Prompted by the widespread saturation of Facebook usage in Saudi Arabia, among university students to socialize with online members, this study investigated the usage, self-presentation, psychological and sociological consequences of the Facebook social networking site among undergraduate students in Saudi Arabia. The problem statements of this study were addressed by answering the seven research questions: 1) What motivation does undergraduate students have for joining Facebook? 2) How undergraduate students do consume Facebook? 3) In what condition does undergraduate students need Facebook? 4) How do undergraduate students manage their self-presentation via Facebook? 5) What are the experiences obtained by the undergraduate students from Facebook psychologically? 6) What are the experiences obtained by the undergraduate students from Facebook sociologically? 7) How have Facebook activities affected the lifestyle of the undergraduate students? The research questions were answered by analysing in-depth interview data collected from twenty male undergraduate students between the ages of 18 and 24 years selected from King Saud University (KSU) and King Khalid University (KKU) Saudi Arabia. Using thematic analysis, informants data were coded 'R1 to R20', validated and was transcribed to minimize error from translating into the research items from Arabic back to English Language. Using purposive sampling method informant perspective within the research context were explored. Data collection confined to motivations students have for engaging in online activities, self-presentation, psychological and sociological consequences to their everyday life was investigated based on the theoretical and philosophical perspective underpinnings media and gratification paradigm and social influence theory. The research findings contributed to the development of important research themes that supported the development of a new research framework. Based on the analysis, all the research questions were answered. The findings for this study showed that the students use Facebook for the purpose of interacting with others, getting information and as knowledge sources. In terms of self-presentation, this study revealed that the students portray themselves in real and not fake image while socializing with others psychological and sociological consequences from the usage of Facebook are recorded ranging from cheerful to stress and from loneliness to having many friends. As a conclusion, this study conclusively drawn that Facebook is a very persuasive medium of communication among the University students in Saudi Arabia that bridges across socio-cultural boundaries and unites students to interact as a community.

This study examines the utilisation of online alternative media and its implications towards participatory democracy. Since the enactment of the Communication and Multimedia Act 1999, online alternative media such as Malaysiakini, Malaysia Today, and the Malaysian Insider have played a pivotal role in many political events including the post-Mahathir-Anwar political crisis, the 2008 financial crisis, election campaign, Anwar’s sodomy case, and Dr. Hasan Ali’s disclosure of PAS weaknesses. Online alternative media assist in spearheading some other relevant issues that reflect the undercurrent of discontentment or otherwise the participation of peoples’ voices towards democracy. Dissident voices become aloud without fear to voice out their opinions and dissatisfaction on political issues via online alternative media. Indirectly, it forms a force for a shift of democratic paradigm. Among others this study has explored the role of online alternative media and answered the enquiry of how Malaysians have utilised it for participatory democracy. This study employed the qualitative research method by means of doing semi-structured interviews and qualitative content analysis as data analysis techniques. Within this research approach, examples of the democratic phenomenon were analysed to gain a sense of its general essence. The findings imply that participatory democratic stance via the alternative media is less significant. There were instances where the people voices through online alternative media have gained attention from the policy and decision-makers, and in some other instances it has worked hand in hand with the traditional media.