted through transparent procedures by giving candidates equal access and timely and objectively reporting relevant issues. The aim of sustainable media has assisted Iraq in supporting the transitions of democracy since media development has generally moved from one that was overtly controlled by the state or even private interests to one that has a degree of editorial independence and is open to serving the interests of the public [23].

The goal of independent media is to develop a range of different mediums and credible voices, which has played a crucial role in democracy for the public interests in Iraq by creating and strengthening sectors that support such outlets [9]. Article 19 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression through any media regardless of frontiers." This suitability has ensured a degree of independence in the editorial of telecommunication by ensuring that media outlets support democracy, are financially viable, and have diverse and plural voices while serving public interests [3]. This has promoted the representation of plural voices through diverse views and voices emanated within one outlet and through a greater number of outlets [9].

### **2.2 The role of telecommunications in human rights**

The ICT sector has fostered the free exchange of information and views that support human rights. Governments also wield this technology to fight criminal activities and assist in emergencies [15]. ICT has enabled the enjoyment of human rights, contributing to substantial social and economic fitness and exploring the dangers and limitations of the human right faced by the sector [1]. The International Telecommunications Union indicates that the larger percentage of users in Iraq have access and connectivity, which is a driver for fundamental changes by empowering the citizens and has made learning and communication easier and accessible. Therefore, this has enhanced economic and human development by strengthening human rights protections and producing potential advantages because of human rights realization [11].

First, telecommunications have allowed for jobs and economic inclusion, a fundamental right for any citizen. The ICT sector has triggered the increase in productivity and competitiveness in shaping a level field, thus supporting better and more jobs in Iraq [2]. For example, the increase of mobile money services and payments is a telecommunication facet that has positive impacts on the people's ability to save, pay or transact money which in turn has supported the achieving of economic and social rights through the inclusion of particularly the vast numbers of financially marginalized people that are not able to access formal bank accounts [21].

Secondly, sustainable wired and wireless telecommunication systems have enabled the people in rural and remote areas to increase access to healthcare for patients through telemedicine and e-health such as remote monitoring of patients, the providence of information on healthy living and training of health-workers [13]. These services have helped manage and prevent diseases, for example, by timely warning of disease outbreaks and the providence of apparent data collection. The digital health systems have therefore supported efforts that enhance access to health services, minimizing the suffering from diseases and natural disasters for the people of Iraq [20].

Thirdly, sustainable wired and wireless telecommunications have enabled easy access to and quality of education without level, location and distance barriers for the people of Iraq. ICT has facilitated management information systems and teacher training, increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of administrations in education [5]. This has revolutionized opportunities for the less fortunate factions in Iraq, creating the potential for more inclusive societies where youths and children from different backgrounds get similar learning and developing opportunities. ICT has also enabled efficiency gains in the generation, distribution, and consumption of energy in different activities, thus reducing climate change [17]. The access and discernment of development and environmental impacts are also largely dependent on telecommunication systems such as Geographic Information Systems, smart Agricultural practices and water management systems.

Sustainable telecommunication methods have also promoted Peace, Justice, Safety and Social Inclusion. A developed telecommunication system is crucial to the security and safety of the citizens of Iraq in specific admissions to emergency services such as police, ambulance, fire and rescue, which is essential in emergencies [14]. This has also promoted accessibility and social inclusion for marginalized groups and persons with disabilities, as well as enabling and strengthening public services such as e-voting and e-governance. Additionally, Iraq's citizens can now exercise their rights through improved transparency and accountability since the reporting and tracking of violence, harassment and corruption can be done through mobile services [10]. Lastly, the freedom of expression is enhanced as more people become connected through the use of suitable telecommunication since there are increased mediums to impart, seek and receive information, participate in governance, share ideas, and raise awareness of matters that lead to positive changes [1].

### **2.3 Key actors in ensuring telecommunication are effective in democracy and human rights.**

When designing suitable media support activities, the most important questions to consider are, "who holds the power to communicate in a society, who can access the means of communication, and who is communicated to?" The answers to these questions can shape telecommunication platforms by pinpointing reform opportunities and targeting obstacles [23]. Suitable support techniques can be geared around civil society organizations that publish different air points of view or even be focused on training broadcasters to share information more objectively. The answer to the question of "who is communicated to" helps to identify the medium to target for assistance [11]. Hence, allies such as consumers, training institutes, media monitors, content provider companies and professional organizations can be relevant allies in the reform and capacity strengthening of effective telecommunication [20].

### **2.4 Challenges to effective adoption and use of telecommunication in Iraq**

One critical challenge has been identifying the core values and principles such as equity, inclusivity, accountability, responsibility and transparency, which have been impacted diversely by certain technological advances and how to protect the values. This requires new applications that ensure certain technologies do not exacerbate socioeconomic indifferences in Iraq and restrict certain forms of research [25].

Another challenge posed is the effective engagement of stakeholders to readily and responsibly respond to the effects of technological advances and the societal risks they pose. Implementing responses at scale and applying them through Iraq is a complex challenge [6]. Therefore, relevant actors must cooperate and delineate responsibilities to determine which telecommunication-related challenges to address in Iraq. This will assist in ensuring agile mechanisms that determine new norms and rules required to manage these technology-driven risks [3].

Crafting suitable regulations is also another challenge in Iraq. These telecommuting platforms need fresh approaches to relevant policies and regulations [14]. There are doubts on whether to opt for soft policy initiatives or hard regulations that stop binding regulations and private entities' existing trend of self-

governance measures [13]. Uncoordinated national rules and policies seem ineffective due to the growing convergence of telecommunication media.

Finally, Iraq faces the challenge of enhancing transparency, oversight and accountability [7]. New policies and regulatory approaches require greater investments in these mechanisms, thus necessitating stakeholders to agree on whether they should be public, private or mixed composition [21]. This will also entail ensuring that telecommunication companies accept greater scrutiny. The industry's role in participating in oversight mechanisms and funding is vital in enforcing legitimacy in some processes. This will assist more actors in identifying gaps and gauging the regulation of certain technology or its application [19].

### **3. Methodology**

The study has used the case study data collection approach to acquire an in-depth, multi-faceted understanding of the complex issue in its real-life context. The data collection method is considered both a primary and secondary data collection approach as well as both a qualitative and quantitative data collection method [18]. The method enables the study to explore a situation or trend from a broader perspective using its natural context. It is in contrast with an experimental type of data collection method in that by using this method, the investigator has no control over the variables and cannot manipulate them based on their interest. After the emergence of advanced telecommunication systems (wireless or wired) such as radio, proselytizers, and electromagnetic systems, the campaign on the practice of democracy and respect for human rights has increased, aiming to benefit the normal citizen the most [19]. The use of advanced telecommunication systems in this sector has been contributed by the inability of traditional systems such as radio to eliminate inequalities and harassment within a non-democratic country [1]. Theorists, including Habermas, have recognized the need for a global or technological approach to ensure the practice of democracy and human rights is achieved [5]. Further, telecommunication systems have been identified as significant contributing factors to increased public participation in governance, provided entities such as equality, rationality, inclusion and transparency are included [3]. Optimists, on the other hand, have identified telecommunication systems as entities that serve different roles when fighting for human rights and democracy in a country.

Telecommunication systems have been identified as approaches that are essential to national and transnational advocacy networks, exemplified by distinct campaigns, including the movement against the production of genetically modified food products, among others [11]. Thus, conducting in-depth research on this subject enables the investigator to acquire much information through online initiatives by civil society stakeholders focusing on the adoption and suitability of telecommunication systems in democracy and human rights [17]. Thus, the study, in conjunction with relevant websites such as UN websites and public and government journals, has identified different websites and online materials that have information related to the research paper's subject [19]. For instance, Human Rights Watch ([www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)) investigates and exposes human rights violators, intending to make the violators accountable. Other sites such as Amnesty International, Derechos, OneWorld.net, Freedom House, The Panel Institute, The Institute of Global Communications and Witness.org have focused on the same aim of ensuring human rights are respected as well as the practice of democracy is effective in all countries including Iraq [20].

In addition, the study has identified, through the data collection method, the various cases and contexts where telecommunication systems have been used to protect human rights and ensure democracy is practised in a specific country [17]. The different cases and contexts show how telecommunication systems are used to create awareness and mobilize public opinion regarding the challenge at hand. The cases of Iraq are most notable within this context. Telecommunication has been instrumental in developing networks between communities and inter-ethnic groups who, through regular interaction and coordinated activities, have successfully impacted government initiatives and projects [18]. For instance, Iraq, India and Brazil have cases where telecommunication has helped achieve the effective and appropriate practice of human rights and democracy [13]. On the other hand, cases and contexts that show how telecommunication systems have been used to encourage violence and hatred have also been included to explain the downside of adopting the new communications and technology systems [16]. Cases A – D shows the positive use of telecommunication systems in the practice of human rights and democracy within a given country. In

contrast, cases E and F show examples of negative use of telecommunication systems based on retaining control or governmental power. Case G shows how telecommunication systems can be important in regions where governance, democracy and human rights are not intact.

### **3.1 Weaknesses of data collection method**

The data collection method allows only the analysis of small data sets such as one or two regions that may result to acquiring insights regarding trends in a given sector. Small data sets limit the study from using conventional empirical techniques or rather limit their application due to inadequate data to meet the needs for statistical significance.

### **3.2 Strengths of data collection method**

The case study approach entails detailed and holistic analysis for all aspects of the topic. It is also able to employ different measurement techniques thus, the investigator is not limited to a single methodological tool. It also allows the investigator to document the histories and stories of the investigated element (not just using empirical data).

## **4. Results**

### **4.1 Case studies identified**

#### **4.1.1 Case A: Electronic media as a grassroots weapon of democracy**

The use of telecommunication systems has been seen in different areas. For instance, governmental organizations, as well as NGO groups, have used websites, camcorders, emails and radios to spread information to the world or their people [21]. For example, most international organizations have been successful in their campaigns due to the use of telecommunication systems such as radio and the internet to reach out and connect with a large number of personnel. The WTO meeting held in Seattle explained the use of telecommunication systems as it united the parties in both the labour sector and environmental activists [15]. Further, through the use of telecommunication systems, the meeting was also able to bring together consumer advocates, anti-capitalists, and other related movements. Besides, the use of telecommunication systems enabled the different individuals absent in the meeting to get daily updates of what went on during the meeting. This consisted of persons in more than 80 countries and different religious groups [25]. In addition, the anti-globalization protests against the World Bank and the IMF also used telecommunication systems in Iraq. Further, telecommunication systems were used during the anti-fuel tax protests that disrupted the country's politics in 2000.

#### **4.1.2 Case B: Using the Internet to gain pledges and defend children's rights**

A worldwide Internet campaign was launched in London and Iraq, among other countries, last year to amplify the cause of children's rights. The aim was to leverage the power of telecommunication systems to acquire several people to pledge to back up the resolutions on the Rights of the Child [24]. It used wireless and wired systems to ensure all individuals get the information online or offline. The hub used in all countries, including Iraq for children, was Netaid.org. A study by [21] states that the design of the pledges was in a way that it ensured organizations and individuals download ballot papers and take them to poor societies and those in remote areas that are not digitized.

#### **4.1.3 Case C: Baghdad (Iraq), Probidad**

Probidad has also used telecommunication systems to promote democracy and discourage corruption in Baghdad, Iraq. The organization used telecommunication systems and further designed them in a way they can monitor activities related to corruption and control various mechanisms [24]. Further, through wired and wireless telecommunication systems, Probidad was able to create awareness of factors linked with the complexities and costs of corruption as well as the strategies and benefits of active participation in stopping the act [20]. Telecommunication systems also enabled the organization to improve the anti-corruption capabilities of other civil communities within Iraq in different areas, including businesses, media and the local and national governments. This informed the people of Iraq on their rights and the measures needed to be taken to undermine corruption and ensure good governance thus, achieve a democratic society.

#### **4.1.4 Case D: EEAS and the Iraqi Community of Practice in Democracy**

The EEAS and the Iraqi Community of Practice in Democracy launched a campaign through telecommunication systems such as websites, radio, television programs and social media platforms to spread information to citizens in Iraq that promote democracy [5]. The systems used by the two

organizations in early 2021 aimed to increase public participation in the nation's governance. Besides, the campaign also aimed to ensure every individual is aware of their rights as well as has easy access to digital means to communicate and report the violators of human rights [7]. The use of telecommunication systems helped EEAS and the Iraqi Community of Practice in Democracy to broaden awareness of democratic issues and create larger networks for interaction.

#### **5.1.5 Case E: Dual-use of telecommunication systems to enhance surveillance capabilities in Iraq**

The transnational companies responsible for creating communications technology for commercial uses have also been used for different purposes. The telecommunication systems have also been used by police and security forces to review the repression and targeting of political leaders [18]. The networks created by these people through these systems allowed the authorities to access unprecedented capabilities to conduct surveillance on activities related to human rights and democracy advocacy. However, the country has trained its armed forces to fight anti-governmental sites published on the internet as well as pass repressive laws [16]. This shows how the country used telecommunication systems to oppress citizens and deny them the freedom to enjoy their rights, thus, encouraging a non-democratic society.

#### **4.1.6 Case F: Cutting telecommunication systems access to organizations promoting human rights and democracy**

Several countries, including Iraq, decided that servers and connections would be unavailable to organizations and people promoting human rights and democratic acts. This is achievable through the application of advanced telecommunication systems [14]. The country's authorities cut off the government's opposition's fixed and mobile lines and internet connections, thus preventing access to information by those opposing the government, such as the EEAS and the Iraqi Community of Practice in Democracy. Research showed that the country's president during this time was a barrier to press freedom [18]. Also, in another country, the government regulated the access and use of telecommunication systems in order to regulate internet use, thus, blocking cheap pornography and telephony, which is considered a way of intruding on the personal rights and freedoms of citizens [3]. Most countries have also decided to develop a huge national intranet system with the aim of filtering content and addresses on the government's illegal and unlawful practices. This results in a non-democratic society, thus, oppression of citizens and denial of people enjoying their rights.

#### **4.1.7 Case G: Use of telecommunication systems to incite violence and human rights violations.**

Radio is a telecommunication tool used to promote democracy and the practice of human rights within a society. In addition, radio can be decentralized to ensure the local citizens of a country get the opportunity to express their grievances in the form of representative discussions [16]. This presupposes the creation of decentralized structures as well as local and community radio programs publicizing the views of organizations and independent human rights and democratic activists. The use of telecommunication systems to protect human rights and democratic acts has been shown in different countries, including Iraq [12]. In Iraq, NGOs such as the UN have stated publicly that radio transmissions can be used for ethics in the country.

## **5. Discussion**

The relationship between telecommunication systems and human rights is best understood after including topics such as democracy and governance. Therefore, the three entities have to be contextualized as by-products of one system [19]. The primary effect of telecommunication systems in a democratic county is strengthening the public sphere through expanding information resources. In addition, telecommunication systems enhance the channels of e-communication, increasing the networks of different organized groups, NGOs, political parties and social movements, among others [22]. The improvement of e-communication channels also creates awareness among different parties of human rights and freedoms as well as the different elements related to the same. It also equips persons with the knowledge of what democracy entails and the different ways that contribute to its effectiveness when adhered to. Different scholars believe that the role of telecommunication systems is centred on structuring, shaping and framing local and international relations [20].

However, analyzing the role of telecommunication systems has to comprise the evaluation of democracy and governance. Besides, rights such as 'freedom of communication' and 'right to communicate

(rights related to communication) are recognized as the main gauges of democracy alongside criteria such as civil rights, free and fair elections characterized by opposition parties and stability. Nonetheless, the democracies formed by telecommunication systems do not war with each other [25]. This is regarded as the empirical law in international relations. However, different studies on the same stated that it does not recognize the convert practices of democratic nations that regard media as well as media personnel as entities of destabilization.

In addition, separate studies have recognized the significance of telecommunication systems in fulfilling the strategic roles in international relations [24]. For this reason, telecommunication systems have been regarded as the tools of empowerment and democratization that oppose and discourage the different dictatorial government systems. Further, it allows the majority, mostly normally citizens, to have a say in legislative activities and decisions. Other studies have stated that telecommunication systems have reduced or tried to eliminate the barriers to entry in the political market [4]. This, although, does not fully validate that equality when it comes to representation is the outcome. Developing countries characterized by high political factionalism can take advantage of this benefit in that lowering the barriers to entry reinforces a political structure that is incapable of achieving developmental goals as well as human rights agendas [7].

Indeed, weaker states are recognized as one of the major barriers to effective governance these days. Nonetheless, the capability of telecommunication systems to mobilize larger populations from different regions and empower all the civil community actors should not predispose people to recognize that the pendulum does not always favour or contribute to democratic acts or recognize democracy as a method of governance [5]. Historical references to the uses of wired and wireless telecommunication systems in different regions can be appropriate modes of reflecting such points. According to the study conducted by Aldous Huxley, telecommunication systems are neither good nor bad [17]. The author considers these systems as a force, similar to other forces; they can be well or ill in some way. Nonetheless, there has been an increase in the emergence of systems that encourage democratic activities as well as the promotion of human rights within the society in the past years [15].

These practices are supported by various factors such as the commission on Human Rights' Articulation, an independent judiciary, a transparent government system and a vibrant society. Further, today's world comprises several countries characterized by democracy compared to those in the historical context [10]. This is so as countries that adhere to democracy and guidelines in their constitution, such as practising the outlined human rights and allowing the normal citizens to have a voice in the legislative decisions, benefit from their actions and are guaranteed stable economic and social environment thus, promoting sustainable infrastructure and governance [11]. Further, the countries that have recognized the need to adopt as well as improve telecommunication systems within their boundaries are characterized by independent voices in that every human being within its boundaries has the right and freedom to speak out when it comes to issues affecting them as members of the respective state [14]. Thus, Iraq should expand to the provision of transitional administration while ensuring it supervises largely the political processes introduced to promote human rights and democratic participation.

## **6. Conclusion**

Examining telecommunication systems in the context of the realms of democracy and human rights yields several lessons. To begin with, the realistic conceptualization of the power of telecommunication systems, specifically those recognized in the global systems that wield them: For this reason, these systems are regarded to be beneficial in that they help the users achieve the desired intentions [13]. While most regard advanced telecommunication systems as solutions or enhancements to traditional technology, they seem to encourage transparency, local and national accountability, and cooperation among parties in a given state. Also, assertions regarding the inclusion and enhancement of telecommunication systems to achieve democracy have to be tempered through a wider understanding of the dynamics between the entities of greater impact as well as the extent to which the public's empowerment can impact the parties who govern and sell to the respective citizens [19].

In addition, the increased commodification of data and decreased costs of accessing information has been recognized as an urgent matter in the information and technological society. Herein the power of a virtuous cycle linked with information systems belongs. This comprises the inclusion that is viewed in terms

of the physical realm of technology deployment [23]. On the other hand, deployment is viewed as a tool to achieve global accessibility as well as a tool that helps the government and the businesses within it to be accountable for the actions of the leaders of the nation and its citizens related to activities of democracy and human rights [16]. Thereby, despite telecommunication systems being tools that enable a country to get quick access to information locally and globally, they are also recognized as contributing to national and global scrutiny. Hence, telecommunication systems in a country can be viewed as tools that ease the process of the acquaintance of information as well as entities that encourage scrutiny within a nation.

Nonetheless, the findings/ results of this study show that telecommunication systems help assess the extension and maturation of the international political system, thus, focusing on incorporating the independent voices of citizens and all parties that are not traditionally linked with national or local power [15]. For this reason, the plans and efforts of the civil community actors are recognized as the national public opinion, which benefits the global community and the relations between different regions. Further, the national government of Iraq is not linked with the act of imposing control as it engages itself and its actors in building a surrounding that encourages cooperation and trust between the government, the private sector, citizens and other actors [26]. The two entities (cooperation and trust) are considered to be the characteristics of a free community, thus, a democratic nation whereby its actors respect human rights.

Conclusively, telecommunication systems have been regarded as effective and appropriate tools for spreading information related to human rights and aspects of democracy on a local, national and global scale [17]. This allows the government of Iraq to react to different claims and complaints, which ensures they are committed to the government's commitments, such as ensuring human rights are respected and democracy is practised within the country. It also ensures that the respective actors within the government of Iraq do not violate any of their commitments so as to be in line with the principles agreed upon on human rights and democratic acts [2]. Besides, violation of these principles is not covered by the cloak of national authority as well as parties of the free press.

However, the full implementation and application of the conclusions acquired from the information and knowledge from images and data from telecommunication systems should be taken into consideration in Iraq to understand the impact of telecommunication systems in the practice of democracy and human rights [7]. Therefore, so long as organizations, including NGOs and governments, continue to be part of the parties strengthening the bottom-up approach to governance, which ensures telecommunication systems remain essential tools in ensuring democratization, social and economic development of the country and dissemination of information across the society is achieved. Further, spreading awareness and implementing human rights will be vital within the community [13]. Hence, the government of Iraq is needed to introduce more policies and strategies that support the increased adoption of telecommunication systems within the country to identify and deal with violators of human rights and democratic policies within the country.

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