

Characteristics of using social networks in the Algerian society and its contribution in the emergence of moral crime concept

خصائص استخدام الشبكات الاجتماعية

في المجتمع الجزائري ومساهمته في ظهور مفهوم الجريمة الأخلاقية

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Abstract

Through this article, the two researchers try to shed light on the features and characteristics of the use of social networking sites in Algerian society and its role in crystallizing the concept of moral crime, which has taken new forms and dimensions in the digital space under the name of electronic crime of all kinds and its dire effects on individuals, institutions and countries. The traditional laws of crimes and their penalties are no longer in line with the rapid spread of this negative phenomenon resulting from the public's bad uses of social networking sites that provide distinguished interactive and communication services and at the same time may cause serious violations and abuses that harm all parties.

Keywords: social networking sites; Algerian society; digital space; moral crime; cyber crime;

الملخص

تحاول الباحثتان من خلال هذا المقال تسليط الضوء على سمات وخصائص استخدام مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي في المجتمع الجزائري ودورها في تبلور مفهوم الجريمة الأخلاقية، التي اتخذت أشكالاً وأبعاداً جديدة في الفضاء الرقمي تحت مسمى الجريمة الإلكترونية بمختلف أنواعها وآثارها الوخيمة على الأفراد والمؤسسات والدول، والتي لم تعد القوانين التقليدية للجرائم وعقوباتها تتماشى مع الانتشار السريع لهذه المظاهر السلبية الناجمة عن الاستخدامات السيئة لجمهور لمواقع التواصل الاجتماعي التي تقدم خدمات تفاعلية واتصالية مميزة، وفي نفس الوقت قد تتسبب في حدوث مخالفات وتجاوزات خطيرة قد تضر بكل الأطراف.

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الكلمات المفتاحية: مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي؛ المجتمع الجزائري؛ الفضاء الإلكتروني، الجريمة الأخلاقية؛ الجريمة الإلكترونية؛

Introduction

The new characteristics of social networks have attracted the interests of many researchers, as it produced several variables on the traditional communication process, this led to the emergence of national and global repercussions amid the events and challenges that nations are experiencing.

The interest in new means of communication imposed a review of the general structure on which this environment is based and operates through it. With a focus on how these sites meet various human needs according to their various fields and how they contribute to the creation of new needs, and consider whether they are based on traditional needs (human, social and cultural...).

And that it only added some features to it that made it unrealistic and even illusory needs, and meeting them can only be through accessing the new communication environment and drawing various needs from it, and even adopting it as a basic cultural reference in various social and psychological interactions.

The interest in social networks, especially facebook, in Algeria should not be a traditional concern, because the new results produced by these sites have global dimensions and are very dangerous at the regional and international levels. It can threaten national security at every moment, and it will not work for the rule of law and traditional monitoring imposed by government agencies, because in short these sites impose a great liberation from the authority of morality and culture, which necessitated serious thinking about the mechanisms that can legalize the uses of social networks because the signs of the emergence of crises were and are still appearing due to the terrible chaos.

All of the above leads us to pose the following problem: **How did new features of using social networks contribute In the emergence of moral crime in Algerian society?**

1. Public use of social networking sites concept:

Social networks came as a result of the amazing development witnessed by information and communication technology, especially with regard to (Internet) technology and its various services which opened a wide field for the user's freedom to exploit its various services in various fields and areas of his daily life.

This development had several patterns that confused researchers and users as a result of the authority that enabled them after it allowed the use and exploitation of its services under pseudonyms and identities in multiple ways from anywhere and at any time.

Add to that the risk of uncontrolled information flow, and the users' lack of awareness of the need to select and choose the information that benefits them and others, all of this and that contributed and led (unfortunately) to negative usage, which in turn led to the emergence of new concepts and terms (cyberterrorism - cybercrime, etc.).

1.1 Social networking sites:

Social networking sites are considered as "Social Media", These are sites that allow users to own a personal page and publish whatever content they want (photos, recordings, texts...etc).

The use of these sites has grown exponentially, there is a study prepared by the (British Communications Bureau), confirming that its rapid growth and current spread indicate that it is the communication technology currently prevailing for many people to the extent that whoever does not have a private page appears isolated from the world, this was confirmed by (Dana Boyd / Danah Boyd), who acknowledged that "whoever does not exist on (MySpace) pages does not exist." (Dehimi , Stotah , 2020, p5)

There are those who said that it is "a system of electronic networks that allow the subscriber to create his own website, and then link it through an electronic social system with other members who have the same interests and identities. In addition, it is a network of social interactions and personal relationships that enable users to communicate with each other by posting information, comments, messages, pictures, etc.(Radi, 2013, p 23).

Some numbers indicate that "among the (50) most visited sites, we find (10) social network sites many media and non-media individuals and institutions have created pages through these applications in order to exist or prove their existence only, avoid marginalization and lag behind others, and maintain their communication with the public, being on facebook pages, for example, has become a necessity in keeping with the developments taking place. (Dehimi, Stotah, 2020, p5)

The number of users of social networking sites in Algeria, especially (facebook), according to recent statistics, ranges between (25) to (20) million users per month, of whom (65%) are men and (35%) are women. Young people are the most used in this framework, as their ages ranged between (18) and (24) years, of whom (49%) are single and (29%) are married.(Android, 2017, website)

1.2 Characteristics of the (social self) as opposed to the end of the traditional concept (of the public):

The audience, as one of the most important pillars of the communication process, has many characteristics that make it an element of study and foresight. As for the new reality imposed by the new communication environment, it cancels this concept with its traditional definition and is based in supporting this approach on several strategies, including a new notion, which is the concept of (the third generation of receiving studies).

On the other hand, researchers do not look at this technology from the perspective of the new changes it brings to the forms of social communication, rather they are also concerned with the societal effects of this technology, which are determined within specific societal contexts... This is what (Josian Jawawi) pointed out when she acknowledged that the sociology of uses lies on the sidelines of the optimistic and disastrous discourses of the information society because it is based on observing societal practices. (Al-Hamami ,2015, p 17).

Some researchers also talked about the end of the (public) stage and the emergence of the (collective self), which is characterized by several characteristics, among which we mention some of the characteristics that distinguish this stage: (Al-Hamami ,2017, p 20).

- Reshaping the audience:

The communication environment through social networking sites imposed a new relationship between the political authority and the intellectual. Therefore, given the freedom available in this environment, the intellectual's relationship with power has become a non-traditional relationship subject to objective factors (the end of the traditional relationship between the intellectual and power).

Here we can talk about the legitimacy of representation, thanks to the new means of communication, the people got rid of the authority of the intellectual and the politician, as they are from the elite and have the right to represent the people through various platforms. And the people began to express themselves by themselves, which led to a contraction of the work of the elite, and forced it to enter the spaces of the new environment in order to attract the public.

- Press and media of the amateur individual:

It is a type of journalism and media that is practiced by groups of stranger people who are involved in various media contents. The journalist is no longer the only transmitter of information, but it is more correct that this process permeates several interactions.

Including the speed of intervention by the integrators and giving them a special meaning to all the contents offered by the new communication environment. Represented mainly in social networking sites, in which bloggers represent (the immersed audience), which has the power to intervene, comment and create events.

-Authoring groups :

(Wikipedia) represents a model for authoring groups, as it created a new type of collective authorship, and expressed a new paradigm for knowledge communication.

- From leadership to mediation:

Through their work with the public, the means of communication and the media no longer possess the characteristic of (leadership), which distinguished them decades ago. Where we find that the new communication environment has imposed a new type of relationship between (the sender) and the (receiver), represented in the quality of (mediation).

What made the new means of communication a mediation to perform within the new communication environment, which made creating events and controlling their backgrounds one of the basics of the work of these modern means and not the traditional ones, It is noticeable that the major events that are expected to attract the attention and interest of the public are taking place today through social networking sites as a manifestation of the emergence of the new communication environment.

Thus, the traditional media and communication are only companions and observers of this environment, and they can never control it completely because it is an exposed environment and its facts cannot be manipulated. Everyone is a participant

and everyone imposes his background in building events, so the truth will be exposed and will not require much effort to reach it.

-Abolition of the traditional concept of the elements of the communication process:

Communication spaces are based on the free exchange of discussion, that is, they abolished the old authority of information and communication, which imposed on the public the existence of a (sender) and (receiver), the general goal that brings together the public in these spaces is (common concerns and interests), what is noted here is that “the Arab recipient, according to the Arab reports of cultural development, did not benefit from these spaces of political and democratic awareness.”

Statistics related to the motives for using social networking sites indicate that the purposes of entertainment that came in the first place with a rate of (46%), while the purpose of searching for information was (27%).(Abderazak, Samoc, 2011, p 35)

2. The social and ethical impact of using social networking sites:

The uses of social networking sites by individuals are diverse and different and meet various needs as well. Although this environment was able to create new needs among the public, it will not be able to change some of the human needs and controls, which are represented by the moral authority and the religious and cultural heritage of peoples.

Therefore, in short, we can divide the needs that are met by social networking sites into two parts: traditional or ordinary needs and new needs produced by the new communication environment.

Perhaps the most important question that can be asked today is whether social networking sites have really produced new needs for man (psychological / social) or are they still preserving his traditional needs while adapting to the data of the new environment and making them more prominent and different from what was previously. Is he still conservative in meeting those needs through this new communication environment on the traditional basis? Or is this process of response permeated with new additions that often make it look completely different from what it used to be?

It should be noted here that the attention of these sites, thanks to their characteristics, focused on attracting the attention of the masses, especially teenagers. This was revealed by the (Tik Tok) application, which exposed horrible aspects of their lives, revealing their images that spread on social media without censorship or deterrence.

2.1 The traditional psychological and social needs of human beings:

Every member of society has psychological and social needs, based on his needs, media and cultural products are designed that can influence him. We find among the most prominent of these needs on which psychological and social studies are also based:

-Biological and social need:

Mainly represented in food, sleep, sex, the formation of social relations, learning, love...etc., which requires our attention to the extent of the impact of the new

communication environment (the new digital environment) in changing or modifying the basic needs of man.

Considering that accessing and working through this environment has become a unique form of human interaction, which invites us to focus on the most important impositions of this environment on human needs, and how it adapted them to their characteristics, and made the individual enter a new stage in the life of humanity without caring about the human and social characteristics that distinguished him decades ago and made him innovate and develop without the need to enter the new world of digital communication.

-Social isolation:

The theory of cultural alienation talked about the concept of isolation imposed by the authority of the new communicative environment. The important paradox is how individuals can form wide friendships that are not characterized by social isolation.

For reference, the concept of isolation in the new communicative environment is a modern concept produced by technological developments. What is observed today is that individuals prefer to spend long hours inside this environment without caring about what is happening outside. Where it turned out that this new environment glorifies virtual isolation, that is, each has its own angle and geographical space when entering it.

-Electronic addiction:

Most users of social networking sites suffer from persistent and overwhelming addiction to it. As these sites were characterized by a continuous and unregulated attraction for use, and their contents and characteristics attracted all segments of the audience and made them dispense with the rest of the basic roles in life in order to focus their interests on the new communication environment.

Rather, they interact and live through it in a unique atmosphere that humanity has not known before. Addiction remains a negative characteristic that preoccupied researchers, which made some government agencies in some countries combat this phenomenon by allocating centers to treat (electronic addiction).

Such as the center established by Algeria in the city of Constantine, which receives many cases of electronic addiction across the country as pathological cases that must be treated with the latest findings of psychology in terms of treatment approaches.

3. The emergence of moral crime as a result of the negative uses of social networking sites:

The forms of freedom enjoyed by Internet users in publishing and transferring their information among themselves, through social networking sites, do not mean that they are innocent of its negative uses.

Whatever the published material (article, photo, advertisement, video...), it is in fact within the reach of all those dealing with the site, without limitation or discrimination, as long as access to it is available without condition or restriction. Which makes it in many cases liable to be a legal violation if it is contrary to morals and public morals. (Bouhani, 2013, website)

3.1 Moral crime in the electronic space:

Cybercrime is defined as all acts that violate the law, which are committed by the user who controls the technologies and applications of the Internet of all kinds.

Cyber or virtual crime (Cyber Crimes) consists of two parts: (Crime) and (electronic) The term (electronic) is used to describe the idea of a part of the computer or the information age, while the term (crime) refers to those behaviors and actions that are outside the law.(El bidaina, 2014, p 3)

In this context, cybercrimes are those violations that are committed against an individual or a group of individuals with the motive of the crime and with the intent of harming the victim's reputation, material or mental harm to the victim, directly or indirectly, using Internet technologies and applications),

The essence of cybercrime is beyond this description, however, computer-related actions for personal purposes or financial gain or damage, including forms of identity-related crimes, and actions related to (computer) contents all fall within the broader meaning of the term (cybercrime).

Cybercrimes within this definition include (cyberterrorism, fraud, identity theft, stalking, harassment, etc.), The causes of cybercrime are summarized as a social phenomenon compatible with the transition of societies to the digital society and the face of the modern communication environment.

Where people's activity moved from actual (physical) reality to virtual reality, which is a transnational crime the spread of cybercrime has facilitated easy access to targets, low cost, negligence in its implementation, weak oversight and speed in its implementation, employment of communications and interactions in its commission, lack of risk to perpetrators, speed of illicit gain, opportunities for committing it, personal and public pressures on offenders, and weak oversight in general.

Rapid urbanization, unemployment, the desire to get rich quickly, weak legislation and weak protection tools also contributed to the situation. And the availability of opportunities to commit it and the absence of technical guards in its spread, and it is carried out by young people seeking fame or professional criminals seeking to gain and get rich, or terrorists. (El bidaina, 2014, p 3)

Electronic crimes differ from traditional crimes in the ease and speed of their occurrence, unlike what used to happen in traditional crime in terms of the ease of tracing the criminal's tracks. However, the cybercriminal is rarely stopped if he is experienced and professional, especially if that crime was in a technologically backward country.

Despite all the efforts exerted to combat this type of crime, there is a type of crime that the Internet has contributed to its spread and may contribute to the occurrence of traditional crime in all its aspects. It is a moral crime that does not only mean a violation of the law, but also of religion and all that the various divine legislations have forbidden. We mention, for example, but are not limited to:

-Defamation and extortion:

This type of crime has never been more dangerous than when users resort to the Internet. But then it became one of the most widespread crimes, especially with the development of new technologies and applications such as social networking sites and

(YouTube), where we find that the victims of this type of crime are often lured, and in many cases as a result of their ignorance of the safe use of these techniques, It should be noted here that politicians and people with moral issues are often targeted with this type of crime.(Ahmed, 2013, website)

-Incitement to murder and hatred:

This type of moral crime may lead to the application of murder in practice where this type of incitement takes place through the websites of organizations accused of terrorism that incite hatred and killing a specific group of society according to their classification.

Such sites have increased in recent times, which was approved by the BBC when it presented a detailed report since (2012) in which it showed that a group of adolescents who use social networking sites have fallen victim to such campaigns.

The danger is not limited to porn sites only, but such sites also represent a danger to adolescents, and their impact may reach different age groups, which may eventually lead to a full-fledged murder.

This type of site is more prevalent among religious circles, which the Internet provides them with the freedom to spread their ideas and beliefs without any restrictions such as the films insulting to the prophets that were recently posted on youtube, although it was not a full movie, but it caused a stir on social networks. The dangerous thing is that the film was inciting hatred, and the site could not delete it on the grounds of freedom of expression. This is evidence of freedom of publication, whatever the content, and this is what helped spread acts of incitement to murder and hatred, especially between religions.

We find among the most prevalent moral crimes on social networking sites, fraud and theft crimes However, extortion and incitement to murder are the most used and harmful tools for the user in terms of theft and fraud crimes.

As for the share of the Arab world in this type of crime, it is a fact that can only be counted by those who reported the crimes of extortion and defamation to the responsible authorities, which still suffer from deficiencies in the laws and legislation on these crimes in some Arab countries. (Ahmed, 2013, website)

- Violating the sanctity of values and morals (permissible criticism, deception, fraud):

Some Internet users take advantage of social networking sites to attack people's dignity and sanctities, not caring about the problems caused by their immoral behavior and disgraceful behavior. Someone may die, or become paralyzed from anger, or die from rage and panic, and homes may be destroyed, families dispersed, children made homeless...etc.

There are many methods of permissible criticism due to the impossibility of imposing censorship on it, such as publishing pornography, defaming a person, or dealing with him in terms that constitute insult, defamation, insult, or an assault on his sanctity.

In addition to other negative manifestations that have become the concern of individuals and groups, where the increase and development of systems and methods

of communication in this environment has led to the insinuation and transmission - in various ways - of dangerous messages by which their owners try to attract children and adolescents to deviant and immoral behaviors, such as broadcasting pornographic images or video clips that contain facts of sexual practices (according to statistics, which openly call for committing adultery, and they are also harassed and seduced through some websites that delude them with the dissemination of knowledge, while it is otherwise, as the owners do not care except for the high number of its visitors, while those who come to it for knowledge.

Some users of social networking sites receive a special type of e-mail that contains threatening and intimidating phrases with the aim of controlling its recipients and integrating them into the world of crime and sex. While others are in a direct meeting (online) with their owners, through which they call for rebellion against regimes and governments and incite disobedience to them, by joining terrorist or ideological groups against customs, traditions and religious rituals, which led to the emergence of the so-called (cyber-terrorism),

The statistics confirmed the existence of more than (6000) websites of terrorist organizations in the world, including Al-Qaeda, which uses the network to coordinate between cells and propaganda. It should be noted here that if some of these sites are blocked, other sites of the same nature as the areas that terrorist organizations benefit from in these networks quickly appear. (Adimi, 2010, p 4)

Some social media users spread strange concepts that call for suicide and encourage the commission of murder. They also call for the practice of sorcery and witchcraft rituals, and they delude girls - in particular - with stories of love and imagination, in order to then trap them in its net, as it drags them out of the virtual world into the world of rape and then the world of symptomatic trafficking.

We point out here that the perpetrators of these crimes threaten their victims with exposure on the Internet if they refuse to give in to their demands and whims. In this regard, an American study revealed that there are more than (372) million electronic pages that promote pornographic topics by all means (images, audio, video clips, written texts...), more than (2.8) billion sex-related messages are sent every day. (Echorouk online, 2007, website)

4. Mechanisms to combat the negative uses of social networking sites:

These mechanisms and means include the following:

-Media (electronic media):

The idea of canceling the use of social networking sites is an idea that will not work in the face of the temptations that these sites make obscure, and distinguish them with some positivity, especially in the field of scientific research.

But the most important thing is that we employ the electronic media and these same sites to raise awareness of the great dangers that these sites bring if they are used indiscriminately.

-Religious distributor (electronic religious media):

The contribution of moral and religious motives to reduce the phenomenon of indiscriminate and unethical uses is very important, especially if this motive uses

modern communication skills and techniques that enable it to reach and persuade the public in various ways and methods.

-Moral Discipline (media campaigns that seek ethics):

It is also necessary to seriously consider preparing media campaigns to raise the level of electronic awareness and the participation of active social and legal parties.

-Scientific education (traditional media and communication):

In the past, traditional media and communication played a prominent and important role in educating and educating the public in their daily dealings. it acted as a teacher and educator for him, but we have noticed its decline recently, and even its failure to perform some functions and tasks. and its inability to meet the desires and requirements of the audience, which is no longer only a recipient but is now a sender and more than that a maker and producer of different content, whether with real or assumed identities in this new communication environment .

According to our view, this is what obliges these media outlets to reconsider the contents they present that do not serve or satisfy the desires of the public who found their way in this environment.

-Oversight and legal control (legal deterrence) :

The Algerian legislature has remedied - albeit relatively - the legal vacuum concerned with information crime in general, by introducing criminal texts to suppress attacks on social networking sites.

According to Law No. (15/04) which includes amending the Penal Code, as the noticeable increase in the number of daily violations and assaults on freedoms and rights through these sites forced the legal system to reconsider enacting and amending laws in line with recent developments in the field of information and communication technology for that statistics indicated a terrible rise in moral crimes. (Benkadi, 2017, p 14)

Conclusion:

Many researchers point out that the new communication system is an authority produced by the interaction within it and among its members at a time when the traditional authority of the various legal, governmental and media agencies declined, the authority of this environment increased because it derives its legitimacy from the masses themselves and from the characteristics that characterized them: the most important of which is speed, renewal, and the right to participate for all, so power is for everyone as well. Professor (Ali Kessaissia) indicated the need to go to (ethnographic) studies in the field of studying this new communication environment in order to know more details about this environment.

It is also necessary to pay attention to the electronic awareness process, which includes many mechanisms that will educate individuals about the dangers resulting from the indiscriminate use of social networking site especially from the psychological and social point of view, the awareness process, whether traditional or electronic, needs communication, media and legal foundations.

Therefore, paying attention to the components of social networking sites, their new features, and their various and advanced technologies has become a moral duty so

that we can defeat some of the crimes that have become corrosive to the moral entity of society and have contributed to spreading corruption in an unprecedented way.

So, we have to go back to the basics of traditional communication in order to draw comparisons and determine the mechanisms that must be used to protect society. Such forums are an urgent necessity imposed by the developments in the field of communication, as the percentage of indiscriminate use increases, which results in dire consequences, including the emergence and exacerbation of cybercrime.

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