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CSE 300

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Research Proposal

### How Does Technology Influence Communication Around the Globe?

The influence of technology is widespread among modern communications and social networks. For different groups and individuals, the effects of technology vary among alternative perspectives. It is important to consider that the audience of the younger population is most directly affected. In further research, it is also critical to consider populations divided by geography, different culture, and background. In doing so, it can be expected that new studies can hope to establish a more well informed consensus that provides insight into the ways technology can be utilized as a benefit to social good rather than as a toxin preventing good communication.

In particular, it is evident in several studies that technology has positive outcomes, such as the maintenance and development of social networks, and negative outcomes, such as the deterioration in social skills. One study observed that loneliness and social isolation are associated with increased or excessive internet use (Morahan-Martin). A similar study emphasized that technology presents a disturbance to daily life interactions. In this study, it was noted that one effect of technology in modern communication is that it forms unrealistic expectations in relationships. Even if positive interactions occur via technology, this “offers the illusion of companionship without the demands of friendship” (Arnd-Caddigan). In a larger study, mobile phone and internet use encouraged growth in social networks and participation in

community and charitable activities (Hampton). In a study of the senior population, technology served as the intervention “essential in contributing to the wellbeing of seniors” (Khosravi). One last study explored the phenomenon of “hyper-connectivity” described as the shared experience of the “availability of people for communication anywhere and anytime”. Ultimately, using technology as a tool to enhance social wellbeing and develop social networks is an elective choice for each individual (Standlee). In each of the studies, the results of research were constrained by region where the majority of research was conducted on the American population.

It is because of these constraints that further research should be done among different populations that standby common values varied by tradition and culture associated with an individual’s background. For example, countries like China hold a population that is more uniform with a history of placing importance on ideals of a duty to the whole above the individual such as Confucianism. Furthermore, China has its own powerful application similar to Facebook called WeChat. In this sense, constraining to other regions, bounds new studies to the present in one general area of more uniform population.

Research should be conducted both qualitatively and quantitatively to account for faults in previous studies. Qualitatively, participants would be interviewed with follow-up in regards to the role that technology places within an individual’s social life. Quantitatively, the number of hours spent using mobile, internet, social media, or other technology would be the main data required to be collected and analyzed. Research can be further constrained by emulating observation on the senior population and college students.

This proposal provides an original contribution by tying together parts that were done well in previous studies and mirroring the research with a different population. A study of this manner would also be able to identify biases affected by diversity within current and previous

research. Organizing populations can extend the understanding of the subject by discovering the ways, trends in research and other biases can be associated with different categories. For example, one might expect the results of this study to oppose previous research drastically. Otherwise, it would be found that the factor of diversity plays no role associated with the consensus of human social behavior.

## Works Cited

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