**INSTAGRAM**

**“Social Networking” apps have taken over our lives. Every mobile phone, at least every hone of a teenager has an app of social networking- Facebook, Snapchat, Pinterest, Instagram, Reddit, and many more.**

**I made an account on Instagram. I wanted to see what y friends would always talk about, “today on insta..”, “Insta this..”, “Insta that…”. It was quite frustrating not knowing what they are talking about. So, I finally made an account.**

**WHAT IS INSTAGRAM?**

**I must say, Instagram gets quite addicting if you use it for a while. It isn’t confusing using Instagram at all! Post, chat, look, search, befriend, everything is so easy! In fact, the updated version of Instagram is amazing!**

**Instagram is a platform where people from various places connect, share, explore and have fun.**

**People post their photos, or any food photo, or even a story. A “story” is a photo or video that when posted, disappears itself in 24 hours of being posted. Like, we can share in a story of what we did today.**

**IS INSTAGRAM GOOD?**

**In my opinion, I wouldn’t call Instagram bad or boring at all. Instagram is a simple social networking app, where you even have an option to make your profile public or private. If you choose to make your account private in settings then only your ‘follower’ can see what you posted or what you likes.**

**Followers are like friends on Facebook. However, there is a difference here. The people we follow, we can see what they post and do, and the people who follow us can know our activity, however, unlike Facebook, if we accept aa follow request, then we need to either follow back(public account) or send follow request(private account). Thus, we are saved from seeing activity of any random person following us. Now again, why would we want any random person in our follower list.**

**Unless we are stupid or really unlucky, we can be saved from any cyber crime.**

**HOW DOES INSTAGRAM WORK?**

**The updated version of Instagram even allows us to make a Fake Instagram. Confused? Let me explain.**

**We now have an option of choosing few close friends from our follower list and them to “close friends list”. In this way when we post or do anything which is not to be shown to everyone as there is chance of getting in a problem, then we can do it for just the close friends list, only they will be able to see our post. Interesting, isn’t it?**

**STRENGTH AND WEAKNESSES**

**Everything has its own strength and weaknesses. While I think, Instagram is perfect and amazing, it can still be dangerous.**

***Strengths :***

* **An account that is private, ensures that the posts(photos, content), stories or activity, even who and who not they are following is hidden. So misuse is not possible.**
* **There is an explore tab, where people have made accounts public deliberately as they post jokes, or celebrities’ content or the all time famous ‘memes’.**
* **Some Insta pages re really good like there are few scientific facts pages, or every day news pages. They can be helpful for everyone.**
* **Again, being a social networking app, it allows to make new friends, or stay in contact with the friends and family far away.**
* **There is an option of video call between two and even a group of friends.**
* **The person I am not following can not trouble me by spamming me with messages because his/her messages are stores in a message request box that I can chose or not choose to open and see.**
* **In the direct message area(DMs), basically, where we chat, we can even send direct snaps or stories or photos to them without being shown to every follower of our.**
* **Sometimes, people tend to post on their profile as well as a story about an eye-opening campaigns or news, to reach out to people how wrong happened or stuff like that.**
* **We can publicize brands. Like few clothing brands can post their latest fashion trend.**
* **Some people like to follow their celebrities, this is like a platform where the celebrities post about themselves and what they are up to and what not on their own.**

***Weakness :***

* **It is our choice to make an account private and public. In a fight of who has more followers, children tend to keep their account public and post ‘very good’ photos. This is dangerous since their photos can be misused.**
* **Sometimes, people make fake accounts of celebrities and lure people in to meet them. Now, we all know it is stupid to think so, but a socially back person or maybe a bullied child, can think of it as a way to become cool, and get trapped in such scams.**
* **Even children tend to make fake profiles in a plan to either prank or worse take revenges on stupid fights, children are at a growing age and do stupid things. These things prove to be dangerous.**
* **There are offensive posts like half nude or even full nude pictures of models. A child if comes through such posts, can not only get distracted but also turn towards a wrong path or maybe get trapped because of his/her curiosity and desire.**

**IS IT HELPFUL?**

**Yes! Instagram is really helpful in many ways. The weaknesses points, I discussed how Instagram can be dangerous, but then again, anything in hands of children, without supervision is not good.**

**Some common points are that we get to mingle and network. However, there is much more to that.**

* **Students can get knowledge through this. Some people posts knowledgeable facts on their public account in a way of a joke or a meme which is quite an interesting way and has proved to be useful in making students learn. In the comments section(a section where we can comment on that particular post, whose section it is).**
* **News. There are accounts telling us news about sports like NBA or F1 race and also some tend to spread really important political news as well.**
* **A good time pass! Well, we can’t deny the fact that we do search for safe yet lazy ways to pass out time or do something when we are bored out of our mind. Well scrolling through an Instagram news feed is really good way.**

**The strengths and weaknesses I have written, covers most of the reason why many people may or may not like Instagram as a good social networking app.**

**ANY TRENDS?**

**Many trends have been started on Instagram.**

* **The “story” : This wasn’t there few years back. Basically, people say that it is a copy of snapchat. But then again, it has made it easier for people to do every stuff on Instagram and not needing a separate snapchat app for it.**
* **Filters : There were no filters on the story of Instagram, those too were added a while after story came.**
* **IGTV : This is a new feature on Instagram, where stories, like news about a celebrity, or DIY Hacks, new songs by artists, can be posted as different IGTV. These can be long and not limited to one-minute post.**
* **Buying products : Now-a-days, Instagram has made it possible to sell and buy products directly from Instagram. For example, I can buy a dress I like that Forever21 posted and labelled it as a buy and sell. So I don’t have to go on their official site or any other online shopping sites.**
* **Highlights : Story posted will disappear inn 24 ours, but from the new trend of highlights, I can go to my stories archive, where the disappeared stories are there, and add them to a highlight, which will always be visible on my profile. This way now the stories I don’t want to disappear, always stays on my profile.**

**MIS-INFORMATION**

**Again, this comes back to how people can be fooled because some sadist person decides to make a public account and let stupid people get lured in and trapped. However, we can always report an offensive or wrong post, it still doesn’t mean that few people weren’t already a target to it.**

**However, it is said that compared to any other media app, Instagram is much better and safe.**

**Instagram seems like the best option of a social networking app to me as there are all options of keeping us safe and still having fun. I would recommend this app to many people, if they are not already using it, whose chances are low!**