Journal of legal and social studies

Issn: 2507-7333

Eissn: 2676-1742

The impact of social media on the family

Field study on a sample of professors and workers at university of constantine2

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Date of send: 03/03/2025	date of acceptance: 01/04/2025	Date of Publication: 01/06/2025

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Abstract:

The family is one of the most important social institutions created by society for the purpose of raising children,the family is one of the most important social institutions established by society for the purpose of raising children and providing them with a sound education to enable them to fulfil their expected roles in the future, which made it necessary for the family to keep pace with the changes in society that affected it in the first place, and perhaps the most important of these changes is the emergence of social networking sites and the remarkable spread it has known recently, especially among teenagers and young people, as these sites were at the beginning of their appearance considered an effective means of communication between individuals, especially with their families regardless of the distances, but the wrong use of these sites made them a curse on the family at home

Keywords: Social Networking Sites; Family.

The family is the first social environment in which an individual grows up, it is one of the basic factors for building the educational aspect and shaping the child's personality, and acquiring habits that remain with him throughout his life, it is the first seed in building and correcting his individual behaviour, and it brings life and reassurance in the soul of the child from where he learns the language and acquires some values and attitudes, it is the solid foundation on which the entity is built because it has important tools in teaching them the culture and traditions of society, and preparing them to assume their social responsibilities to the fullest. The family is one of the most prominent socialisation institutions that work to build a good individual, and this can only be done in light of the interaction and communication within the single family, which has come to face many challenges in all fields.

In the last quarter of the last century, human life has entered the circle of linking more and more with media and communication technology, which has facilitated the lives of individuals, societies and institutions, as it has developed remarkably and has become an effective role in the areas of personal life, as social networking sites, which are today witnessing a large turnout from different age groups in society, which made them live in a virtual world that controls their interests and times as well as allowing individuals to exchange knowledge and cultures and eliminate the barriers of time and space, which increases their closeness and the degree of their interactions, and for this purpose we will try from.

THE FIRST TOPIC: Problems, hypotheses and objectives of the study:

First requirement: Problem of the study:

The information and communication technology revolution has brought about qualitative changes in many aspects of life during the past years, so that society has transformed from an industrial society to an information society, so that the Internet may be considered the most important technological achievement that has been achieved and through which man was able to cancel geographical distances and barriers and shorten time so that the world has become a small global village, and on the other hand, social networking sites have witnessed during the past years a great demand by Internet users, and this has helped the emergence of smart and multifunctional phones, but in return, the use of these sites has psychological and social effects on its users, and it has been

*Does social media affect the family?

To answer this question, we ask the following sub-questions:

1- Do social networking sites affect family relationships?

2- Do social networking sites affect family functioning?

Second requirement: Hypotheses of the study:

***Main hypothesis:**

Social networking sites affect the family.

***Sub-hypotheses:**

1- Social networking sites affect family relationships.

2- Social networking sites affect family functioning.

Third Requirement: Objectives of the study:

Objectives are the focus of concerns, as it is not possible to take into account a work or works from goals that we seek to achieve, otherwise the latter become nothing but a kind of chaotic conglomerate, so to speak, the objectives of the study include two types of objectives, there are scientific and practical objectives, scientifically, our study seeks to enrich and develop scientific research, and practical objectives, we have identified a set of objectives that will be controls that guide our work until the end, this work aims to achieve basic objectives, namely:

* Recognise the impact of social networking sites on the family.

* Recognise the impact of social networking sites on family relationships.

*Recognise the impact of social networking sites on family functio

THE SECOND TOPIC: General concepts:

First requirement: The concept of social networking sites:

Social networking sites are defined as a network of sites that are very effective in facilitating social life between a group of acquaintances and friends, as well as enabling old friends to contact each other after years and also enable them to communicate visually and vocally, exchange photos and other capabilities that strengthen social relations between them. [1]

Zahi Rami defines social networking sites as a system of online networks that allows the subscriber to create his own site and then link it through an electronic social system with other members who have the same interests and hobbies.

The Sheridan College of Technology provides a procedural definition of new media as ‘one of the types of digital media that is based on the integration of text,

image, video and sound, as well as the use of the computer as its main mechanism in the process of production and presentation, and interactivity is the main difference that distinguishes it and is its most important characteristic.[2]

Second Requirement: The concept of family:

It is defined as a group of individuals related by kinship, whether they live under the same roof or not, in the sense that it is a regular biological social group consisting of a man and a woman (between whom there is an established marital bond) and their children, as one of the most important functions performed by this group is to satisfy emotional needs, practice sexual relations and create the appropriate social and cultural environment for the care, upbringing and guidance of children.[3]

The word family generally means a small group with social roles and positions such as husband, father, mother, wife, son, daughter, bound by the bond of blood, marriage or adoption and sharing a single residence.

MacIver and Page define it as "a structural unit consisting of a man and a woman who have a cohesive spiritual relationship with children and relatives, and whose existence is based on instinctive motives, mutual interests, and a common feeling that suits its members and affiliates".[4]

Burgess and Locke define it as a group of people linked by ties of marriage, blood or adoption who live together and interact with each other within the roles of husband and wife, mother and father, brother and sister and form a common culture.[5]

From this, we conclude that the family is one of the components of social existence in human society, and is therefore considered a universal system, while what is not universal is its form in one society or another.

The third topic: The methodological framework of the study:

First Requirement: The field of study and the research community:

Section I: The field of study:

The field of study is one of the basic steps in the methodological construction, and with regard to the spatial field for conducting this study, it was at the level of the University of Constantine 2 Abd elhamid Mehri, and the University of Constantine 2 was established by Executive Decree No. 11-401 dated 28 November 2011, named after the mujahid Abd elhamid Mehri according to Resolution 14/14 issued on 29 Dhul Hijjah corresponding to 23 October 2014

by the Ministry of Mujahidin on naming university institutions, consisting of 4 faculties and 2 institutes: Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, Faculty of Modern Technologies for Information and Communication, Faculty of Economic, Commercial and Management Sciences, and Faculty of Business and Management Sciences, and Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, among others. [6]

Second Section: The research community:

The research community consists of professors and workers at the University of Constantine 2 Abd elhamid Mehri, considering that they belong to families, which helps to determine the type of impact that social networking sites have.

Second Requirement: Methodology of the study:

As this study falls within the descriptive studies, the sample survey method was adopted as one of the tools of the descriptive method, which aims to clarify some phenomena, including identifying the phenomena resulting from the impact of social networking sites on the family, identifying what some individuals do in an issue, benefiting from their opinions and experiences, developing future plans and finding appropriate solutions to problems of a similar nature.

Third requirement: The sample:

The selection of the sample is one of the main pillars of empirical research, so the sample method is one of the important and accurate methods because it saves the researcher time and effort, on the basis that the sample has the same characteristics and specifications of the research community, and we chose a simple random sample, the size of which was estimated at 25 individuals.

The random sample was characterised by a number of characteristics, which we will identify through the following tables:

Table 01 shows the gender of the sample members:

Gender	Repetitions	Percentage
Male	4	16
Female	21	84
Total	25	100

It is clear from the previous table that the majority of the sample members are females, with 84 % of the total sample members, while the percentage of males is 16 % of the total sample members.

Table 02 shows the age of the sample members:

Age	Repetitions	Percentage
Under 35 Years old	2	8
36-40Years old	12	48
41-45 Years old	4	16
46-50 Years old	4	16
Over 51 Years old	3	12
Total	25	100

It is clear from the previous table that the age of the sample members ranges between 36-40 years with an estimated 48% of the total sample members.

Table 03 shows the qualification of the sample members:

Educational qualification	Repetitions	Percentage
Bachelor's degree	3	12
Master's Degree	-	-
Doctoral degree	18	72
Other testimonials	4	16
Total	25	100

It is clear from the previous table that the majority of the sample members have a PhD (72% of the total sample members), considering that the majority of the sample members are university professors.

Table 04 shows the family status of the sample members:

Marital Status	Repetitions	Percentage
Single	11	44
Married	14	56
Divorced	-	-
widowed	-	-
Total	25	100

It is clear from the previous table that the family status of most of the sample members ranges between celibacy and marriage, with percentages estimated at 44% and 56% of the total sample members, and this is due to the late age of marriage among female professors, considering that they are busy completing their studies and academic achievement, which made the percentage of celibacy high among them.

-Regarding question No. 05 on the use of social networking sites by the sample members, all the sample members confirmed that they use social networking sites, which prompt us to identify the most used sites by the sample members, and this will be shown in the following table:

Table 05 shows the types of websites most used by the respondents:

Social Sites	Repetitions	Percentage
YouTube	13	26.5
Telegram	3	6.1
Scientific and educational sites	2	4
Facebook	20	40.8
Instagram	5	10.2
TikTok	2	0.4
Others	4	8.5
Total	49*	100

*Respondents chose more than one answer.

It is clear from the previous table that the most used sites by the sample members are Facebook with 40.8% of the total sample 2members and YouTube with 26.5% of the total sample members, considering that they are the most used sites by individuals due to the ease of dealing with this type of sites compared to others, in addition to Telegram, Instagram and TikTok, and after we have identified the most used sites, we have to know the number of times used, and this will be shown in the following table:

Table 06 shows the number of times the website is used by the sample members

Possibilities	Repetitions	Percentage
One	-	-
Twice	1	4
More Than once	24	96
Total	25	100

It is clear from the previous table that the number of times of use of social networking sites by the sample members is not accurately determined by 96% of the total sample members, considering that it is difficult to calculate the number of times of use during one day, which prompts us to identify the places where these sites are used by the sample members, which will be shown in the following table:

Table 07 shows where the sites are used by the respondents:

Possibilities	Repetitions	Percentage
Home	22	55
Work	5	12.5
Public Places	11	27.5
Others	2	5
Total	40*	100

*Sample members chose more than one answer.

It is clear from the previous table that the majority of the sample members use these sites at home by 55 % of the total sample members, as well as in public places by 27.5 % of the total sample members, considering that the individual is not too busy to access and browse these sites, similar to when he is at work, he is busy, and otherwise they are used in workplaces by 12.5 % of the total sample members.

Fourth Requirement: Data collection tool (questionnaire):

The researcher often needs a method that enables him to collect the information he needs to ensure the validity of his hypotheses, and among these tools we used the questionnaire.

The form consisted of 12 questions arranged in a systematic order, and the questions were either semi-closed or closed, and in order to give the respondent the opportunity to express his opinion openly.

As for the semi-closed questions, there are:

Q10: In your opinion, which function is most affected by the use of social networking sites?

Educational function ☐ Recreational function ☐

Other Remember.....

-As for the closed questions, there are:

Q6: Do social networking sites affect the family?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes ☐

The questionnaire consisted of 3 axes:

*The first axis is for the primary data, starting from question number 01 and ending with question number 05.

*The second axis tests the first hypothesis, starting with question no. 06 and ending with question no. 08.

*The third axis tests the second hypothesis, starting with question no. 09 and ending with question no. 12.

The fourth topic : Presentation of the field data and the results of the study:

First Requirement: Presentation of the field data that test the first hypothesis:

Table 08 shows the impact of social networking sites on the family:

Possibilities	Type of effect	Repetitions	Percentage	Repetitions	Percentage
Yes	Positive effect	1	4	19	76
	Negative effect	3	12		
	The two together	15	60		
	Total	9	70		
No				1	4
Sometimes				5	20
Total				25	100

The previous table shows that the sample members confirmed that social networking sites affect the family by 76% of the total sample members, and that this effect is both positive and negative at the same time by 60% of the total sample members, considering that the positive effect is evident in learning through scientific and educational sites, as well as useful in learning to cook through easy recipes via YouTube, for example, while the negative effect is evident in the interruption of communication between family members, which makes them live in virtual worlds. After we have confirmed that the use of these sites affects the family, we will try to identify the type of effect they have on family relationships, and this is what the following table will clarify:

Table 09 shows the possibility of the impact of social networking sites on the family relationships of the sample members:

Possibilities	Type of effect	Repetitions	Percentage	Repetitions	Percentage
Yes	Weak family relationships	17	68	20	80
	Increased bonding and cohesion	-	-		
	Others	3	12		
	Total	20	80		
No				1	4
Sometimes				4	16
Total				25	100

It is clear from the previous table that the sample members confirmed that social networking sites affect family relations by 80% of the total sample members, and that this effect is manifested in the weakness of family relations by 68% of the total sample members, and this is confirmed by the previous table (Table 08) about the lack of communication between family members, and this refers us to

identify that social networking sites may lead to disagreements between family members, as the following table will illustrate:

Table 10 shows the attitude of the respondents towards the possibility of conflicts between family members due to the use of social networking sites:

Possibilities	Repetitions	Percentage
Yes	11	44
No	7	28
Sometimes	7	28
Total	25	100

It is clear from the previous table that the sample members confirmed that the use of social networking sites may lead to disagreements between family members by 44% of the total sample members, and that these disagreements occur due to marital infidelity, lack of communication between family members, which leads to the occurrence of estrangement due to the constant use of them in trivial and useless topics, and that to resolve these disagreements it is necessary to strengthen the relationship between family members through discussion while reducing the use of social networking sites that should be used only for the benefit of the individual.

Second Requirement: Presentation of field data that tests the second hypothesis:

Table 11 shows the attitude of the respondents towards the impact of social networking sites on family functioning:

Possibilities	Type of effect	Repetitions	Percentage	Repetitions	Percentage
Yes	Abandonment of their functions	4	16	16	64
	Poorly functioning	10	40		
	Others	2	8		
	Total	16	64		
No				2	8
Sometimes				7	28
Total				25	100

It is clear from the previous table that the majority of respondents confirmed that social networking sites affect the family's performance of its functions by 64% of the total sample members, and that this effect is manifested in poor performance of its functions by 40% of the total sample members, and abandoning its functions by 16% of the total sample members, which prompts us to identify the function most affected by the use of social networking sites, which will be illustrated in the following table:

Table 12 shows the respondents' attitude towards the job that is most affected by social media:

Possibilities	Repetitions	Percentage
Pedagogical function	19	46.3
Educational function	10	24.3
Recreational function	8	19.5
Others functions	4	9.7
Total	41*	100

*Sample members chose more than one answer.

It is clear from the previous table that the respondents confirmed that the job most affected by social networking sites is the educational job by 46.3% of the total sample members, followed by the educational job by 24.3% of the total sample members, which prompts us to identify the type of impact that social networking sites have had on the family's education of their children, as the following table will illustrate:

Table 13 shows the attitude of the respondents towards the impact of social networking sites on the family's upbringing of their children:

Possibilities	Repetitions	Percentage
Yes	19	76
No	-	-
Sometimes	6	24
Total	25	100

It is clear from the previous table that the sample members confirmed that the use of social networking sites affects the upbringing of children by 76% of the total sample members, and that this effect is manifested in the family neglecting the upbringing of their children, especially their educational achievement through addiction to social networking sites, which leads to their preoccupation and lack of communication between family members, in addition to the adoption of new educational methods promoted by influencers through these spaces that sometimes contradict the teachings of the Islamic religion and traditions of the Arab Muslim family, in addition to freedom from family duties, and other negative effects that would affect the upbringing of the children in the family.

Third Requirement: Results of the study:

This study came up with a number of findings as follows:

-The majority of the sample members are female (84% of the total sample members).

-The age of the majority of the sample ranges between 36-40 years (48% of the total sample).

-The qualification of the majority of the sample members is a PhD (72% of the total sample members).

-The marital status of the sample members ranges between marriage and celibacy, with the following percentages: 56% and 44% of the total sample members.

-All respondents use social networking sites.

-The most used websites by the sample members are Facebook and YouTube with the following percentages: 40.8%and 26.5% of the total sample members.

-The number of times the sites are used by the sample members is not precisely determined.

-Social networking sites are used by respondents in different places, including home and public places, with estimated percentages as follows: 55% and 27.5%of the total sample members.

-Social networking sites affect the family by 76% of the total sample members, and the impact is both positive and negative at the same time by 60% of the total sample members.

-Social networking sites affect family relationships by 80%of the total sample members, and this effect is manifested in the weakening of family relationships by 68%of the total sample members .

-Social networking sites may lead to conflicts between family members by 40%of the total sample members.

-Social networking sites affect the functioning of the family by 64%of the total sample members, and this effect is manifested in poor functioning by 40%of the total sample members.

-The function most affected by social networking sites according to the sample members is the educational function with 46.3% of the total sample members.

-Social networking sites affect the family's upbringing of their children by 76% of the total sample members.

From the above, we conclude that social networking sites affect the family, especially with regard to family relations and its functions, considering that the family is the basis of society, if the family is healthy, society is healthy, and if the

family is corrupted, society is corrupted, and this study has confirmed that this effect is mostly negative because the use of these sites has led to the weakening of family relations and the occurrence of disputes within the family due to preoccupation with these sites, not to mention its impact on the performance of family functions, especially the educational function, which is one of the most important family functions because it contributes in preparing and shaping the individual personality which will affect his future behaviour.

Based on the above, we come up with a set of recommendations and suggestions as follows:

* Emphasising that the nature of parents performance of their roles affects children and their development, especially with regard to personality formation.

*Social media remains necessary and inevitable despite the fact that today it is working to destroy the family and tamper with its educational methods, which prompts us to emphasise the need to encourage family counselling that allows teaching families, regardless of their level, to deal effectively with this technology in a way that benefits children.

*Families today are struggling to raise their children because the sites have become influenced by triviality and sometimes call for the spread of vice and blind imitation of ideas and behaviour that are alien to our culture.

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