COMP-2097 Assignment One

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If I am being honest, social media does not play a massive role in my life anymore. When I was younger, however, this was not the case. Back in highschool

much of my time was spent endlessly scrolling through Facebook/Twitter/Instagram and I started to notice a decrease in my overall happiness. I was not the most person and I realized that the constant flow of other people’s lives into my own started to take over. That is why I started to move away from user based social media into more personally tailored knowledge based communities such as Reddit or Quora. These newer social media platforms allowed me to learn a plethora of new topics while still engaging with others from around the world.

Personally, I believe that making a blanket statement that social media is either positive or negative for society is a very narrow minded outlook on the current situation. In certain aspects, social media can be viewed as a negative by dissociating teens from the real world causing a lack of human contact in schools and easily dragging down their mental health (Akrum & Kumar, 2017).Although, on the positive side of things, social media has improved the way that we teach youth; providing an exquisite way to connect teachers and students like never before (Siddiqui & Singh, 2016). Overall, social media is a very powerful tool that, like anything else, if used correctly can have an overwhelmingly positive impact but can also turn against society when used in the negative way.

With social media being so wide spread, it is only natural to have concerns. One of the biggest concerns that sticks out to me is age restrictions. In this era where children are learning how to utilize technology from as young as 8 years old (NAEYC, 2012), the lack of age verification required to view NSFW (not safe for work) content should be very concerning (from nudity to violence to cult ideologies). These topics have the potential to change a younger child's entire life by infiltrating their innocent, still developing, mind and derailing any future that they may have had. This is all locked behind a simple 18+ tick box that can be checked off by anyone with basic comprehension skills.

**Reference List**

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