Positive and Negative Effects of Social Media Communication

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Social Media and the Transformation of Human Communication

In the modern and global world today, technological advancements have changed the pattern of lives. The usage of the internet and its availability provided methods for people to communicate with anyone across the globe. Now it is not difficult to make connections with people one does not know, and now it is effortless to communicate with anyone in the world. One of the great revolutions of the internet is social media that is allowing people to communicate with the world and share pictures, information, knowledge, videos, personal stories, and many more.

Social media is now spread all over the world in the form of different apps including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and many more. These apps provide the option to make friends with anyone around the world, share any information, share life stories, share daily routine activities, share knowledge, and share pictures with each other. All these inventions revolutionized the world and impacted the lives of people positively as well as negatively. Social media had more negative impacts on the way people communicate with each other, such as reduced face-to-face interaction, easier bullying, worse language skills, and more online relationships than face-to-face relationships.

In the article, My Facebook, Myself, a writer named Jessica Helfand explored the dangers contained in the usage of Facebook. She argued that it is now effortless to post pictures online and show the world your daily routine. People allow other people to have a look at their personal lives by posting their daily feeds online through Facebook. Helfand explained that Facebook is most famous among teenagers and it is running their lives. Teenagers today want to post their daily feed online and even share pictures of their lunch or dinner so that their friends can know about the fact that what they had taken as their lunch or dinner. They are more interested in the usage of Facebook rather than focusing on their academic studies. When one person posts a picture, he starts waiting for the people who like it and who comment on it.

Digital Dependence, Self-Documentation, and Social Isolation

In the waiting process, one checks the cell phone several times just to see who is liking the picture or commenting on it. It made a person conscious and nervous to check the phone over and over again. In this process, if some friends make comments on a photo, then the individual starts to reply to the comments and this process goes on. People who are using social media prefer to have friends online rather than in real life because they are too busy and engaged with their online community to be available for face-to-face interaction. Facebook is no doubt providing an opportunity to make friends online and share lives with them, but it also impacts negatively on the lives of people who deliberately reduce their face-to-face interaction with real-life friends and family members.

In an article, The Documented Life, an author, named Sherry Turkle explained the communication pattern developed by the increased usage of social media. Now, the ones who are seriously involved in the usage of social media do not care about their real-life relationships and do not have time for them. The usage of social media developed a sense that promotes online community engagement rather than face-to-face interactions. Even when some friends meet for lunch or dinner, they seem to engage in their cell phones rather than have fruitful conversations with each other.

The author noticed that it is now prevalent that most people in restaurants are engaged with their phones, and people surrounding them need their attention. They say, “Sorry, what?” Moreover, Turkle argued that people are too busy to have their relationships online rather than focus on their real-life relationships. Children complain about their parent's behavior when they meet with them at lunch and dinner tables, but they are too busy with their online search that they have no attention to pay to their children’s talk. A girl complained that she needs the attention of her father, especially at the dinner table, but she does not have it because his father is busy with the usage of Facebook. A 14-year-old girl tells me how she gets her device-smitten father to engage with her during dinner: “Dad, stop Googling. I don’t care about the right answer” (Turkle, 2013). It shows that people are more involved in their online relationships rather than their real-life relationships and face-to-face interaction with them.

Connectivity, Self-Presentation, and the Costs of Social Media

On one side, social media provides free access to the world and communication with people around the globe, and on the other side, it provides an opportunity for free speech that is leading to the pattern of online bullying. Social media is spreading the pattern of online bullying that is creating so many issues in society, such as depression, tension, mental disturbances, and mental disorders. The pattern of online bullying leads to distress and a sense of insecurity. One could easily abuse other

people with easy access to social media, creating tension and distress among the people who became the target of bullying. The online community of social media is also spreading the pattern of worse language skills as people start their conversation by writing short words to save time, which leads to spelling and grammar mistakes. These mistakes became a consistent part of the individuals who use short words and sentences and negatively impacted their communication writing skills.

In the article, My Selfie, My Self, author Jenna Wortham explored the current patterns of selfie measures that are adopted by the users of the social media world today. The author tried to depict the good aspects of the selfie pattern that are based on the fact that online postings of selfies are a kind of visual diary. However, this thought could be a better one, but overall, the selfie pattern is spreading negativity throughout social media. People are more attracted to their visual representation rather than considering their real-life personalities. Different cameras and effects make any person look great in a selfie, but in reality, the person is not the one that is represented in the selfie. This could lead to dissatisfaction measures, and most people consider their selfie images true enough to consider their real personalities. This makes people who do not accept their real-life personalities make their selfies look good and get several good responses from the online community by posting the selfies online.

In the end, social media had more negative impacts on the way people communicate with each other, such as reduced face-to-face interaction, easier bullying, worse language skills, and more online relationships than face-to-face relationships. These aspects and factors are more important than considering several benefits and advantages of social media. The communication pattern of the world is disturbed by the increased usage of social media and is consistently growing with the passage of time. Teens and adults, the main users of social media, are focused on their social life rather than giving importance to their real-life patterns.

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