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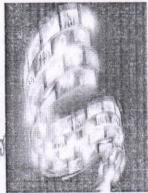
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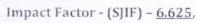
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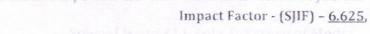
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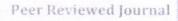


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Impact of Social Media on Youth: Positive and Negative Aspects

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Abstract:

Information technology has become the integral part of our life. It affected not only individuals, communities, business but also the entire nation. The internet has made the world a global village and connected the people all over the world. Internet plays a vital role in education, career, employment, communication, marketing etc. The internet based applications are known as social media. Facebook, WhatsApp, Google+, YouTube, Pinterest, Skype, twitter, Snapchat and Instagram are included in social media. If you are not on any social media platform, you will be left behind and forgotten. Everyone is on social media irrespective of their age and social status and is always in frenzy when it comes to socializing online. As the popularity of social media has spread all over the world, there have been mixed feelings about these networks and how they impact the youth. The present research paper is a noble venture to analyze and evaluate the various positive and negative impacts of social media on youth.

Keywords: Social media, Facebook, Twitter, Internet, Society, Youth, Education.

Introduction:

It is said that need is the mother of all inventions. Curiosity is the inherent tendency of a human being who has always been curious about new things happening around him. The man who was once living in the primitive age has now brought a sea change in the world of information and technology due to his intellect and unending quest for knowledge. In the ancient time people used to travel and spend hours or days together to meet their relatives or send letters. But in today's modern techno savvy world social media networking is the most commonly utilized method of communication and is used by all the age group people belonging to different walks of life. These social media have crossed and demolished all the domestic walls of caste, creed, religion or social status. It has undoubtedly given a new direction, new aspects and completely new perspective to look at the life and society. In today's digital world it is observed that right from the teenagers to old age people i.e. all age group people have been using social media enormously and amongst all these, youth has been severely affected by these social sites. Different surveys have been conducted to study the positive and negative effects of social media on youth and it is observed that around 83% youngsters use social media through mobile day in and day out and get addicted to it. They are so engrossed in their world of illusion that they completely forget the real people and the existing world around them. So in the present paper I have tried to study the impact of social media on today's youth.

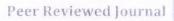
What is Social Media?

The word "Social Media" means collection of applications (Facebook, WhatsApp, Google+, YouTube, Pinterest, Skype, twitter, Snapchat or Instagram etc.) and website that allows people to share information and aware people about any event through social networking from

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the beginning of the 21st century, social media is in progress and people belonging to different age groups social media. These sites allow us to sign in and create our profile and then connect with the people around the globe. Social media plays a vital role in life. Information Technology (IT) changed the living standard. These sites provide several ways of communication and different opportunities to learn the topics on their own by watching YouTube. The youngsters form and join different groups on Facebook to interact with people and discuss different topics.

Evolution of Social Media: From Past to Present

Today everyone knows and uses social media. Even the most remote parts of the world have heard about Facebook and WhatsApp, and they probably use it every day too. However, it wasn't like this a decade ago. Very few people had internet access at that time and smartphones were not even introduced in the market. Today, most of us can't live without social media. In fact, we scroll through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Pinterest at least twice or thrice every hour. Most people define social media as the ability to use the internet to share and connect with others instantly. The first social media site was a website called 'Six Degrees' that was launched in 1997. It allowed its users to create a profile and then befriend other users. From Six Degrees, the internet emerged into the era of instant messaging and blogging. As the millennium changed, almost 100 million people had access to the internet. Social media was looked upon as an unusual hobby at that time. Yet, people all across the world began to use chat rooms to make new friends, to date, and to discuss topics with other like-minded people. However, the huge boom of social media was yet to come. LinkedIn was yet another website that was founded in 2002 and was one of the very first social media websites. In 2004, Mark Zuckerberg launched Facebook, which later became a social media giant and boasts over a billion users. In 2006, the popularity of SMS and text messaging inspired Jack Dorsey, Biz Stone, Noah Glass, and Evan Williams to create Twitter. Today, Twitter has a staggering 500 million user-base. Instagram was launched for IOS users in 2010 and for Android users in 2012. Today, it is one of the top-most social media sites for photo sharing. Now in 2019 we have thousands of social media platforms which are not only widely used, but it also became widespread in business. With innovative and exciting technology just around the corner, the further evolution of social media will be interesting to witness.

Impact of Social Media on Society:

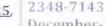
Social media has broken down the barriers when it comes to communicating someone and we have multiple options to get in touch with. Social media has also made it easier for us to express ourselves not only to our friends but to the outside world through Facebook, Instagram pictures, YouTube videos, WhatsApp etc. on a massive scale. Before social media, we were unable to share our opinion to the mass and now, the story is different. Within a few minutes, thousands could know about your opinion. Social media has also made it easier for us to track people down. I know what some of my former high school peers are up to even when I have not even been in touch with some of them for years. There are seemingly endless sources we can search to access the information we need to find the people we have to find.

Social media offers the opportunity for people to re-connect with their old friends and acquaintances, make new friends, trade ideas, share content and pictures, and many other activities. Social issues are also being discussed on these sites and we can express our opinions freely and raise our voice and protest. The social sites spread awareness about many social

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issues. Undoubtedly social media is changing and will continue to change our society. This change is permanent as the upcoming generation won't even know a world where social media does not exist. This has its advantages and disadvantages, but like everything else, it's up to the user to decide whether social media can enhance their lives or not and this all depends on how they decide to use it.

Impact of Social Media on Education:

Nowadays social media has become a new set of cool tools for involving young students whose life revolves around social media only as it is also a medium where students can establish beneficial connections for their glorious future. According to the recent survey conducted in the colleges, it is found that 90% of college students use social networks for communication and quick sharing of information. With the help of social media students can easily communicate or share information quickly with each through various social sites like Facebook, Orkut, WhatsApp and Instagram etc. In education, social media has been used as an innovative way of teaching and learning.

Education institutions have also started adapting these developments into their systems and relying on group resources and mechanisms to improve the student life. The use of social media in education provides students with the ability to get more useful information, to connect with learning groups and other educational systems that make education convenient. Social networking tools afford students and institutions with multiple opportunities to improve learning methods. Valuable knowledge can be gained through social media such as analytics and insights on various topics or issues for study purposes. The educational platforms like Moodle, Swayam, MOOC and Flipped classrooms are also used for teaching and learning and are very much in vogue. Despite this these social networking sites such as Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter are gaining popularity due to their attractive features. The young generation is fascinated towards them and distracted themselves from their studies and professions.

Positive Impacts of Social Media on Youth:

- Social media gives a way to the students to effectively reach each other in regards to class ventures, bunch assignments or for help on homework assignments.
- Social media helps youngsters to stay connected with each other. The school mates and colleges move to different cities or countries after finishing school or college.
- It makes youngsters update on the various events happening around the globe and help them to stay connected with their fellow youths and friends.
- It bridges the gap between friends since a person who stays in Africa can network and interact with his or her friend in the United States.
- Useful information can be exchanged over social networking sites. Young people can share ideas, acquire information and also be exposed to many opportunities out there.
- Apart from just socializing, the social networking sites have become frontiers for the corporate world to advertise their goods and services. Therefore, social media offers an array of opportunities for youth. Popular young people can be hired by corporations to be their brand ambassadors online.
- Social media is also serves as a platform to showcase their talents and can earn a considerable amount of money by running podcasts and Vlogs. Youth ear also run

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businesses through social media by sharing whatever goods and services they offer to friends and in groups for a wider coverage.

• It is a platform where people can express their honest opinions freely.

Negative Impacts of Social Media on Youth:

- Social media reduces the number of face-to-face interactions amongst the youths as they
 usually spend most of their time on these online social platforms. This social isolation
 can cause a number of effects such as physical, emotional, mental and psychological
 issues in these youths. This can in turn lead to depression, anxiety and many other
 problems.
- It also leads to misspelling of words and misuse of words and tenses through the use of short forms and abbreviations. This has a high negative impact more so on students because it affects their language capabilities directly and this lead to poor grades in languages.
- Social platforms also pose serious health hazards for users. Staring for long at the PC
 may lead to eye problems. The avid users sit at one place for hours and likely to suffer
 from obesity and are exposed to obesity-related diseases, such as heart diseases, diabetes,
 high blood pressure and stroke due to inactivity and lack of movement.
- It exposes young teens below eighteen years to online predators who indulge them into sexual acts such as lesbianism and other general sexual misconducts.
- It also exposes these teens to pornographic content being spread in some the social groups online. This in turn leads to early pregnancies amongst young girls causing them to drop out of school.

Conclusion:

Social networking has been proved to have both positive and negative effects on our youths. They have to decide whether to continue using these sites or stop or else monitor their usage. Parents should guide and advise their children about the usage of social media and make them aware of its negative impacts when misused or overused. The education curriculum also should be revised so that it can include social media studies in its disciplines so as to alert students that they need to be careful in their social media usage.

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