The Role of Political Movements in Shaping Social Security and Public Education System

By

Md. Mijanor Rahaman[1], Md Soleman Hasan[2], Rayhan Kabir Rano[3], Md. Hafizur Rahman[4], Md. Tofayel Hossain[5], Noni Gopal Bepari[6], Salman Hasan[7]

[1]Department of Political Science, Cumilla Victoria Govt. College, Cumilla, Bangladesh.

[2]Department of English, European University of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

[3]Department of English, Carmichael College, Rangpur, Bangladesh.

[4]Department of Anthropology, Jagannath University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

[5]Department of Social Science, Cumilla Victoria Govt. College, Cumilla, Bangladesh.

[6]Lecturer, Department of English, Barguna Government Mohila College, Barguna, Bangladesh.

[7]Police Head Quarter, Bangladesh Police, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Abstract

Political movements have historically played a critical role in shaping social security and public education systems, influencing their development, expansion, and reform. This study explores the impact of labor unions, civil rights movements, and feminist activism on the evolution of welfare and education policies. It also examines the influence of political ideologies on policy formation, highlighting the contrasting approaches of progressive and conservative governments. Additionally, the study evaluates the effectiveness of contemporary social movements in resisting neoliberal reforms and advocating for equitable access to welfare and education. The role of digital activism and transnational movements is also analyzed, emphasizing their growing influence on policy advocacy. The findings reveal that while political activism has been instrumental in advancing social security and education rights, challenges such as political resistance, economic constraints, and disparities in access to activism persist. The study concludes that strengthening grassroots movements, ensuring policy stability, and leveraging digital advocacy are essential for sustaining and expanding welfare policies. Future research should focus on the long-term effects of activism on policy evolution and explore strategies to enhance political engagement in social security and education reforms.

Keywords: Political movements, social security, public education, labor unions, civil rights, feminist activism, neoliberal reforms, digital activism, policy advocacy, welfare state.

Introduction

Throughout history, political movements have played a pivotal role in shaping the foundation of modern welfare states, particularly in the realms of social security and public education (Michener et al., 2022). These two pillars of social policy are essential in promoting economic stability, reducing inequality, and ensuring access to fundamental human rights (Darder et al., 2023). However, their evolution has not been linear; rather, it has been driven by ideological battles, grassroots activism, and institutional reforms influenced by diverse political ideologies (Farley et al., 2021).

From the labor movements of the early 20th century advocating for workers' pensions to the civil rights struggles demanding equal educational opportunities, political activism has consistently pushed governments to expand and refine these systems (Amul et al., 2022). In democratic societies, policies surrounding social security and education are often a reflection of the prevailing political discourse, where progressive and conservative forces debate the extent of government intervention in welfare provision. Meanwhile, in authoritarian regimes, political agendas dictate access to these services, often reinforcing state control (Gulson et

al., 2022). This article explores the intricate relationship between political movements and the development of social security and public education. It examines historical milestones, key policy shifts, and the ongoing influence of political ideologies in shaping these crucial institutions. By understanding the role of activism and governance in molding welfare policies, we can better appreciate how political movements continue to shape the future of social security and education worldwide.

Research Objectives

(i) Primary Objective

To examine the role of political movements in shaping the development, expansion, and reform of social security and public education systems across different historical and political contexts.

(ii) Specific Objectives

1. To analyze the historical impact of labor unions, civil rights movements, and feminist activism on the evolution of social security and public education policies.
2. To investigate the influence of political ideologies on the design and implementation of welfare and education systems in different governance models.
3. To assess the effectiveness of contemporary social movements in resisting neoliberal reforms and advocating for equitable access to social security and education.
4. To explore the role of digital activism and transnational movements in shaping policy changes in the modern welfare state.

Research Questions

1. How have political movements historically influenced the development and expansion of social security and public education systems?
2. What role do political ideologies play in shaping the structure and implementation of social security and education policies?
3. How effective have contemporary social movements been in resisting neoliberal reforms and advocating for equitable access to social security and education?
4. What impact has digital activism and transnational movements had on policy advocacy in social welfare and public education?
5. What challenges do political movements face in influencing long-term policy changes, and how can they be addressed to ensure sustainable social security and education reforms?

Problems of the study

The study faces several key challenges in analyzing the role of political movements in shaping social security and public education systems. First, the complexity of political dynamics makes it difficult to isolate the direct impact of movements from broader socio-economic and institutional factors (Bhatia et al., 2021). Second, variations in political ideologies and governance structures across countries create challenges in drawing universal conclusions (Sharfuddin et al., 2025). Third, historical and contemporary movements have operated under different political and economic contexts, making comparative analysis difficult (Mohammad Sarwar Hossain Islam et al., 2024). Additionally, the influence of external factors, such as globalization and technological advancements, has altered the landscape of activism, requiring a multidimensional approach to assess their evolving role. Lastly, data availability and biases in historical records may limit the scope of analysis, necessitating careful methodological considerations to ensure an objective and comprehensive study (Basak et al., 2019).

Significance of the Research

This research is significant as it provides a comprehensive understanding of how political movements have shaped social security and public education systems, offering insights into the historical, ideological, and contemporary forces that drive policy change. By analyzing the impact of labor unions, civil rights movements, and feminist activism, the study highlights the critical role of grassroots advocacy in advancing social welfare and education rights. Additionally, it examines the influence of political ideologies, providing a deeper understanding of how governance models affect policy outcomes. The study also sheds light on the growing role of digital activism and transnational movements, offering valuable insights into modern advocacy strategies. Policymakers, activists, and scholars can use these findings to develop more effective approaches to sustaining and expanding social security and education policies. Furthermore, the research addresses existing gaps by exploring the challenges and limitations political movements face, contributing to ongoing discussions on democratic participation, social justice, and policy reform in an era of increasing economic and political uncertainty.

Literature Review

The relationship between political movements and the development of social security and public education has been widely explored in political science, sociology, and public policy literature. Scholars have examined the historical evolution of welfare policies, the ideological debates surrounding state intervention, and the role of activism in expanding social rights (Garritzmann et al., 2022). This section reviews key academic contributions to understanding how political movements influence these systems, focusing on historical precedents, ideological perspectives, and contemporary policy shifts.

1. Historical Foundations of Social Security and Public Education

The origins of modern social security and public education systems are deeply tied to political struggles and movements advocating for social rights. Esping-Andersen (1990) in *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* categorizes welfare states into liberal, conservative, and social-democratic models, arguing that political coalitions shape the extent of government intervention in social security and education (Walker et al., 2021). Similarly, Lindert (2004) in *Growing Public: Social Spending and Economic Growth Since the Eighteenth-Century* highlights how grassroots movements, particularly labor unions, and progressive political parties, played a crucial role in establishing early social security

programs in Europe and the United States (Qureshi et al., 2022). In education, Spring (2016) in *The American School: A Global Context from the Puritans to the Obama Era* discusses how political movements, including civil rights activists and labor organizations, influenced the expansion of public education in the U.S. He emphasizes that education policies have often been shaped by political negotiations between different social groups advocating for equal access and quality improvements (DellaValle & Czako, 2022).

2. Political Ideologies and Welfare State Development

Political ideologies significantly impact the structure and expansion of social security and public education systems. Korpi (1983) in *The Democratic Class Struggle* argues that left-wing political parties and labor movements have historically driven welfare state expansion, advocating for universal social security programs and comprehensive public education. In contrast, right-wing and neoliberal perspectives, as discussed by Harvey (2005) in *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*, have often sought to reduce government involvement, promoting privatization and market-based

3. The Role of Social Movements in Policy Change

Political movements have been instrumental in shaping social security and public education policies, often serving as catalysts for systemic change (Dunford, 2022). Scholars have explored the ways in which grassroots activism, labor unions, civil rights campaigns, and student-led movements have influenced policy decisions, sometimes forcing governments to implement reforms that would have otherwise been delayed or ignored (Chater & Loewenstein, 2023). This section examines the impact of social movements on welfare and education policy development, focusing on historical precedents, theoretical frameworks, and contemporary examples.

3.1 Theoretical Perspectives on Social Movements and Policy Change

Several theoretical perspectives help explain how social movements influence policy decisions.

Resource Mobilization Theory (McCarthy & Zald, 1977) argues that political movements succeed when they effectively mobilize financial, human, and organizational resources. This framework explains why well-structured labor unions and advocacy groups have been able to push for reforms in social security and education (Hargreaves et al., 2022).

Political Process Theory (Tarrow, 1998) emphasizes the importance of political opportunities—moments when social movements can leverage institutional openings to achieve their goals. This is evident in the civil rights movement's success in advocating for educational reforms during the 1960s (Marginson, 2022).

Framing Theory (Snow & Benford, 1988) highlights how social movements construct narratives that resonate with the public and policymakers. For example, teacher unions have framed education funding as a civil rights issue, broadening their support base (Dorlach, 2021). These theories provide a foundation for understanding how movements engage with state institutions and policymakers to bring about legislative and structural changes.

3.2 Labor Unions and the Expansion of Social Security

Labor movements have historically played a key role in advocating for social security policies, including pensions, unemployment insurance, and healthcare provisions.

The New Deal Reforms (1930s, U.S.): The labor movement in the U.S. was a driving force behind the establishment of Social Security under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Quadagno (1994) discusses how unions pressured the government to implement worker protections, including old-age pensions and unemployment benefits (Abay et al., 2020).

Post-War Welfare Expansion (1940s–1970s, Europe): In countries such as Sweden and Germany, strong labor movements and social democratic parties worked together to establish comprehensive welfare states (Esping-Andersen, 1990). The Scandinavian model was shaped by labor-driven policies advocating universal social security (Earl et al., 2022).

Neoliberal Retrenchment and Resistance (1980s–2000s): The 1980s saw a global push towards deregulation and privatization, with governments scaling back social security programs.

3.3 The Civil Rights Movement and Education Reform

The civil rights movement in the U.S. played a major role in advocating for equal access to education and challenging segregationist policies.

Brown v. Board of Education (1954): One of the most significant victories for the civil rights movement, this Supreme Court case declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. Scholars such as Kluger (1976) in *Simple Justice* discuss how political activism, legal strategies, and public protests helped dismantle segregationist policies (Tsoy et al., 2021).

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (1965): Civil rights groups, including the NAACP, played a crucial role in securing federal funding for schools serving low-income and minority students (Apple et al., 2022).

School Desegregation and Backlash (1970s–1990s): While civil rights movements succeeded in pushing for integration, political resistance led to policies such as school vouchers and charter schools, which critics argue have contributed to modern forms of segregation (Platt et al., 2022).

3.4 Women's Movements and the Expansion of Educational Rights

Feminist movements have also played a crucial role in advocating for gender equality in education.

Title IX (1972, U.S.): Feminist activists successfully lobbied for Title IX, a law prohibiting gender discrimination in federally funded educational institutions (Diessner et al., 2022).

Access to Higher Education (1990s–Present): Women's rights groups continue to push for equal opportunities in STEM fields, university admissions, and scholarship programs, particularly in

countries where gender disparities persist (Huttunen & Albrecht, 2021).

Global Advocacy for Girls' Education: Organizations such as Malala Fund and UNESCO highlight how feminist and human rights movements have pressured governments to expand girls' access to

3.5 Contemporary Social Movements and Education Policy
In recent years, teacher unions, student activists, and grassroots organizations have mobilized to resist neoliberal reforms in education.

The Teachers' Strikes (2018–2020, U.S.): Mass protests in states such as West Virginia, Arizona, and Oklahoma demanded better wages and increased school funding, resulting in legislative changes (Dutta & Fischer, 2021).

Student-Led Movements for Free Education (2010s–Present, Global): From Chile to South Africa, student protests have called for tuition-free higher education, leading to policy changes and increased government investment in education (Skocpol, 2024).

Anti-Privatization Protests (2010s–Present, U.K. and U.S.): Activists have opposed the growing influence of private corporations in public education, advocating for increased government oversight and accountability (Devereux, 2021) .

4. Contemporary Challenges and Future Directions
Recent studies highlight the ongoing impact of political movements on social security and public education amid globalization and economic shifts. argues that economic crises have led to political movements demanding stronger social safety nets, challenging austerity-driven policies. Similarly, Lipman (2023)critiques how neoliberal policies have eroded democratic governance in social programs, emphasizing the need for renewed political activism. In education, Ball (2012) in *Global Education Inc.: New Policy Networks and the Neoliberal Imaginary* examines how corporate influences shape public education policies, raising concerns about privatization (Mendez-Lopez et al., 2022). However, emerging social movements, such as student protests tuition hikes and teacher strike for better wages, continue to challenge these trends, advocating for equitable education policies. The literature underscores the profound impact of political movements in shaping social security and public education systems. From historical labor struggles to contemporary activism against neoliberal policies, political engagement has been instrumental in expanding and reforming these essential institutions. While ideological debates continue to shape policy trajectories, the role of social movements remains crucial in advocating for inclusive and equitable welfare policies. Future research should explore how new political dynamics, including digital activism and transnational movements, will influence the next phase of social policy development.

Research Gap
While existing literature extensively explores the historical contributions of political movements to social security and public education, significant research gaps remain. There is limited comparative analysis of how different political movements across diverse governance models and economic conditions have influenced policy outcomes over time. Additionally, while studies have examined the ideological battles shaping welfare policies, less attention has been given to how shifting political landscapes in the digital era affect activism and policymaking. The long-term impact of contemporary digital activism and transnational movements on social security and education policies also remains underexplored, particularly in developing nations where access to digital advocacy is uneven. Furthermore, existing research tends to focus on successful movements, overlooking instances where activism failed to bring about policy change. There is also a need for deeper analysis of how marginalized communities navigate political mobilization to influence welfare and education reforms. Addressing these gaps through empirical studies, cross-national comparisons, and primary data collection will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the evolving role of political movements in shaping social policies.

Research Method
Throughout history, political movements have played a pivotal role in shaping the foundation of modern welfare states, particularly in the realms of social security and public education (Michener et al., 2022). These two pillars of social policy are essential in promoting economic stability, reducing inequality, and ensuring access to fundamental human rights (Darder et al., 2023). However, their evolution has not been linear; rather, it has been driven by ideological battles, grassroots activism, and institutional reforms influenced by diverse political ideologies (Farley et al., 2021). From the labor movements of the early 20th century advocating for workers' pensions to the civil rights struggles demanding equal educational opportunities, political activism has consistently pushed governments to expand and refine these systems (Amul et al., 2022). In democratic societies, policies surrounding social security and education are often a reflection of the prevailing political discourse, where progressive and conservative forces debate the extent of government intervention in welfare provision. Meanwhile, in authoritarian regimes, political agendas dictate access to these services, often reinforcing state control (Gulson et al., 2022). This article explores the intricate relationship between political movements and the development of social security and public education. It examines historical milestones, key policy shifts, and the ongoing influence of political ideologies in shaping these crucial institutions. By understanding the role of activism and governance in molding welfare policies, we can better appreciate how political movements continue to shape the future of social security and education worldwide.

Discussion and Findings
The findings of this study reveal that political movements have played a critical role in shaping the development, expansion, and reform of social security and public education systems across different historical and political contexts. The results are discussed

in relation to the research objectives, focusing on the historical impact of movements, the influence of political ideologies, the effectiveness of contemporary activism, and the role of digital and transnational advocacy.

1. The Historical Impact of Labor Unions, Civil Rights Movements, and Feminist Activism

The study found that labor unions, civil rights movements, and feminist activism have significantly contributed to shaping social security and public education policies (Dobbin & Kalev, 2021). Labor movements, particularly in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, were instrumental in advocating for workers' rights, leading to the establishment of pension systems, unemployment insurance, and workplace protections (Tax, 2022).
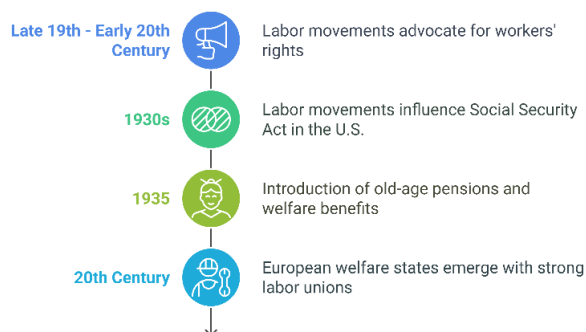

Figure 1: The Evolution of Social Security and Public Education Policies

In the United States, for example, the labor movements of the 1930s directly influenced the passage of the Social Security Act of 1935, which introduced old-age pensions and welfare benefits for vulnerable populations (Orleck, 2022). Similarly, in European countries such as Germany and Sweden, strong labor unions and socialist political parties pushed for the creation of universal welfare states that provided broad social security coverage (Roth, 2021) (Figure 1).

The civil rights movement in the United States played a key role in transforming public education policies.

Figure 2: Transformation of Public Education Policies

The study found that legal challenges and grassroots activism were central in dismantling segregationist policies, as exemplified by the landmark Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education in 1954 (Figure 2). This ruling laid the foundation for equal access to education, but the implementation of desegregation policies faced resistance, leading to prolonged struggles through the 1960s and 1970s (Brown, 2022). Additionally, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ensured federal intervention in enforcing equal education policies, demonstrating how political pressure can lead to institutional reform (Grosser, 2021). Feminist movements also played a crucial role in shaping educational policies, particularly in advocating for gender equality in schooling and access to higher education (Jinsook, 2021).
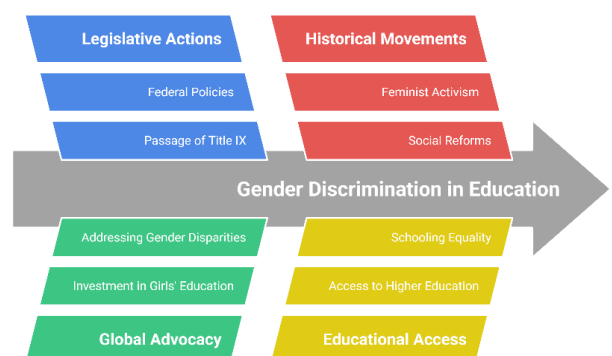

Figure 3: Impact Feminist Movement on Educational Policies

The study found that feminist activism in the late twentieth century led to the passage of Title IX in the United States in 1972, prohibiting gender discrimination in federally funded educational institutions (Sovacool, 2022a). Globally, feminist advocacy has pushed for increased investment in girls' education, particularly in regions where gender disparities persist (Figure 3). These historical movements illustrate the capacity of political activism to drive

structural changes in social security and education policies (Devereux, 2021).

2. The Influence of Political Ideologies on Social Security and Public Education Policies

Political ideologies have been found to significantly shape the design and implementation of welfare and education policies (V. George & Wilding, 2023).

Figure 4: Political Ideologies and Policy Impact

The study confirms that left-leaning governments, particularly those influenced by socialist and social-democratic ideologies, have historically supported the expansion of universal social security and public education (Figure 4) (Esping-Andersen, 2024b). In Scandinavian countries, for example, social-democratic parties institutionalized comprehensive welfare states that provide free education and extensive social protections (Hartmann et al., 2023). Similarly, post-war European welfare policies were largely shaped by Keynesian economic principles, emphasizing government intervention in public welfare (V. George & Manning, 2021). In contrast, right-leaning and neoliberal ideologies have promoted market-based approaches to social security and education (Sullivan et al., 2022).
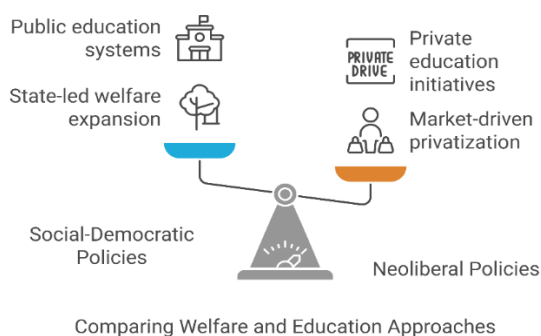

Figure 5: Comparing Welfare and Education Approaches

The study found that during the 1980s and 1990s, neoliberal policies led to a shift towards privatization, reducing the role of the state in welfare provision (Esping-Andersen, 2024a). The Reagan administration in the United States and the Thatcher government in the United Kingdom implemented policies aimed at cutting public spending on social security and increasing private sector involvement in education (Abay et al., 2023). These reforms included the introduction of school vouchers, charter schools, and pension privatization, reflecting a broader ideological shift that emphasized individual responsibility over state support (Figure 5). The findings suggest that the ideological orientation of governments plays a decisive role in determining the extent of welfare and education reforms (Kim & Kim, 2021). Progressive movements have historically advocated for expanded social security and education rights, while conservative and neoliberal actors have sought to limit state involvement, often leading to policy retrenchment (Zancajo et al., 2022).

1. The Effectiveness of Contemporary Social Movements in Resisting Neoliberal Reforms

The study found that contemporary social movements have been instrumental in resisting neoliberal reforms and advocating for equitable access to social security and education (Stantcheva, 2021). Teacher strikes and student protests have emerged as powerful forces in demanding increased government investment in public education (Almeida & Martín, 2022).
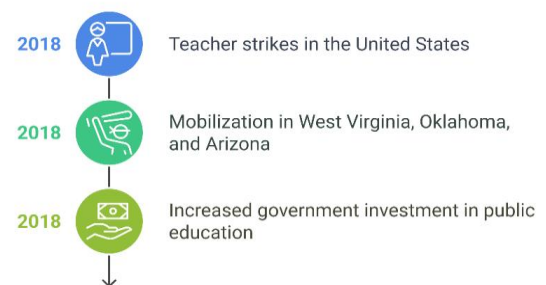

Figure 6: The Rise of Collective Action in Education Reform

The study highlights the 2018 teacher strikes in the United States, where educators in states such as West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Arizona mobilized to demand higher wages and increased school funding (Figure 6). These movements successfully pressured state governments to allocate additional resources to public schools, demonstrating the continued impact of collective action (Ellner et al., 2022). Similarly, student-led movements have played a significant role in advocating for tuition-free higher education and resisting austerity-driven education policies (Morrow & Torres, 2022). The study found that protests in Chile, South Africa, and the United Kingdom have challenged rising tuition fees and the privatization of education (Sovacool, 2022b). In Chile, for example, student protests in the 2010s led to policy reforms that expanded access to publicly funded university education. These findings indicate that despite the dominance of neoliberal policies, social movements continue to exert influence by mobilizing public support and challenging government decisions (Reininger et al., 2022). In the realm of social security, labor movements and advocacy groups have resisted efforts to dismantle welfare programs (Mikelatou & Arvanitis, 2023). The study highlights

cases in France and Greece, where large-scale protests pension reforms forced governments to reconsider proposed austerity measures. These findings suggest that political activism remains a crucial tool in defending social security policies from retrenchment (Magdahl, 2022).

2. The Role of Digital Activism and Transnational Movements in Policy Advocacy

The study found that digital activism and transnational movements have increasingly shaped social security and education policies in the modern era. The rise of social media has provided activists with powerful tools to mobilize support, coordinate protests, and influence public opinion (Ballesteros-Quilez et al., 2022).

Figure 7: The Impact of Digital Activism on Social Movement

The study highlights movements such as the Global Climate Strikes and the #RedForEd campaign, where digital platforms played a key role in organizing protests and amplifying advocacy messages (Figure 7). Transnational movements have also emerged as influential actors in education and welfare policy (Monjane, 2023).
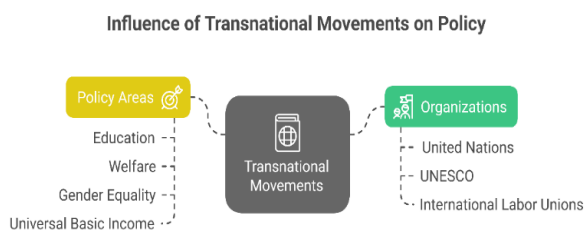

Figure 8: Influence of Transnational Movement on Policy

The study found that organizations such as the United Nations, UNESCO, and international labor unions have played a role in promoting policy changes across multiple countries (S. George et al., 2023). For example, global initiatives advocating for universal basic income have gained traction in response to rising economic inequalities and job automation. In education, transnational campaigns for gender equality, such as Malala Fund's advocacy for girls' education, have influenced national policies in several developing countries (Figure 8). These findings suggest that while traditional grassroots activism remains important, digital, and

transnational movements have expanded the reach and impact of political advocacy. However, the study also highlights challenges, including the digital divide and the risk of online movements lacking sustained political engagement. The results of the study demonstrate that political movements have been essential in shaping social security and public education systems. Historical labor movements, civil rights campaigns, and feminist activism laid the foundation for many of the welfare policies in place today. Political ideologies have played a key role in determining policy directions, with progressive movements advocating for expansion and conservative movements often promoting retrenchment. Contemporary social movements continue to resist neoliberal reforms and demand greater government accountability, while digital activism and transnational movements have introduced new dynamics in policy advocacy. Despite challenges such as political resistance and economic constraints, the study confirms that political movements remain a vital force in shaping the future of social security and public education.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed to strengthen the role of political movements in shaping social security and public education systems while addressing contemporary challenges and policy gaps.

1. Governments and policymakers should recognize the historical contributions of labor unions and civil rights movements in advocating for social security policies. There is a need for stronger collaboration between labor organizations, civil rights groups, and policymakers to ensure the continued protection and expansion of social security programs. Governments should establish transparent consultation mechanisms where workers' representatives and advocacy groups can participate in decision-making processes related to pension reforms, unemployment benefits, and healthcare policies (Honey & Sultana, 2023).

2. Given that political ideologies significantly influence the design and implementation of social security and public education policies, there should be mechanisms to protect these policies from abrupt ideological shifts due to changes in government leadership. This can be achieved through bipartisan agreements, constitutional protections, or legally binding policy frameworks that safeguard essential welfare and education rights from political instability or retrenchment (Honey & Hossain, 2024).

3. Political movements have played a key role in advocating for equitable access to education, but continued pressure is needed to ensure sustainable funding. Governments should implement policies that guarantee adequate public funding for education, particularly in marginalized and underserved communities. This includes increasing teacher salaries, improving school infrastructure, and ensuring equitable distribution of resources. Additionally, regular

independent audits should be conducted to prevent corruption and misallocation of education funds.

4. Grassroots political activism has been a driving force in policy change, yet many movements face structural barriers to influencing policy decisions. Governments and international organizations should create platforms for participatory governance, where social movements, unions, and civil society organizations have institutionalized representation in policymaking. Encouraging participatory budgeting, public hearings, and citizen oversight committees can ensure that social security and education policies reflect the needs of the broader population rather than elite interests.

5. Digital activism has emerged as a powerful tool for mobilization, but its effectiveness can be improved through strategic policy engagement. Advocacy groups should develop digital literacy programs to enhance activists' ability to use social media for evidence-based policy discussions rather than symbolic protests. Furthermore, governments should establish formal mechanisms to engage with digital advocacy groups, ensuring that online activism translates into tangible policy outcomes.

6. Since political movements are increasingly transnational, there is a need for greater international collaboration in shaping social security and education policies. Global organizations such as the United Nations, International Labour Organization, and UNESCO should strengthen partnerships with local advocacy groups to ensure that best practices in welfare and education reforms are shared across nations. Developing countries should be supported in adopting progressive policies through financial aid, policy exchange programs, and technical assistance.

7. Many political movements advocating for social security and education reforms face repression, legal restrictions, or lack of organizational support. Governments should uphold the rights to free speech, assembly, and collective bargaining to allow movements to function without fear of political persecution. Additionally, international human rights organizations should provide legal and financial support to activists working in restrictive political environments.

8. A lack of public awareness about the importance of social security and education reforms can limit the effectiveness of political movements. Governments and civil society organizations should invest in civic education programs that inform citizens about their rights, the history of welfare policies, and how they can engage in political activism. Schools and universities should integrate civic engagement and policy awareness into their curricula to encourage youth participation in policy advocacy.

9. While digital activism has expanded the reach of political movements, disparities in internet access and technological literacy limit participation among marginalized populations. Governments and international organizations should invest in expanding internet infrastructure, particularly in rural and underserved areas, to ensure that all citizens can engage in digital advocacy efforts. Digital education programs should also be developed to empower activists with the skills needed to navigate online political engagement effectively.

10. While this study has demonstrated the role of political movements in shaping social security and public education, future research should focus on the long-term policy impacts of different movements across various political and economic contexts. Comparative studies examining the sustainability of social security and education reforms initiated by political activism would provide deeper insights into best practices and areas requiring further reform.

By institutionalizing participatory governance, leveraging digital advocacy, ensuring stable policy frameworks, and addressing systemic barriers to activism, governments and advocacy groups can work together to create inclusive, equitable, and sustainable social policies. Moving forward, political movements must continue to adapt to new challenges while ensuring that their advocacy translates into concrete policy outcomes that benefit broader society.

Limitations

This study faced several limitations that may have impacted the depth and scope of its findings. First, the reliance on secondary data limited access to firsthand accounts of political movements, which could have provided more nuanced insights into their strategies and challenges. Second, variations in political systems and socio-economic contexts across different countries made direct comparisons difficult, as the impact of political movements on social security and public education policies is highly context dependent. Additionally, the study primarily focused on successful movements, potentially overlooking cases where activism failed to bring about policy change. The evolving nature of digital activism and transnational movements also posed a challenge, as their long-term effects on policy development remain uncertain. Finally, potential biases in historical records and media sources may have influenced the interpretation of past events, necessitated cautious analysis when drew conclusions. Future research incorporating primary data collection, such as interviews with activists and policymakers, could help address these limitations and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the topic.

Conclusion

This study has demonstrated that political movements have played a crucial role in shaping social security and public education systems across different historical and political contexts. From labor unions advocating for workers' rights to civil rights movements demanding equal educational opportunities, activism has been instrumental in driving policy reforms that have expanded access to social welfare and education. The study highlighted how

political ideologies influence these policies, with progressive movements pushing for state-led interventions and conservative forces often advocating for privatization and limited government involvement. Contemporary social movements continue to resist neoliberal reforms, calling for greater public investment in education and social security. The rise of digital activism and transnational advocacy has further expanded the reach of political movements, enabling global solidarity in policy campaigns. However, challenges such as political resistance, economic constraints, and disparities in access to activism remain significant obstacles. The study also identified key limitations, including difficulties in comparing diverse political contexts and the evolving nature of modern activism. Moving forward, ensuring policy stability, strengthening grassroots advocacy, and leveraging digital activism will be critical in sustaining and expanding welfare and education policies. Governments, civil society organizations, and international bodies must work together to institutionalize participatory governance and protect the rights of activists advocating for social reforms. Ultimately, political movements will remain a vital force in shaping the future of social security and public education, ensuring these systems continue to serve as pillars of economic stability and social equity.

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