# Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology FACULTY OF COMPUTING



# IT1080 – English for Academic Purposes Project on Impact of Social Media on the Lives of Young Adults

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#### **Terms of Reference**

This report was submitted for fulfil the course for the course English for Academic purposes (IT1080), faculty of Computing of Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology.

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#### **Abstract**

Social Networking sites provide an oversized platform for discussion on burning issues that has been unmarked in today's rising world. Usage of social networking is among the foremost common activities of today's kids and adolescent. These sites provide today's youth a medium for amusement and communication, and these have fully grown expendably. Oldsters and academics become unaware of the character of mixer media sites, therefore square measure doing not apprehend that not all of them are healthy environments for his or her kids. The study is conducted to check the impact of social networking sites among the youths and varied issues related to it.

Usually this can be often a survey type analysis and here the knowledge is collected through tests. The tests are associated with favor reasonably social media for youth to envision the attitude of youth towards social networking sites. Negative use of social media is deteriorating the affiliation among the countries, however adversely and completely is that the youth tormented by the use of those websites however conjointly can facilitate the youth to grasp the effective utilization of those networks. The paper conjointly emphasizes the users on varied sites like Facebook, Twitter. This aim of this paper is to investigate the growing problems on youth because of the constant use of Social Network.

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#### Introduction

Social media is collective term for websites and applications which specialize in communication, community-based input, interaction, content sharing and collaboration. The media is the one type of instrument on communication. So that would be a social instrument of communication. Users can access social media services from apps on laptops, desktops, mobile phones and other devices. That is also rapidly changing the communication system. That is the best way in new generations communications. It has impacted significantly how students learn through this technology. In modern society's higher education's settings and other collaborate on the tasks of knowledge construction.

The influence of social media on teaching and learning developing day by day. Social media items can reinforce class material and collaborative work. The students and research are constantly experimenting with social media technologies. That also the capability to both receive and create content with the collective intelligence emerges. That is improve student's learning experiences to prepare them to enter a workforce. They also have highly developed online collaboration skills.

There are many definitions out of the web. So, let us look and see what they say, Cambridge English Dictionary says: "Websites and computer programs that allow people to communicate and share information on the internet using a computer or mobile phone." Tufts communications says: "Interactions among people in which they create, share, and/or exchange information and ideas in virtual communities and networks."

Today social medias are popular through all kind of people and all generations. Most popular social media websites are Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Qzone, snapchat, etc. These social medias are with most user-friendly interfaces and many technological functions. These social media applications can function in all types of computers.

We can explore social media on basic topics to research. Mainly it is described on,

- Privacy section
- Financial section
- Educational section
- Health section
- Terrorism basis

#### 1. Privacy section,

When people are using social media sites there are many privacy and policy rules to follow in software developer's side as well as the user's side.

#### 2. Financial section,

Social media sites are a good platform to business industry. It is easy to buy and selling on social media.

#### 3. Educational section

Social media sites are also very useful for educational purposes.

#### 4. Health section

When using social media, relation to health sectors there are many disadvantages than advantages.

#### 5. Terrorism basis

Terrorism can also attack and connects through social media.

#### **Methodology**

Social media is any digital tool that allows users to quickly create and share content with the public. Social media can be very influential on society in both positive and negative ways. It gives people a way to stay in touch with people who live far away. so that we decided to survey the impact of social media on the lives of young adults.

The online Questionnaires can be circulated more quickly to the respondents, as well as respondents can reply to the questionnaire and their convenience, Confidentiality is confirmed as only the recipients read the questionnaire. Because of those facts, we decided to use an online questionnaire technique. Firstly, we discussed and created a questionnaire which is consists of 10 questions to collect data for our assessment. All our group members shared the link of the survey through WhatsApp and Facebook messenger. The target populations of 170 students were Srilankans. The first two questions are demographic Information which is age and gender. The other questions help to find the facts and to get knowledge about the impact of social media on the lives of young adults.

We have used yes/no questions, closed-ended questions, opened-ended questions and multiple-choice questions in our questionnaire. 146 responses were gathered out of 170 target population. After gathering the information, we analyzed the gathered data. Throughout the research process, the researcher has remained mindful of the key areas of potential risk that are commonly associated with social science research: Avoiding harm to all involved in or potentially affected by the research. Ensuring the anonymity of all participants/respondents. Because of online questionnaire difficulties were arisen, some students had not enough knowledge to work with online forms.

#### **Data Analysis**

#### CATEGORIZATION OF RESPONSES BY THE PEOPLE.

This chart shows the results of the survey and represents the response rates of the participants, categorized according to gender, their age difference, and the region in which they live. The above results are based on 146 random responses taken through a google form from Sri Lankan people.

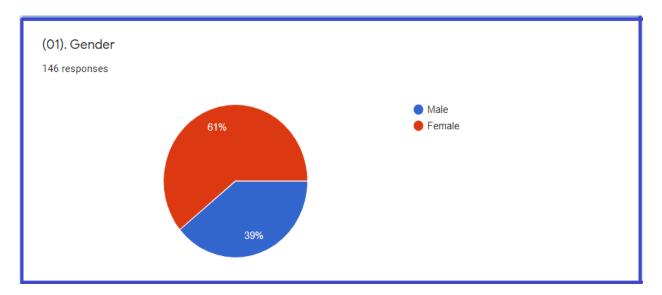


Figure 1.1

The first pie chart (1.1) is proportional to the gender of the individuals. 61% majority of the people who have filled the application are women and 39% rest of the people are men. And this research shows that women have a higher tendency to answer the questionnaire and men have a lower tendency to respond.

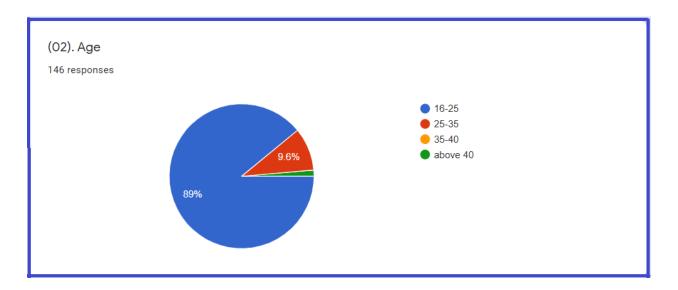


Figure 1.2

The second pie chart (1.2) describes the age difference between the people who filled out this form and their age. From 89% out of 146 people who had filled the form are fall into the 16-25 age group. Among who filled the question only 9.6% comes under the age group of 25-35 years old. No one between the ages 35-40 is involved in filling this form. 1.4% very small amount of people come above age 40. Therefore, this research shows that the 16-25 age group use social media the most and some 25-35 age group use it in most. One of the major things we have encountered is the usage of social media of above age 40 group are very less and few people that above 40 get involved in this research.

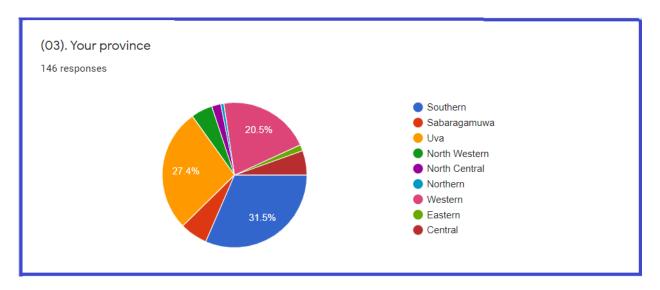


Figure 1.3

The third pie chart (1.3) illustrates the distribution of people who have involved in this research. According to this chart majority of people that filled this form are from Southern province, Uva province, and Western province. Their percentages are 31.5%, 27.4%, and 20.5% respectively. From that, the conclusion is that majority of our group members are from those provinces. The distribution of people within other provinces are very less and as a value, it is lesser than 20.6%. Among them, the northern province has acquired the least distribution.

#### **USAGE OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA IN SOCIETY**

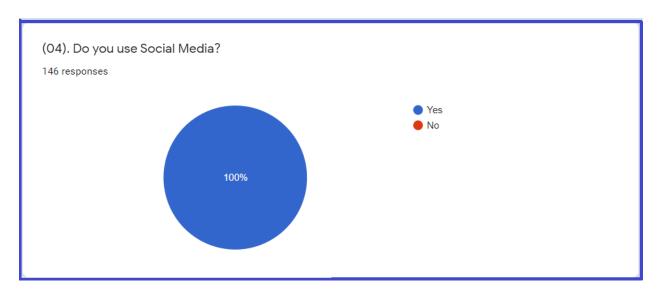


Figure 2.0

The percentage of using social media in society has become 100% according to this chart. It is because this form was sent through social media.

#### CLASSIFICATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA USED

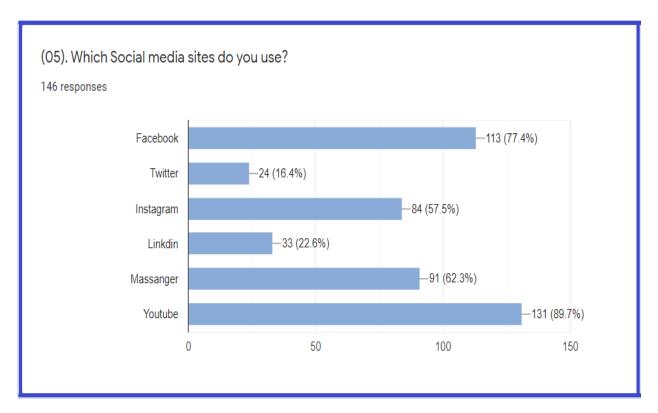


Figure 3.0

This bar chart shows how each social media is used by people among 146 responses. Among several social media, the most used one is YouTube. As a percentage, it is 89.7%. Twitter is the least used social media among people and as a percentage it is 16.4%. Other social media are used in moderately. As percentages Facebook, Messenger, Instagram and LinkedIn are 77.4%, 62.3%, 57.5%, and 22.6% respectively. As well as we can think some people use more than one social media according to this chart.

#### PERIOD OF SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE

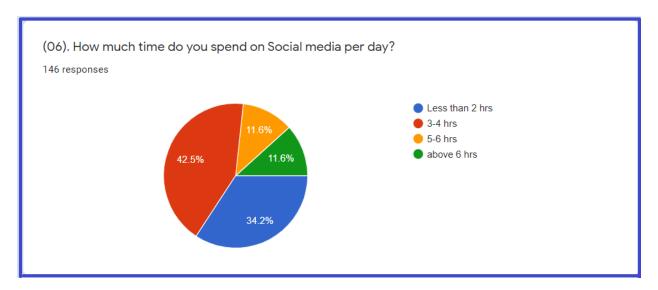


Figure 4.0

This pie chart shows the period of social media usage. According to this majority uses social media for less than 4 hours. Thus 42.5% of people use social media 2-4 hours and 34.2% of people use social media less than 2 hours. Only few amount use social media above 4 hours. As percentages, 11.6% of people and 11.6% of people use above 6 hours. This shows that the majority of people use social media for less than 2 hours a day.

#### KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

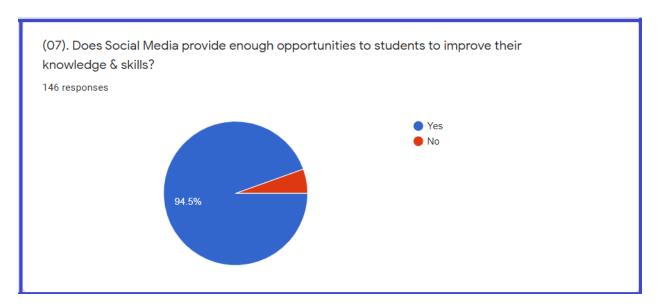


Figure 5.0

This pie chart expresses their opinion on whether or not people will have the opportunity to improve their knowledge and skills through social media. It was distributed to a yes / no question. 94.5% say that social media gives people ample opportunities to hone their knowledge and skills. 5.5% of minorities say that social media does not provide them with adequate opportunities to improve their knowledge and skills.

#### **REASONS TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA**

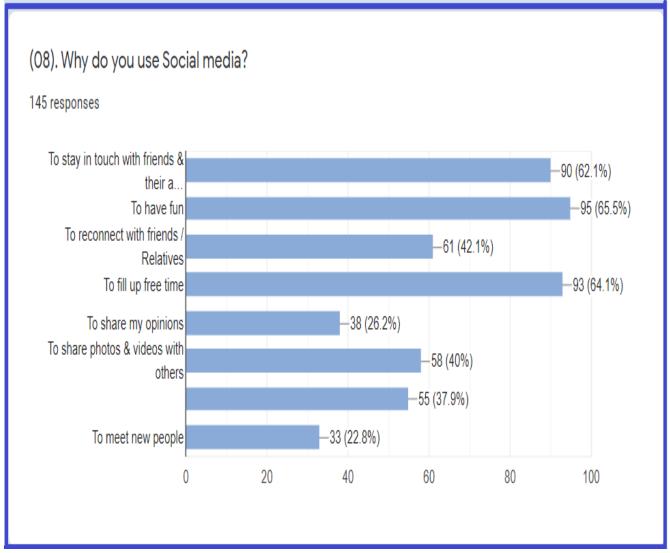


Figure 6.0

This bar chart (6.0) demonstrates the percentages of the reasons why people use social media. As evident from the above figure, 62.1% of people use social media to stay in touch with friends and their activities. Majority of 65.5% have explored that they use social media to have fun. According to the above figure, to reconnect with friends and families 42% use social media. Moreover, 64.1% of respondents use social media to fill up their free time while 26.2% use social media intending to share their opinions. 40% has responded as they use social media to share photos and videos with others. Moreover,37.9% has responded as they use social media in order to stay up to date with current events. As shown in the above figure, Minority of 22% use social media to meet new people.

#### IF YOU STAY AWAY FROM SOCIAL MEDIA FOR A SHORT TIME.

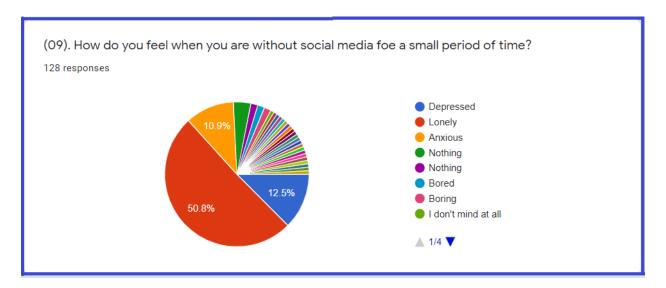


Figure 7.0

According to this pie chart, when we analyses the results, we are able to understand that how a person feels if he or she had to spend some time period without social media. Accordingly, 50.8% majority says they feel it is been a long time even they spent a short duration without social media. 12.5% of people suffer from the depressed condition and another 10.9% of people suffer from Anxious. Other few people suffer from conditions such as bored, boring and few people say they don't mind at all, it doesn't matter etc. Eventually, this pie chart illustrates that majority of people are addicted to social media.

#### YOUR CHILD AND SOCIAL MEDIA

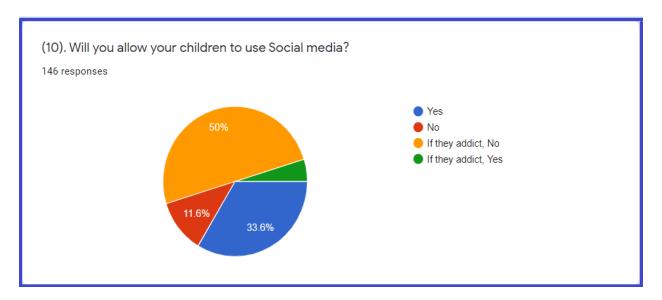


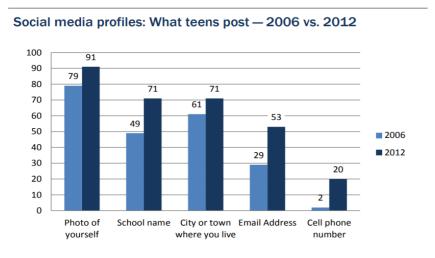
Figure 8.0

According to this note, 50% of parents do not approve of using social media because of their experience and the opinions of other people who use social media because their children are addicted to social media. But 33.6% approve of using social media. 11. 6% do not recommend using social media to their children due to various misconduct on social media. Based on factors such as social status, intelligence levels and education, 4.2% of adults recommend the use of social media even if their children are addicted to it.

#### **Privacy Sector**

In the present world social media become a most powerful tool among the young generation. Currently over millions of active users can be count over each specific service. These platforms collect and store user's privacy information to provide great experience. Basically all of the social services collect user's name, age, email address and phone number as required information. After user verify basic details they can have chance to create a user profile. In the other hand some other flatforms like Facebook, Instagram, Linkedin collect vast amount of user information than the other services. When users use above services they have to insert their pictures as a profile picture, their educational qualifications, current occupation and their favorite desires as well. Furthermore users can follow their know persons which are using the same platforms as users and also possible to share some posts or videos among friends. Live video streaming and video or audio calls options are also available. Majority of services track user's current locations to provide relevant contents which suitable for each region or country aspects.

Belove figure 9.0 chart shows the how teenagers manipulate to share their own privacy details trough the online.



**Source:** Pew Internet Parent/Teen Privacy Survey, July 26-September 30, 2012. n=802 teens ages 12-17. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish and on landline and cell phones. Margin of error for results based on teen social media users is +/- 5.1 percentage points. Comparison data for 2006 comes from the Pew Internet Parents & Teens Survey, October 23-November 19, 2006. n=487 teens with a profile online. Margin of error is +/- 5.2 percentage points.

Figure 9.0

Belove **figure 9.2** shows the percentage of the stored user data among each social services. Majority of the user data collected by Facebook and that percentage is 70.6%. The other flatform collect user's data respectively Instagram 58.8%, Tinder 55.9%, Twitter 20.6%, Tiktok 14.7% and Whatsapp 11.8%.

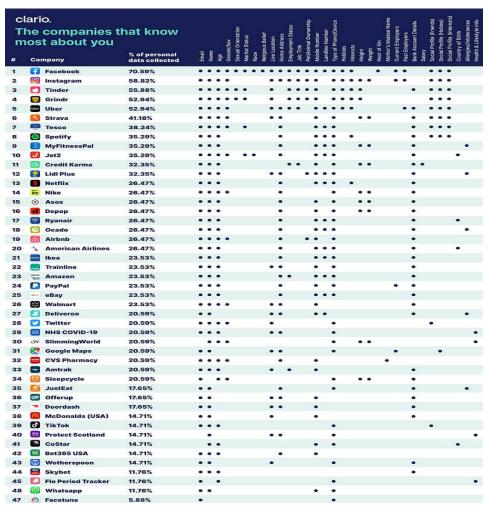


Figure 9.1

#### Privacy concerns

Privacy become a major part of the social services but lots of doubts still remaining about the privacy policies. Majority of the people did not have proper understanding about how to secure their privacy over the online. Those type of users post or share contents without any responsible manner. That may lead them a great privacy breach. The common mistakes are follows.

- 1. Share details about their personal struggles
- 2. Pretending a fake personality
- 3. Post inappropriate contents (adult contents)
- 4. Violate others privacy by sharing insult or hateful contents
- 5. Open or share uncertain hyper links
- 6. Take unwanted risk to become a social influencer (trending challenge)

somehow social services may introduced new privacy policies among the users. Those policies may help to minimized the privacy breaches. The most common policies are follows.

- 1. Visibility of the privacy data can be limited
- 2. Can be share contents with preferred audience
- 3. Introduced the social account permanently delete, blocked options
- 4. Users can control cookies details
- 5. Users can disable some unwanted functions (ad preferences)
- 6. provide some basic guidelines about the privacy
- 7. provide advance authentication methods to secure the user profiles

In the other hand social media service providers also violate the user's privacy. They share those details with governments or some other services. The dramatic story of the consulting agency Cambridge Analytica can be consider as an example. That analyzing company exploited the private information over 50 million Facebook users to influence the 2016 American presidential election.

#### **Financial Sector**

The world getting smaller with the power of communication technology. Social media has made that world even smaller. Using social media people can connect across the globe. Following the social media pages and friends can be a great way to connect and stay in the about updates, news, changes, offers and trends. With the high custom base, Companies saw the financial opportunity through the social media. These companies collect user's data and analysis them in proper manner. It may help to understand the consumer behavior and also availability of the market spaces. Unlikely the real world business, e-commerce business are available in 24×7 hours and also widely spread as well. Confidentiality, availability, customer service and proper marketing strategies are the key functions in the online business.

Also companies run their advertising campaign through social service. That may lead them to financial benefits and also make opportunities to the social influencers to gain some financial income. Social media is a best place to promote new custom brands.

#### Personal finance

social media is a best place to find opportunities. It may help user to find and connect with people and organizations that they are interested and also social media provides the suggestions that based on user's preferences as well. That may help to lead some future opportunities. Also companies search through the social pages for prospective candidates.

Also Offers, Coupons, discounts and getaway gifts may offer through some social sites. That may help user to save some extra money.

Here are some examples for the financial opportunities that provide by the social media.

- 1. Find real Job opportunities
- 2. Make extra income through the online (ads viewing)
- 3. Access offers and discounts
- 4. Can use to Promote new commercial brands

With the power of social media that also gave the negative effects for the users as well. Social media can be influence the users spending habits. Therefore lack of productivity and inability to examine the products are the downfalls of the online business.

#### **Education Sector**

When we focus on education, social media can effect in several ways for people. They can be not only for good but also for bad for a person. As people in a third world country like Sri Lanka many used to believe social media as an evil for education but after the corona pandemic they became to realize that we can archive so many good from social media for education like E-learning staff and it can improve our Educational System.

In Sri Lanka it is a newly system for people but in developed countries they conduct online courses and classes by universities, schools and tuition teachers. Because of that students don't have to go to a school or an university for studies and they can study in where ever they want. So students can do their studies relax.

Here is a research result done by European University Association in 2019 among university students. Above Figure 10.0 shows the relevant details.



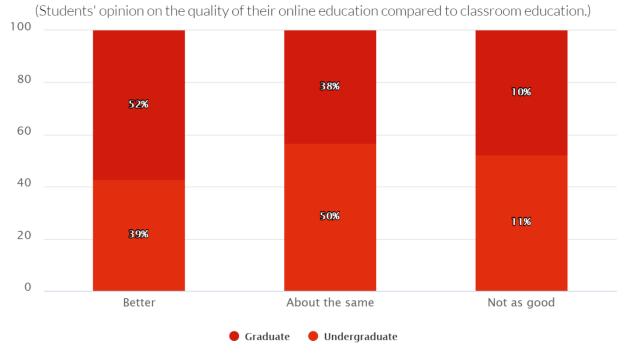


Figure 10.0

Not only that students can learn for tutorials and lessons upload to social media by teacher or professors. In Youtube anyone can find many videos about anything related to studies. And you only need data for learn form them.

So anyone can study well from social media and that improve knowledge of students and also improve Education system efficiently.

Unfortunately there also bad staff for education from social media too. Most of them directly effect to children and teenagers because they get addicted for anything easily. Social media is easily addicted media because there are funny and time wasting staff there. Not only that there are very bad things like video and photos in social media. So children students start to focus on

those rather than studies. Also students start bad relationship with bad people. So students force to take drugs and alcohol by them. Because of this students' focus toward studies are decrease.



Figure 10.1

#### **Health sector**

In the fast-moving world, with a modernized technology, every aspects of life have been changed. Our food, eating patterns everything including the thoughts of people (thinking patterns) has been changed. Social media is a major cause for this rapid change of lifestyle. This transformation affects directly to human health. Both mental and physical health are affected by this. People are addicted to this social media sites and they have no time to care about their health. Well planned usage of social media sites can solve this health problems.

Let us talk about positive and negative effects in social media.

#### **Positive Effects for the health**

It keeps connected to their friends after they do not seem to be ready to see one another continually after they need to. Social media keeps you updates regarding the necessary things that square measure going across the world presently or even in your neighborhood. It is a good profit to understand regarding everything simply by the easy click of your finger.

The youths have the right place to specific themselves in such the simplest way within which they will not be allowed to try to publicly. This is often one thing that makes the youth feel higher regarding them and that they hold some position in society. It helps you in developing social skills and the better part is that variety of friendship will begin from the social web site. Youths typically like build new friends and fathom others the maximum amount as they will. All of this often potential with the social media platform. One a lot of attention-grabbing impact of social media on youth is that it feels fun to act with peers instead of rebuke them face to face.

#### Negative effects for the health

Technology advancements are a blessing to human beings, and nowadays, computers and mobile devices became a section of our daily lives. The net is additionally a section of the technology that a lot of people have return to understand. Basically, during these days and age it is the web that produce the planet go spherical. Social media, as an example could be a part of the online that has created a bigger avenue for individuals to act across the world.

Nowadays, Social media negative effects are not unknown. Sadly, our teenagers and adolescents are have taken on the utilization of social media to extents that if not monitored or restricted, it will have some terribly serve effects on their overall well-being.

Negative effects of social media,

- a) Facebook depression.
- b) Anxiety.
- c) Stalking.
- d) Cyberbullying.
- e) Sleep deprivation.
- f) Lower self-esteem.
- g) Social isolation.
- h) Internet addicted.
- i) Suicide & self-harm content.
- i) Poor concentration.

#### **Cyber terrorism**

- Cyber terrorism includes the alteration of information in a database, the destruction of computer networks, the planning and execution of terrorist attacks using computer networks, and so on.
- The closest example of this is the recent terrorist attack in Sri Lanka, the Easter attack. They planned it with a network they had created.
- Another example is the terrorist hacker attack on the Temple of the Tooth website and the terrorist attacks on the Hiru Media Network website.
- In addition to these facts, political incitement, religious incitement etc. can also be included under this.
- Eugene Kaspersky, founder of Kaspersky Lab, now feels that "cyber terrorism" is a more accurate term than "cyber war".
- Cyber terrorism is becoming more and more prevalent on social media today. People can create accounts under fake names. They form special teams and carry out their plans. They carry out death threats as well as targeted killings.

#### Cyber Law

When we are using social Medias or any other platform we have to face various harassments as an example can take the hacking and cracking of the users for agent these people must have a law .That law is known as the "Cyber Law" Cyber is which means that the law which regarding under the internet and any other technology regarding on the internet. This rules may be supplied a protection to who are using. And also this law is called as "Internet Law"

The following are some of the cybercrimes in which cyber law is enforced,

#### Scam/Treachery

These laws prevent any financial crimes and identity theft that happen online That is, Fraudulent business or scheme that takes money or other goods from an unsuspecting person. It punishes those who do such things.

#### **Copyrighting issues**

Copyrighting is the misuse of a person's design, article, or material by another person. Cyber law is strictly enforced to protect the creative activities of that person and his rights.

#### **Online Insults and Character Degradation**

The best example of this is that we have seen the character of the previous President being harmed through social media. Cyber law address issues like online insults, racism, sender targets to protect a person's reputation.

#### **Online Harassment and Stalking**

This includes harassment of a person through social media or any other platform. For example, online solicitation of sexual bribes can be included. The legal system has some strict cyber laws to prohibit these despicable crimes.

#### **Data Protection**

Many of our confidential data is stored on Facebook, whatsapp, google etc. In order to protect the privacy of the users, Cyber Low has imposed strict rules on those institutions. Therefore, those organizations work hard to protect the privacy of their users. They are responsible for the security of users' data.

#### Cyber terrorism

Cyber terrorism is acquiring various things through threats or intimidation. Violence against a person either physically or mentally, falls under this category. Examples include terrorist organizations, political intimidation, and sabotage of information systems.

#### Next we will look at the importance of cyber Laws.

Cyber law is very important in punishing the perpetrators of the above crimes As people today use the internet heavily, it is very important to bring these rules to protect their privacy. The introduction of these laws has greatly reduced crime in cyberspace, which has the potential to identify and severely punish those who commit such crimes.

#### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

As we look in every possibilities about good and bad of social media we realize that those good and bad are based on users' attitude and behaviors. If someone wants to do a bad work like cyber attack, share false news and focus others into bad staff. Then if someone want to do good work through social media he or she can do plenty of works and also bad works too.

When we focus on financial side of social media nowadays many people engage in online works because it is easy to earn money and won't have to work hard like other regular jobs. Not only that some people do drug deal through social media. So here we understand that anyone can easily earn money from social media through good or bad works.

When we look into the privacy here we understand that there can be many privacy issues in social media. So social media users have to be more careful when they dealing with their private details and necessary detail.

Then when we look into Educational side we can see that social media improves education system by online lecture and classes. But unfortunately students force to do bad thing like taking drugs by others through social media. So It is worth to prevent these bad things by giving knowledge to students about these things.

Health is main issues among social media users. Many users addicted to use these for long time because of that they have to face so many issues that are mention above. To avoid these users have to limit their over use timing.

As we can see here if someone use social media as a tool for improve knowledge and wealth. Also a place to do bad staff easily. So anyone who use social media should be careful and wise.

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