Delinquent Behavior Among Juveniles in the Context of Social Media

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Abstract:

Juvenile delinquency is one of the most pressing social issues that has received significant attention in various academic studies and research. In recent years, this phenomenon has undergone a noticeable shift with the widespread use of social media platforms among children and adolescents. Content promoting violence and crime has contributed to the development of deviant behaviors among some juveniles, such as theft, drug dealing, and physical aggression; Interaction with delinquents, whether in real life or through digital platforms, has become a key source for learning such negative behaviors. Based on this context, the present study aimed to explore the impact of social media on the development of delinquent behavior among juveniles in Algerian society.

The study adopted the case study approach and was applied to a sample of juveniles placed in the Rehabilitation and Guidance Center in the city of Skikda. The findings revealed an indirect relationship between social media use and juvenile delinquency, with platforms like **Facebook**, **YouTube**, and **TikTok** playing a significant role in reinforcing deviant behaviors through online peer interactions.

Keyword: Juvenile, delinquency, social media, Facebook , TikTok.

1- **INTRODUCTION**:

Deviance is a social phenomenon that has attracted considerable attention across various academic disciplines, particularly sociology, given its close association with violations of the norms, values, rules, and expectations that regulate social life. The diversity of theoretical approaches developed to explain deviance has generated a substantial body of scholarly literature, reflecting the complexity of the phenomenon and the interplay of the social, cultural, and relational factors underlying it. The study of juvenile delinquent behavior is of particular significance because adolescence represents a distinctive stage of the life course characterized by substantial social and behavioral changes, as well as an expanding sphere of interaction with peers. Research associated with the age–crime curve has consistently indicated that involvement in certain forms of delinquent behavior tends to increase during adolescence compared with other stages of the life course .(Smaranda C;and all ,2021p1).

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With the increasing diffusion of the Internet and communication technologies, social media have become an integral part of the everyday lives of adolescents, providing extensive spaces for communication, interaction, and exposure to a wide range of content and behavioral models. This expansion has generated growing scholarly interest in the relationship between social media use and delinquent behavior among juveniles and adolescents. For instance, Ohannessian and Vannucci (2021) identified an association between social media use and certain externalizing behaviors among adolescents. Similarly, Bunders and Weerman (2020) highlighted the importance of peer interaction through social media for understanding the relationship between online interactions and delinquent behavior.

These findings are further supported by a number of studies conducted in Arab contexts. Babaker (2015) found that the use of social networking sites among juvenile offenders was associated with a number of effects, including increased manifestations of aggressive behavior, changes in certain cultural patterns, and weakening of some forms of family regulation and relationships. Al-Qahtan (2006) identified an association between globalization-related media and juvenile delinquency, while emphasizing the role of social and family factors in explaining delinquent behavior. Meera (2011) concluded that problematic Internet use among children and adolescents may be associated with addictive patterns and certain forms of deviant behavior. Likewise, Bakhouch and Rtime (2022) found a statistically significant relationship between the use of TikTok and the production of deviant behavior among young people.

Although these studies differ in terms of their contexts, samples, and methodological approaches, collectively they point to the importance of the digital environment in understanding delinquent behavior. However, examining this relationship cannot be reduced to measuring the frequency or intensity of social media use alone. Rather, it requires attention to the nature of the content to which juveniles are exposed, the interactions they establish with their peers, and the forms of behavior that may emerge from or be reinforced through these interactions.

Within this framework, the present study adopts Social Learning Theory as its theoretical framework, given its capacity to explain the acquisition of behavior through observation, interaction, imitation, and reinforcement. From this perspective, social media may constitute an interactive social and digital environment in which juveniles are exposed to diverse behavioral models and engage in interactions with peers. Through these processes, certain forms of delinquent behavior may be learned, reproduced, or reinforced.

Social media platforms do not merely facilitate communication; they also provide continuous exposure to diverse forms of content, opportunities to observe the behavior of others, interaction with peers, and access to various forms of social feedback and reinforcement. In this respect, they may constitute a significant social and digital environment for understanding the emergence and development of certain forms of juvenile delinquent behavior.

In light of previous research indicating an association between digital media use and certain forms of delinquent behavior, and given the explanatory potential of Social Learning Theory in accounting for the roles of observation, imitation, interaction, and reinforcement in behavioral

acquisition, there is a need to further examine the role of social media in juvenile delinquency. Particular attention should be given to the types of content juveniles are exposed to, their interactions with peers, the most prominent forms of delinquent behavior associated with social media use, and the platforms that appear to be most closely associated with such behavior.

Accordingly, the research problem of the present study is formulated around the following central question: **Do social media contribute to the reinforcement of delinquent behavior among juveniles?**

The central research question gives rise to the following sub-questions:

- Do the types of content that juveniles are exposed to on social media contribute to reinforcing their delinquent behavior?

- Do peer interactions through social media contribute to reinforcing delinquent behavior among juveniles?

- What are the most prominent forms of delinquent behavior associated with social media use among juveniles?

- Which social media platforms are more strongly associated with delinquent behavior among juveniles?

Study Objectives :

This study aims to examine the role of social media in relation to delinquent behavior among juveniles, with particular emphasis on the following objectives:

1. To examine the role of the content to which juveniles are exposed through social media in relation to the reinforcement of delinquent behavior.
2. To investigate the role of peer interactions through social media in relation to the reinforcement of delinquent behavior among juveniles.
3. To identify the most prominent forms of delinquent behavior associated with social media use among juveniles.
4. To identify the social media platforms most strongly associated with delinquent behavior among juveniles.

II. The theoretical framework of the study:

1- Concepts of the study:

1.1. The Concept of the Juvenile:

The concept of the juvenile is closely associated with the study of childhood, adolescence, and delinquency. In general terms, it refers to a person who has not yet reached the legally defined age of adulthood, although the specific age boundaries vary across legal systems and legislative frameworks. Within the literature on juvenile crime, adolescence represents a particularly important stage for understanding delinquent behavior, given the social and behavioral transformations that characterize this period and the increasing significance of peer groups and social interaction (Moffitt, 1993; Farrington, 2017). The *Oxford Handbook of Juvenile Crime and Juvenile Justice* likewise discusses juvenile delinquency in relation to developmental stages among young people and to the social and individual contexts within which delinquent behavior develops.

Within the Arab context, (Baudouin 2003, p. 9) defines the juvenile as a young person whose social and psychological maturity has not yet been fully developed and who has not yet acquired a complete understanding of the nature of their actions and their consequences. Similarly, (Abu Al-Khair and Al-Asrah 1961, p. 133) refer to the *juvenile at risk of delinquency* as an individual who may not have committed an offense but whose actions and behaviors may place them at risk of becoming involved in delinquent conduct.

Operational Definition : In the present study, the term juvenile refers to a male individual between 15 and 17 years of age, belonging to the age group targeted by the study and being at the adolescent stage of development, without having reached the legally defined age of adulthood.

1.2. The Concept of Juvenile Delinquency:

Juvenile delinquency is a fundamental concept in criminology and the sociology of crime. It does not refer to a single form of behavior; rather, its meaning is closely related to the legal and social context within which certain acts are defined as unlawful and specific forms of intervention are established. In Western literature, the concept of **juvenile delinquency** generally refers to the commission of acts that violate the law by individuals who have not yet reached the legally defined age of adulthood. The scholarly literature on juvenile crime further indicates that delinquent behavior is associated with multiple levels of influence, including individual, social, familial, and environmental factors.

From a sociological perspective, delinquency is also related to the broader concept of **deviance**, which concerns violations of norms and rules established and enforced by social groups. Becker (1963) argues that deviance cannot be understood solely in terms of the act itself; rather, it is also shaped by the social reaction to that act and by the processes through which social groups create, apply, and enforce rules. From this perspective, the definition and recognition of deviant behavior are partly embedded in processes of social interaction and social labeling.

Within the Arab context, (Al-Najjar 2003, p. 345) defines delinquency as an act committed by a juvenile within the age range specified by law that results in the juvenile being referred to juvenile justice authorities. Similarly, (Karkoush 2011, p. 81) approaches abnormal behavior from an integrative perspective, emphasizing the interaction of psychological, social, economic, and cultural dimensions in its formation.

Operational Definition : For the purposes of this study, juvenile delinquency refers to acts or behaviors that violate established rules or laws and are committed by the juveniles included in the study. These behaviors are identified through the empirical data collected in the study, with particular attention to forms of delinquent behavior that may be associated with the use of social media or with interactions occurring through these platforms.

1.3. The Concept of Social Media:

Social media have become one of the most significant forms of contemporary digital communication, providing opportunities for communication, relationship formation, content sharing, and interaction with others. **(boyd and Ellison 2007, p. 211)** define social network sites as web-based services that enable individuals to construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system, articulate a list of other users with whom they share a connection, and view and navigate their own connections as well as those established by other users. This definition is widely regarded as a foundational conceptualization in scholarship on social network sites.

Within the Arab context, (Al-Mashhadani and Al-Obaidi2020, p. 84) define social networking sites as a system of Internet-based networks that enables users to create personal accounts and connect with other members who share common interests. Eidan Othman, as cited in Al-Ataouna (2020, p. 34), similarly defines them as a set of websites connected through the Internet that facilitate communication among individuals regardless of differences in language and communication styles.

Accordingly, social media in the present study are not understood merely as technological tools, but rather as digital social environments that facilitate communication and interaction, exposure to diverse forms of content, content sharing, and peer interaction.

Operational Definition : For the purposes of this study, social media refers to the digital platforms and applications used by the juveniles included in the study to communicate with others, access and share content, and interact with peers, including Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and other platforms identified through the responses of the study participants.

2. Previous studies:

2.1.The first study: (2015) This study was conducted in preparation for a master's thesis titled *'**Social media and its relationship with the upbringing of delinquent children in Khartoum'***.

Social networking sites and their relationship with the upbringing of delinquent children, a field study in Khartoum. The researcher investigated the issue of social networking sites and its relationship with the delinquent upbringing of children. The aim of the study was to identify the impact of social networking sites on delinquent children, as well as the negative effects of social networking sites on children, the researcher used the descriptive method ;and the questionnaire tool that was applied to a random sample of 80 individuals working in the care of delinquent children between the ages of (50-30) years; the study concluded with a set of results, the most important of which are: -Increasing cases of aggression and sexual aggression among delinquent children. -Changing the cultural inculcation of delinquent children, as the culture of globalization sweeps through the local community. - The breakdown of social relationship controls and the dwarfing of parental relationships among child offenders (Lakhdar, 2021, p. 197).

2.2.The second study (Al-Qahtan, 2006): entitled "***Juvenile delinquency in the era of globalization, its causes and social effects**",* The study started with a problem that seeks to identify the causes and justifications for the rise of juvenile delinquency and its social effects. It aimed to diagnose the issue of juvenile delinquency in the era of globalization by identifying the main dimensions of the means of globalization and the patterns of deviant behavior among Saudi juveniles; the researcher used a case study method, a questionnaire, and a questionnaire applied to 380 individuals aged between (7-18) years. It found: -The existence of a strong relationship between the means of globalization and juvenile delinquency, its time, place and method of committing it;-The existence of other social and family factors that play a major role in juvenile delinquency, the high percentage of delinquents and other serious issues such as rape and murder.

2.3.The third study (Mira, 2011): Titled '***Children and adolescents' addiction to the Internet and its relationship with delinquency**',* the study started from the main question about the impact of technology and antisocial behavior that awaits children. The study included (50) respondents, including (4) girls from areas in Baghdad between the ages of (12-18) years; the study found that the negative use of the Internet by children and adolescents leads to addiction and deviant behaviour.

2.4. The fourth study (Bakhoush and Retimi, 2022): Titled " ***Social media and its role in the production of deviant behaviour among youth (TikTok as a model)"***, the study started with a main question about the relationship between TikTok application and the production of deviant behavior among youth. It aimed to reveal the role of TikTok application in the production of delinquent behavior among youth. The study used the descriptive-analytical approach and was applied to 67 TikTok users, aged between (15-25) years. The study used an online questionnaire tool to collect data, and the study found that TikTok users are between 15-17 years old, and there is a statistically significant relationship between TikTok and the production of delinquent behavior.

2.5.The fifth study (Daghbouj, Walid, 2017). Under the title *"**Social media use and its relationship with delinquent behavior in university students***", the researcher presented a question about the extent of the contribution of social media through violent and criminal content in negatively influencing the behavior of university students. The study aimed to identify the extent to which adolescents are influenced by the content of violence and crime through social media, and its contribution to promoting negative behavior. The results revealed a relationship between students' use of social media and the prevalence of deviant behaviour with the presence of mental and intellectual distraction.

3. The theoretical approach to the subject of the study:

There are many theories that explain the direct and indirect causes of juvenile delinquency. Many of these theories highlight the importance of external influences and factors that can play a role in the development of a child's behavior. There are some theories that can explain and link social variables to crime and delinquency.

3.1. Social learning theory: One of the micro-level theories that illustrates this concept is the Social Learning Theory (1973) presented by **Robert Akers**, this theory is a further analysis of Edwin Sutherland's theory of differential association (1939). Differential association theory analyzes that criminal behaviors and law-abiding behaviors are adapted through social interaction with others; exposure to large amounts of deviant behavior creates the risk of engaging in similar deviant behaviors (Cullen and Wilcox, 2010, p. 6); Aker's (1973) social learning theory suggests that behaviors are learned through observations or imitation of those around them. The younger young people are and the longer they are associated with deviant peers, the more likely they are to engage in delinquency (Ward & Forney, 2020, p. 3).

Moreover, modeling and reinforcement in our social environment can contribute to shaping these behaviors positively or negatively (Smaranda Ciobanand all, 2021) ; Therefore, the child learns many behaviors (peaceful or aggressive), skills and ideas from his family and his external environment, which forms part of his personality and impressions that he adopts through observation, so that his outputs are normal or delinquent behavior according to the input of the cognitive factors he acquired (Karkush, 2011, p. 68).

III. Second: Methodological procedures:

1-Methodological Approach

Given that the present study seeks to examine and describe the various negative dimensions associated with juveniles' use of social media, based on a sample of juveniles placed in a juvenile rehabilitation center, the ***case study method*** was adopted to investigate the phenomenon under study in greater depth. This approach enables a comprehensive understanding of the cases under investigation by examining their social and behavioral contexts and by developing a detailed account of their experiences and circumstances. It also allows the researcher to draw upon multiple sources of information in order to reconstruct the history of each case and trace its development over time.

Accordingly, the purpose of the case study is not limited to collecting information about the cases; rather, it involves the systematic organization, examination, and interpretation of the available data. The collected information may be analyzed qualitatively and, where appropriate, quantitatively in order to identify patterns, relationships, and contextual factors associated with the phenomenon under investigation.

1-1-Qualitative Dimension

From a qualitative perspective, the primary objective was to gain an in-depth understanding of the social and behavioral circumstances surrounding the juveniles' delinquent behavior by examining the different dimensions of the phenomenon under study. Individual interviews were conducted using a structured interview guide as the principal instrument for collecting field data. The interview was treated as an oral form of inquiry in which the respondent is interviewed individually for a specific research purpose and provides information verbally (Ahmed, 1994, p. 338).

The interview addressed several dimensions relevant to the research problem, including: the types of content accessed by juveniles on social media; their interactions with peers and friends; the use of social media to share, follow, or engage with delinquent behaviors; and the social media platforms most frequently accessed by the juveniles .

In addition to the interviews, the study drew upon psychological case-history reports prepared by the specialist, as well as the juveniles' *criminal records and case files*, where available. These documentary sources were used to complement the interview data and provide a broader understanding of the social and behavioral trajectories of the cases.

1-2-Observation :

was also employed during the interviews, particularly to document the juveniles' immediate verbal and non-verbal reactions following the questions posed. Attention to such reactions was intended to provide additional contextual information and to facilitate a deeper understanding of aspects of the juveniles' accounts that might not be fully articulated during the interview. Observation was therefore used as a complementary source of qualitative evidence rather than as a basis for assuming that particular reactions necessarily indicated concealment or deception.

1-3-Quantitative Dimension :

From a quantitative perspective, the case study method is not limited to collecting information from the perspectives of the individuals concerned. Rather, it seeks to identify and examine the various factors, circumstances, and consequences associated with the phenomenon under investigation. It also enables the researcher to approach the collected information from a relatively neutral analytical perspective in order to generate additional, systematic, and empirically grounded interpretations (Fatima & Mervat, 2002, p. 96).

Accordingly, the quantitative dimension of the study was used to organize, classify, and present the collected data in statistical form, thereby facilitating the identification of general

patterns and descriptive findings within the study cases. The quantitative presentation of the data is provided in **Tables 1–5**, which summarize the main characteristics and findings identified across the cases.

2- Study Sample :

The study sample consisted of five juveniles aged between 15 and 17 years from Skikda Province, Algeria ;The study population comprised juveniles who had engaged in delinquent behavior, had subsequently been placed in a juvenile rehabilitation and reintegration institution**,** and had later been released. From this population, a research sample of five juveniles aged 15–17 years was selected.

The sample included four males and one female. The cases were selected using a random sampling procedure, according to the sampling criteria adopted for the study.

IV. Presentation and discussion of field data

1. presentation study's case :

First case: S.Z.lives in **Zefzaf** neighborhood in **Skikda** from the shadow areas, 16 years old, frequent absences from school, repeated the year more than once, dropped out of school in the first intermediate, the family's economic situation is good especially since both parents work, he has many friendships inside and outside the state with deviant people, tends to watch violence and crime movies with friends through social media because he does not own a mobile phone, nor an account on the Internet (As he said).

During the interview, he appeared nervous and evasive, with repeated attempts to conceal the truth, indicating experience gained from four years of delinquency. It was later proven that he had a phone and accounts that he used to communicate with criminal gangs, and he committed several offences including: Theft of houses, money, drug trafficking, and the theft of a luxury motorcycle, which led to his arrest and placement in a juvenile center.

Factors influencing juvenile delinquency: Family neglect ;School dropout; Socializing with bad friends , deviants online and Viewing violent and criminal content on social media

Crimes committed: Home burglary, money theft, drug trafficking, and motorcycle theft, after which he was apprehended and transferred after investigation to the Juvenile Conclusion: S.Z.'s delinquency began before the age of 12 as a result of the accumulation of family, educational and social factors, which developed due to lack of supervision and poor guidance, to reach an advanced stage of organized criminal behavior.

Second Case: The juvenile "D.Y." is a 16-year-old boy residing in downtown Skikda, he dropped out of school in the second year of middle school, despite having a stable socioeconomic background—both of his parents are employed. He maintains a good relationship with his parents and has a large circle of friends. He owns a mobile phone with active Facebook and YouTube accounts.

Behavior and psychological manifestations: Shows apathy and violence in his behavior, with a tendency to talk internally and look down at the ground (signs of emotional disturbance or disorganized internal thinking).

Negatively affected by the absence of the father in childhood, which caused a disruption in socialization ,Involved in illegal practices from an early age (theft encouraged by uncle, drug use at age 13); He tends to watch violent content (murder, kidnapping, blood) on YouTube, which reinforced his violent behavior and the desire to imitate this type of violence and He was later involved in carrying a white weapon.

General analysis: The juvenile's delinquent behavior stems from a combination of overlapping factors: family influences (such as the father's imprisonment and the uncle's negative impact), psychological issues (notably a lack of emotional fulfillment), and external stimuli (exposure to violent digital content). These elements have contributed to the development of a violent and deviant behavioral pattern from an early age. Additionally, the juvenile's family background—marked by a history of criminal behavior on both the maternal and paternal sides—supports the idea of inherited criminal tendencies, as proposed by Richard Dugdale's theory of hereditary delinquency. He owns a smartphone and frequently watches violent and criminal content on YouTube—particularly scenes involving murder, kidnapping, beheading, and bloodshed. He stated: "I love watching anything that involves killing, kidnapping, and blood on YouTube." This repeated exposure to criminal material reinforced his aggressive behavior and increased his tendency to carry weapons and commit crimes, in line with Albert Bandura's social learning theory; Through online platforms, the juvenile was further exposed to deviant individuals, which enhanced his capacity to mimic criminal behavior. This contributed to the development of his skills in theft and drug distribution in real-life contexts.

Crimes Committed: Theft, Violent snatching, Drug distribution, Carrying a white weapon (knife)

Third case :"Aq. J., 17 years old, residing in the municipality of **Laghdir, Skikda**, suffers from frequent school absences and repeats the year, although he belongs to a middle-income family and has a good relationship with his parents, He shows a great interest in violent and criminal content on social media (Facebook, YouTube, TikTok), as well as watching pornography, which has directly affected his behavior and social integration. He suffers from obvious psychological disorders such as anxiety and loneliness, and is bullied by his peers, which has increased his isolation, these psychological and social factors, coupled with the lack of family control, made him vulnerable to the negative impact of social media, which ultimately led him to commit a sexual assault and physical violence against a child, along with his peers.

Sociological analysis of the case :From a sociological perspective, this case reveals the interplay of several factors that contributed to the juvenile's delinquency, which can be explained by poor socialization. Although the juvenile's relationship with his parents is good, the lack of guidance and control, especially with regard to what he follows online, reflects a failure in socialization, as he did not have psychological or cultural protection mechanisms that help him distinguish between normal and deviant behavior, as social media has become a new arena for informal upbringing, in which violent and sexual content plays a major role in shaping awareness and behavior. For the juvenile "Aq. J., these sites have been a source of personal meaning and self-recognition, especially in light of his feeling of social marginalization.

The juvenile also lives in a state of cultural alienation, i.e. the loss of belonging to the prevailing social values and norms, and their replacement by values imported from deviant digital content. This leads to moral lawlessness as the barriers between the acceptable and the unacceptable break down, justifying the delinquent act as a means of self-expression or getting rid of pressure.

Fourth Case: KS. Q. lives in **Tamalous**, **Skikda state**, 17 years old, he was a frequent truant until he dropped out of school in the third grade. His father works as a builder and his mother is a hospital nurse, the family's economic situation is good, he has a bad relationship with his father, he has a mobile phone, Facebook, YouTube and TikTok.

-Case analysis :The interview revealed that the juvenile suffered from his father's mistreatment for six years, which forced him to run away from home. The street embraced him with all its negative elements that work to tame the juvenile's thinking and behavior in line with the nature of the deviant group that contains him; We believe that the background of the juvenile's suicide attempt at the age of 15 has a strong connection to the father's mistreatment and cruelty, which was reflected in the act of suicide. The act later evolved into leaving the house and sleeping on the street.

The juvenile's contact with deviants and criminals for a year and a half gave him the nature of the deviant group and its delinquent characteristics, through which he learnt to use and promote drugs. The juvenile talks about this harsh experience by saying, "***He used to tie me to the bed and beat me***". This refers to the practice of violent sex, as represented by pornographic scenes via YouTube, Facebook, and TikTok, which the juvenile owned. On the other hand, the juvenile's viewing of pornographic scenes on social media for three hours a day, and his practice of doing so gained him sexual experience, making the act of sexual intercourse develop through social media (***a lady from outside the state tempted me with money and giving her gold and I refused)***, and this leads to establishing a relationship with the opposite sex through social media, using a pseudonym, and the age of an adult man. His rejection of the woman's request reflects his lack of knowledge and experience.

Fifth Case: B. A is a 15-year-old girl from **Amjaz El Dashish, Skikda** Province, a high school student, living in a building in a rural area with her parents, the father is retired, the mother is a stay-at-home mother, the family's economic situation is average, and she has a mobile phone with Facebook.

Case analysis: Girl B. A is a teenager with innocent features, no bad experience, limited relationships in high school, no other relationships in her neighborhood. After obtaining a mobile phone for her studies, B.A. opened a Facebook account after a year of using it. After a year of using Facebook (2022 to 2023), she started a romantic relationship with an older man. The relationship quickly developed into a dangerous relationship , final act in which the adult exploited the child's innocence for immoral purposes. with the older man instigating her to seduce him and run away with him. This was inferred from her words (affirmation, insistence), in order to influence the victim and encourage her to act. The act of running away from home took place and the meeting took place at the passenger station in Skikda. This explains why the girl was the victim of a crime;

The girl's possession of a mobile phone equipped with Facebook was the first gateway to open up to the virtual world, about which she is ignorant due to the nature of the environment and social upbringing. In the face of the family's negligence and the girl's reticence. It makes us think that the girl's family realized the change in behavior in light of the girl's wandering.

The girl's attachment to the old man facilitated the process of grooming and incitement to run away from home, this explains the amount of criminality and immorality of the elderly man who influenced a minor girl to engage in deviant behavior (running away from home). The elderly man was arrested with the girl at the Skikda passenger station at around 7pm. A report was filed against him by the juvenile police on charges of driving away a minor and inciting

her to immorality; Accordingly, there are factors that contributed to the emergence and development of delinquent behavior in this case as follows:

Key factors that contributed to the emergence and development of delinquent behavior: Owning a mobile phone, forming a romantic relationship through Facebook, lack of family awareness of the dangers of social media.

I. Presentation and Analysis Of the Field Study Results

Table (01) shows the main factors for the emergence of delinquent behavior among juveniles under social media from the researcher's point of view.

Factors of juvenile delinquency	Frequency	Percentage %
Family neglect	01	8.333
Mixing with bad companions	03	25
School dropout	01	8.333
Deviant social milieu	01	8.333
Perverted Socialization	01	8.333
Genetics	01	8.333
Psychiatric disorder	01	8.333
Frequenting pornographic and sexual content	01	8.333
Maltreatment	01	8.333
Owning a mobile phone	01	8.333
Total	12	99.99

The source: Realized by the researcher based on field data

It is clear from Table (1) that 25% of juvenile delinquency is due to the mixing of the juvenile with deviants, while the rest of the causes came at a rate of 8.33%.This does not mean that they are less influential in the acquisition of delinquent behavior, but rather the intertwining of these causes (neglect of the family, social environment, wrong upbringing, and abuse), and school dropout) enhanced the mixing of juveniles with deviants. Social media exploited the psychology of the event and indirectly pushed him to frequent pornographic and sexual content; on the other hand, the formative formation (genetics) may have a factor in itself in acquiring delinquent behavior in the juvenile, and other factors as shown in the table.

Table (02) shows the secondary factors that enhance delinquent behavior among juveniles in light of social media from the researcher's point of view

Factors promoting juvenile delinquency	Frequency	Percentage %

Mixing with deviants through social media	03	42.85
Watch the content of violence and crime on social media	02	28.57
Follow pornographic and sexual content on social media	01	14.29
Forming an emotional relationship with the opposite sex through social media	01	14.29
Total	07	100

The source: Realized by the researcher based on field data

It can be seen from Table (2) that 42.85% of the contact with delinquents through social media was a secondary reinforcing cause of delinquent behavior among juveniles, This explains the expansion of the circle of factors and their complex interconnection, which is impossible to separate. In the face of the intervention of technology that has brought communication closer between deviants and criminals from inside and outside the state through social media, Which encouraged the recruitment of juveniles to promote drugs with financial temptations. The content factor was violence and crime that the event follows on social media at a rate of 28.57%, which explains the negative impact of these contents on learning and developing delinquent behavior.

The juvenile may pursue it as a profession through which he obtains money. On the one hand, pornographic content, sex, and the formation of an emotional relationship with others through social media accounted for 14.29%, and both are considered among the most important secondary factors related to the new pattern related to social media, which enhances the experience of sexual intercourse within an immoral scope.

2. Analysis of the results of the second question: What are the most important manifestations of delinquent behavior among juveniles in light of social media? We translated it into:

Table (03) shows the manifestations of delinquent behavior among juveniles under social media from the researcher's point of view

Manifesting delinquent behavior	Frequency	Percentage %
Drug-pushing	03	27.27
Carry a white weapon	01	09.09
Sexual abuse	01	09.09
Swatting	01	09.09
Theft (money, houses, motorcycle, pick-up)	04	36.36
The act of running away from home with an unknown man	01	09.09
Total	11	99.99

The source: Realized by the researcher based on field data

It is clear from Table (3) that the manifestations of delinquent behavior among juveniles under social media are concentrated in two basic aspects: theft in its various forms, which is more widespread among juveniles at a rate of 36.36%.This explains the lightness of the juvenile

and his speed in hiding and concealing, as well as the speed of learning the skill of theft, whether from deviant companionship; Or from social media (influenced by the contents of crime and violence, and learning sites) that the juvenile follows on YouTube and Facebook. Next comes drug trafficking, at a rate of 27.27%, as the second most common manifestation among juveniles. Other manifestations of delinquency come at rates of 9.09%, such as beatings, carrying a knife, and running away from home, this does not mean that they are not widespread. Rather, the actual reality reflects frightening numbers about the use of physical violence and knives.Most of which was the output of social networking sites and the negative content they promoted, far removed from our local community and culture.

3. Presenting and analyzing the results of the fourth question: Are there specific social media outlets that contribute to juvenile delinquency? We translated it into:

Table (04) shows the most important social media outlets that promoted and developed delinquent behavior among juveniles from the researcher's point of view

Social Media	Frequency	Percentage %
Facebook	5	45.45
YouTube	4	36.36
Tik-Tok	2	18.18
Total	11	99.99

The source: Realized by the researcher based on field data

By reading the table, it becomes clear that Facebook is the most popular medium for juveniles, at a rate of 45.45%, which translates the extent to which the latter contributes to enhancing juvenile delinquency and pushing him to commit deviant and delinquent behavior. YouTube is one of the most important social media outlets viewed by juveniles at a rate of 36.36%, with its live scenes and content of violence, crime, pornography, videos, and more. Somehow contributed to the juvenile's acquisition of delinquent behavior; While TikTok took 18.18% of the follow-up study cases, this is a significant percentage because the application is new, and has witnessed growth and rapid spread in Algerian society. We believe that he contributed to spreading deviant behavior through the behavioral deviations broadcast by TikTok activists far from the culture of society.

It also encouraged people to engage in such deviations, and for the juvenile to engage in behavior that is contrary to morals and the custom of the group.

II. Discussion of the Results:

The general data derived from the study cases reveal a range of social, educational, and family-related indicators associated with juvenile delinquent behavior in the context of social media use. The significance of these data extends beyond merely describing the initial characteristics of the cases; they also provide insight into the social context within which juveniles operate by highlighting their position within the family and school, the nature of their social relationships, and their patterns of exposure to digital content.

From a sociological perspective, delinquent behavior cannot be understood as an isolated individual act; rather, it should be situated within a network of social relationships, institutions, and interactions that may shape individuals' orientations, perceptions, and patterns of behavior. In this regard, the study data make it possible to conceptualize the digital environment as an extension of the traditional social environment, where processes of interaction, observation, learning, and relationship formation take place continuously.

First: Age Group of the Study Cases

The ages of the study cases range from **15 to 17 years**, placing them within adolescence, an important transitional stage in an individual's social development. This stage is characterized by the reconfiguration of social relationships, the increasing significance of peer groups, the pursuit of greater autonomy from the family, and the search for social recognition and acceptance.

These characteristics are particularly relevant to the study of delinquent behavior. Previous research indicates that adolescence is associated with an increased occurrence of certain forms of deviant and delinquent behavior, although this does not imply that adolescence itself directly causes delinquency (Moffitt, 1993; Farrington, 2017).

From the perspective of **Social Learning Theory**, this developmental stage is particularly significant because of the expansion of juveniles' social networks and the increasing number of behavioral models to which they are exposed. Juveniles do not acquire behavioral patterns solely through the family and school; they may also learn from peer groups and from interactions taking place within digital environments. Accordingly, the significance of the age group examined in this study lies in the fact that adolescence represents a stage at which processes of socialization intersect with processes of observation, learning, and social interaction.

Second: Educational Level and School Status

The study data indicate that most of the cases have an intermediate level of education, with some cases having dropped out of school. This finding constitutes an important indicator for understanding the social circumstances of the cases, given that the school serves not only an educational function but also represents a fundamental institution of socialization, social integration, and social control.

School dropout may contribute to a reorganization of juveniles' everyday lives, particularly in terms of the amount of available time, the nature of their social relationships, and their degree of engagement with formal institutions. It may also increase juveniles' involvement in informal social environments, including peer groups and digital spaces.

However, school dropout should not be interpreted as a direct cause of delinquency, as the relationship is considerably more complex. School disengagement or dropout may itself be associated with prior family, educational, economic, or broader social circumstances. Therefore, this finding is better understood as a social indicator that may intersect with other factors in shaping the juvenile's behavioral trajectory.

From the perspective of Social Learning Theory, the environment in which juveniles spend a substantial proportion of their time may become an important source of behavioral models. As interaction beyond formal institutions expands, the individuals, groups, and forms of content to which juveniles are exposed become increasingly significant in processes of observation and learning.

Third: Exposure to Content Posted on Social Media

The data obtained from the study cases indicate frequent social media use among the juveniles and their continuous exposure to a wide range of digital content. This finding suggests that the digital environment has become an integral part of juveniles' everyday lives. Social media are no longer used merely for entertainment or communication; rather, they have increasingly become spaces for social interaction and for the exchange of ideas, attitudes, and behavioral patterns.

From a sociological perspective, this finding is particularly significant because digital spaces provide juveniles with continuous exposure to a wide range of social and behavioral models. Through these platforms, juveniles observe different forms of behavior, interact with them, and become aware of the reactions of others to such behaviors. They may also observe that certain forms of behavior receive likes, attention, engagement, or social approval.

In this context, Social Learning Theory provides a useful framework for understanding how observation may contribute to behavioral learning. From this perspective, behavioral acquisition does not necessarily require individuals to engage directly in a behavior from the outset; rather, learning may occur through observing others and attending to the consequences of their behavior. Accordingly, repeated exposure to particular behavioral models within digital environments may create conditions conducive to learning and potentially reproducing certain behavioral patterns.

However, this does not mean that exposure to delinquent content necessarily leads to the practice of delinquent behavior. The relationship is more complex and may be shaped by a range of intervening factors, including the juvenile's individual characteristics, family relationships, peer group, degree of parental monitoring and guidance, and the ways in which the juvenile interprets and responds to the content encountered online.

From this perspective, social media should be understood not as an independent or deterministic cause of delinquent behavior, but as a social environment in which processes of observation, interaction, interpretation, and potential behavioral learning may take place.

Fourth: The Nature of Delinquent Behavior Acquisition

The empirical data indicate that delinquent behavior among the study cases cannot be reduced to a single factor, nor can it be explained solely in terms of social media use. Rather, it appears to develop within a multilevel social context in which the family, school, peer group, and digital environment interact.

The significance of this finding lies in moving beyond a single-factor explanation of delinquency toward an approach that emphasizes the **interaction of social factors**. Juveniles are exposed to multiple influences and subsequently respond to and engage with them in ways shaped by their social relationships, previous experiences, and interpretations of their surrounding environment.

In light of Social Learning Theory, the acquisition of delinquent behavior can be understood as a sequence of processes beginning with exposure to a behavioral model, followed by observation and interaction, and potentially leading to imitation when juveniles perceive that a particular behavior generates some form of social acceptance, reward, recognition, or status within their social group.

Accordingly, social media are not understood in this study as an independent cause of delinquency, but rather as a new social environment in which processes of observation, interaction, learning, and reinforcement may take place.

Fifth: Family Monitoring and Its Role in Guiding Behavior

The data obtained from the study cases indicate limited parental monitoring and supervision of the content to which juveniles are exposed through social media. This finding is of particular sociological significance given the central role of the family in the process of socialization, the transmission of values and norms, and the regulation of acceptable and unacceptable forms of behavior.

The family does not merely perform a caregiving function; it also constitutes one of the primary social contexts in which children and juveniles learn social rules, patterns of interaction, and forms of self-regulation. When parental monitoring is limited, the family's ability to identify the nature of the content to which juveniles are exposed, the individuals with whom they interact, and the behavioral patterns they may observe or learn within the digital environment may also be reduced.

From the perspective of Social Learning Theory, limited parental monitoring may therefore reduce the family's capacity to mediate juveniles' exposure to behavioral models and to provide alternative forms of guidance and reinforcement. This does not imply that weak parental monitoring directly produces delinquency; rather, it represents a social condition that may interact with peer influence, digital exposure, and other factors in shaping juveniles' behavioral trajectories.

From the perspective of Social Learning Theory, this finding acquires additional significance because limited parental monitoring and guidance may leave greater room for the influence of other sources of learning, particularly peer groups and behavioral models available within the digital environment. When juveniles are repeatedly exposed to particular behaviors and perceive them as receiving acceptance, approval, admiration, or rewards, such behaviors may become more salient and more likely to be observed and learned.

Nevertheless, limited parental monitoring should not be regarded as a single explanation for delinquency. Rather, it represents one element within a broader network of social relationships and contextual conditions surrounding the juvenile.

Synthesis of the Findings

Taken together, the preceding findings indicate that the study cases are situated within a complex social environment in which the family, school, peer group, and social media intersect and interact. Accordingly, delinquent behavior does not appear to be a direct consequence of social media use itself; rather, it may be associated with the ways in which these platforms are used, the nature of the content to which juveniles are exposed, the relationships they establish with others, and the level of monitoring and guidance available to them.

From this perspective, Social Learning Theory provides a useful framework for interpreting these findings, as it emphasizes the roles of observation, interaction, modeling, and reinforcement in the acquisition of behavior. The digital environment may provide juveniles with multiple behavioral models, while peer groups may influence how these models are interpreted and the social meanings attached to them. At the same time, the family and school may play important roles in providing guidance, social regulation, and mechanisms that may limit or mediate some of these influences.

Accordingly, the findings suggest that understanding juvenile delinquency in the digital environment requires approaching it as a multidimensional social phenomenon in which exposure to digital content intersects with social relationships, educational circumstances, family monitoring, and peer influence. From this standpoint, the digital environment becomes part of the broader social context within which processes of learning, interaction, and the reproduction of certain behavioral patterns take place.

III. Conclusion:

Through the results of the study, it is clear that we are facing one of the social problems (juvenile delinquency) in which several factors are intertwined, in a way that opens the way for other new factors to in turn form several manifestations of delinquent behavior in light of the multiplicity of social media that have a relationship, from near or far, in enhancing the emergence of delinquent behavior in people.

The juvenile and his development according to a certain cultural pattern, accordingly, we present the most important findings of the study as follows:

There are several factors that contributed to the juvenile's delinquency and his committing delinquent behavior

- The contents of violence and crime contributed to the development of the skill of theft, drug peddling, and the use of physical violence among juvenile offenders
- Contact with criminals in the deviant environment or through social media, the juvenile teaches the craftsmanship of the criminal
- It gains him convictions to defend his delinquent behavior (learning from ready-made models)

- The juvenile cannot be isolated from social media because it has become part of his daily routine.
- Motivating the juvenile to study by giving him a mobile phone is often the cause of his delinquency.
- Most cases of juvenile delinquency had social problems (family, school) and mostly means Social media is the left resort to escape from problems.
- The distancing of the juvenile from the culture of belief explains above all the distancing of the family from some of its functions, followed by the school, which emptied its curricula of values, to the decline of the message of the local media.
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