

Social change and cyberspace Patterns of social change across the virtual space of Algerian youth.

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Received: 29/07/2025 Accepted: 21/11/2025

Abstract:

The objective of this research paper is to identify patterns of social change in Algerian youth influenced by virtual space technology. This encompasses the social media platforms they frequent, the dialogues and interactions they engage in, the values they acquire through this digital space, and the cultures they abandon. A descriptive survey method was employed on a sample of Master's students in the Department of Media and Communication Sciences at Khemis Miliana University, with data and information being collected via an electronic questionnaire. The study's findings suggest that virtual space exerts a considerable influence on young people and their perception of it. This phenomenon is compounded by the proliferation of social media platforms and the incessant emergence of novel technologies, leading to a state of technological dependency among individuals.

key words: *Social change; Virtual space; Social Media; Face book.*

Introduction

In the contemporary era, the world is observing accelerated technological advancement across a multitude of domains, encompassing culture, economics, and society. This has contributed to the emergence of advanced and diverse digital technologies, most notably social media platforms such as Face book and TikTok, in addition to satellite channels and other modern media. This development has had a profound impact on the structure of societies, bringing about radical transformations that are now visible to all and even becoming objectives that individuals strive to achieve, given the increasing reliance on these digital tools in daily life .This growing influence is attributed to the diverse uses of technological tools and connections across social media platforms, which have contributed to the creation of a new interactive environment that enhances the communication process and makes it more dynamic and enjoyable, even when the distances between individuals are vast. This facilitates communication as if they were sharing the same physical space, a notion reinforced by rapid technological transformations.

These transformations signify a contemporary technological revolution that has disseminated across digital networks, culminating in the emergence of "virtual space" as a novel reality in which individuals interact, influenced by various changes. It is contended by some that these changes may expose individuals to cultural and value-based risks and engender a schism in their identity and personality. Conversely, others regard them as a favorable occasion to augment awareness and receptivity to variegated cognitive frameworks and cultural heritages, thereby facilitating the cultivation of a contemporary persona that maintains congruence with digital transformations. The advent of interactive spaces, particularly through the medium of social media, has resulted in the establishment of a flexible communication environment that is now accessible at any time and in any location. This development has furnished individuals with novel opportunities for communication and the exchange of experiences. It is evident that the digital environment is precipitating numerous forms of change at both the individual and societal levels, particularly in the context of the technological revolution, which has effectively transformed the world into a "small village," as McLuhan previously theorized. This has prompted individuals to delve deeper into virtual space and engage in this digital dynamic, which may reshape their thinking, culture, and behavior. It is therefore reasonable to propose the following question, in light of the aforementioned facts:

what extent can virtual space be considered a contributing factor in the influence on society?

Research Question:

- ❖ What is meant by the term 'social change' in the context of sociological theory To elaborate, the term is employed to denote the nature of social transformations that have been witnessed by modern societies in the era of new digital transformations, and the subsequent impact on young people?

- ❖ what are the most significant patterns of social change that contribute to the development of societies and the enhancement of their reputation in all domains, in the context of the emergence of digital societies?
- ❖ What is meant by the term 'virtual space' as a new concept that has significantly contributed to the creation of social interactions between individuals and groups using modern technological media?
- ❖ what is meant by the term 'social media' in the context of a digital domain that has contributed to the dissemination of social awareness and the modification of behavior among a multitude of individuals and groups, most notably those belonging to the youth demographic?

Methodology:

1- Significance of the Study:

- ❖ The significance of examining social transformation and the virtual sphere within the Algerian context, especially among the youth demographic, is manifest in its capacity to unveil the profound shifts in values and behavioral patterns that ensue from extensive engagement with digital media.
- ❖ This descriptive and analytical study makes a significant contribution to the understanding of how the social and cultural identity of Algerian youth is being reshaped within a virtual space that transcends traditional geographical and cultural boundaries.
- ❖ The monitoring of the interaction between digital transformations and the local community is of benefit to researchers and decision-makers, as it facilitates the development of accurate perceptions of the mechanisms of change and ways to positively direct these transformations. The aforementioned benefits include the consolidation of digital citizenship and the enhancement of social integration.
- ❖ The contemporary age is characterized by profound societal transformations, precipitated by the increasing reliance on technology. This phenomenon is particularly pronounced among younger demographics, who have become increasingly influenced by technology and whose lives have become inextricably intertwined with it.
- ❖ The present study will analyse the impact of technology on the social structure. The virtual space is reshaping social relations and the development of social institutions (e.g. family, school) in light of technological changes.

2-the study's design and methodology must be examined:

This study adopts a descriptive analytical approach, with the overarching objective being the pursuit of truth and the formulation of logical conclusions. [1] The most appropriate method for such studies is the descriptive survey method, which is consistent with their nature and objectives. [2]

3-the study sample and tools should be examined:

In the field of research, scholars employ methodologies that are commensurate with the subject under investigation. A plethora of instruments are available to guide researchers in their analysis of specific topics, including questionnaires, interviews, and content analysis.

The questionnaire selected for use in this study is believed to be the most appropriate one for the specific requirements of the investigation.

The electronic questionnaire was also found to be an effective instrument in the research process. The questionnaire was disseminated electronically to a cohort of students from the Department of Media and Communication Sciences, representing various years and specializations, at Djillali Bounaama University of Khemis Miliana. In this study, a purposive sampling approach was employed. The selection of these items was based on preliminary observations from the research community (the Department of Media and Communication Sciences) and the groups affected by the virtual space. A variety of information and data were gathered and documented through a process of participatory observation. A total of 70 electronic questionnaires were disseminated between 24 April 2025 and 22 June 2025, with the selected sample serving as the initial point of departure. Following the distribution of the questionnaires, 60 were returned. After the removal of duplicates and other non-responders, a total of 43 questionnaires were retained for analysis.

4- In this study, we employed frequencies and percentages, utilising SPSS version 24 for the Social Sciences to generate simple and complex tables to ascertain the quantitative outcomes of the study.

Theoretical Aspect:

1- The Concept of Social Change:

Change is defined as any alteration affecting the social structure in terms of values, functions, and roles over time. This change may be regarded as either progress or regression. [3] Change is defined as a variation in the social structure in terms of values and functions, as well as in the patterns of interaction, social relations, and patterns of human behavior and activity. This is a distinctive feature of modern societies in their social lives.

2- Patterns of Social Change:

These patterns encompass both gradual change, which occurs over a period of time, and sudden change, which may result from dramatic events leading to radical transformations in society. The concept of structural change encompasses the process of restructuring social institutions, in addition to cultural change, which is defined as the evolution of values and beliefs as a result of interaction with external or internal forces. [4]

In his book *Social Change*, "Richard La Pierre" differentiates between two categories of social change:

A/ Quantitative changes are to be considered. These phenomena bear a resemblance to social changes on a broad level, and are intended to encompass an increase in the size, distribution, and composition of the population. That is to say, there is an increasing and growing transformation in the number of individuals, the diversity of their needs, the diversity of their interests, and the difference in their tendencies, regardless of their type and goals.

B/ Qualitative changes: These are changes that occur in lifestyles, interactions, and interactions among members of society within their organizations. These are all transformations in the level of interaction, social relations, and the type of norms held by individuals, in keeping with the spirit of the times in which they live. These transformations

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are subject to ongoing exchanges based on the shifts in the goals, interests, and ambitions of individuals and groups. [5]

The phenomenon of social change is characterized by a variety of patterns. A particular communication pattern has been identified which ranges from direct interaction to interaction via digital platforms such as Face book, Instagram, and others. This change occurs slowly but continuously, affecting the nature of social relations. Furthermore, it facilitates the process of social identity transformation through the transition between multiple identities. The continuous interaction among internet users gives rise to the emergence of a shared digital culture, characterized by new values and practices, such as digital freedom of expression and knowledge exchange. This cultural transformation engenders a shift in behavioral patterns and customs, exerting a profound influence on traditional culture. However, it is important to note that the transformations undergone by young people do not exhibit a single pattern, provided that their objectives and the cultural milieu are distinct. Instead, they manifest in diverse patterns, encompassing gradual or structural, intentional or unintentional variations.

3- virtual space :

Researcher "Liu" defined the virtual public sphere as a shared space open to all individuals in society, allowing everyone to access it and participate and interact with others. Researcher Bower described the electronic public sphere as a medium for a new discursive space that includes excluded and marginalized individuals who offer open discourses and present political issues dominated by an agenda of dialogue and debate, where ideas are judged based on their merit rather than the speaker's status.[6] This environment encompasses the infrastructure through which electronic communication networks function, the spaces where individuals interact, communicate, and exchange information, and the processes by which these activities occur. Consequently, it is the locale wherein material and non-material relationships and interactions occur among individuals from diverse backgrounds.

4-Social Media:

Researcher Morsi Mishri defines it as a digital social network with social identities created by individuals or organizations with ties resulting from social interaction, created to expand and activate professional or friendship relationships. [7] asserts, Face book is regarded as one of the most significant social networking sites. The forum has evolved into a multifaceted social and technological platform, offering a level of accessibility and functionality that facilitates a wide range of activities. [8]

Practical Aspect:

Discussion:

Table (01): Represents the distribution of sample members according to the gender variable.

Gender	Repts	Per (%)
Female	31	72.10
Male	12	27.90

Total	43	100
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Source: Researcher using SPSS 24 package

As illustrated in Table (01), the proportion of females is observed to exceed that of males, with an estimated female percentage of 72.1%, closely followed by the male percentage, estimated at 27.9%. The researcher hypothesizes that the preponderance of female students, constituting the majority of the student body across various colleges, institutes, and departments, is a contributing factor to these outcomes. Consequently, their interest lies in the digital realm and its manifold applications, particularly Face book, given its extensive functionality.

Table (02): Represents the distribution of sample members according to the age variable.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Repts</i>	<i>Per (%)</i>
18-23	24	55.8
23-28	13	30.2
28-33	06	14
Total	43	100

Source: Researcher using SPSS 24 package

As demonstrated in Table (02), which details the distribution of sample members according to the specified age variable, the demographic with an age range of 18-23 years has been identified as the predominant age group, accounting for 55.8% of the sample. This is followed by the 23-28 age group, which constitutes 30.2% of the sample, and the 28-33 age group, representing 14% of the sample. The figure of 0% is indicative of the fact that the schooled age groups are comprised of youth groups of varying ages. This finding suggests that these groups have a strong interest in social networking sites and the virtual space in general. It is hypothesized that this interest is driven by exposure to various digital content from multiple sources. The global network that produces various websites and electronic applications is considered a major source of intellectual, cultural, economic and other diversity.

Table (03): Represents the distribution of sample members according to the variable of residential area.

Place of Residence	Repts	Per (%)
Rural	06	14
Semi-urban	13	30.20
Urban	24	55.8
Total	43	100

Source: Researcher using SPSS 24 package

The data presented in Table (03) pertaining to the residential area variable reveal that the sample members residing in urban areas emerged as the leading category, with an estimated percentage of 55.8%. This is followed by the semi-urban sample, which accounts for 30.2%, and subsequently the rural sample members, with an estimated percentage of 14%. This suggests that the majority of students reside in urban social circles and engage in frequent interactions with a wide range of individuals, particularly those who are interested in various youth-related issues and committed to community awareness. This phenomenon is likely influenced by the accessibility of internet infrastructure, which facilitates high-speed communication and enhances daily interactions.

Table (04): Represents the distribution of sample members according to the social status variable.

Marital Status	Repts	Per (%)
Single	37	86
Married	06	14
Total	43	100

Source: Researcher using SPSS 24 package

The data presented in Table (04) pertaining to the marital status variable reveal that a significant proportion of the study sample consists of single youth, accounting for an estimated 86% of the sample. This is followed by the married category, which constitutes approximately 14% of the sample. This phenomenon can be attributed to the societal context of Algerian society, wherein university students are typically at the commencement of their educational and research endeavors. It is evident that these individuals do not typically engage in matrimony at this early stage of life, and their attitudes towards this institution are divergent. Consequently, modifying their behaviors does not entirely pertain to marriage, and they manage their daily affairs in accordance with the demands of public life and its variables across all domains. They depend on the outputs of the digital space in terms of diverse and multifarious data, issued by local, national, global, or other cultures. This is due to the absence of homogeneity in societies within the digital environment, and this is what is termed mass culture.

Table (05): Represents the behaviors acquired by young people through virtual space and their impact on the original culture of the Algerian youth.

Influence on Native Culture	Negative Behavior		Sometimes Positive Behavior		Sometimes Negative Behavior		Total	
	k	%	k	%	k	%	k	%
Yes	1	20%	16	44.4%	1	50%	18	41.86%

No	4	80%	20	55.6%	1	50%	25	58.13%
Total	5	100%	36	100%	2	100%	43	100%

Source: Researcher using SPSS 24 package

As illustrated in Table 5, which provides a representation of the acquired behaviors and their association with the impact on the original culture of young people, the highest percentage, estimated at 58.13%, was observed among sample members who were not influenced by active relationships via social media and behaviors acquired via virtual space in general. In the subsequent survey, 41.86% of respondents indicated that behaviors and interactions acquired via virtual spaces had influenced their original culture. With regard to the question of whether there is any negative impact on Algerian culture as a result of communication via virtual space, it is estimated that there is no such impact, on account of the absence of any negative behaviors that might be acquired in this way. This was followed by 20% of sample members who answered in the affirmative, indicating that there are negative behaviors acquired through communication with external individuals that influence young people's personal culture. In relation to the participants who responded in the affirmative to the question of whether acquired behaviors had a positive impact on the original culture of the youth, the estimated figure was 55.6%. Conversely, the proportion of those who responded in the affirmative to the question of whether acquired behaviors had a negative impact on the original culture of the youth was 44.4%. With regard to the acquired behaviors that have been observed to exert a positive or negative influence on the culture, the estimated figure was 50%, which is equivalent to the aforementioned percentage.

This finding suggests that behaviors acquired through socializing with individuals in virtual reality do not impact the youth's original culture. This phenomenon can be explained by the human need to establish relationships for the purpose of communication with others, external exposure, the acquisition of technological knowledge, and the exploration of virtual space. The act of communicating serves to foster the development of relationships, facilitating the exchange of ideas and benefits between individuals. The process of becoming acquainted with novel cultural phenomena through the medium of the Internet has the potential to enhance an individual's cultural understanding and scientific awareness. However, it is important to note that this process does not necessitate the complete relinquishment of one's original cultural identity. In some cases, interaction with others may result in an individual exhibiting a greater adherence to their cultural roots. This assertion is supported by the findings of a study conducted by Zineb Bouchlaghem (2018) [9], which examined the dynamics of social interaction within virtual groups facilitated by digital platforms.

Table (06): Represents gender and its relationship to the use of social networking sites.

Gender	Male		Female		Total	
Your purpose for using social media sites	k	%	k	%	k	%
Entertainment	13	43.3%	9	69.2%	22	51.16%
Establishing relationships	7	23.3%	0	0%	7	16.27%
Getting acquainted with a virtual space	10	33.3%	4	30.8%	14	32.55%
Total	30	100%	13	100%	43	100%

Source: Researcher using SPSS 24 package

As demonstrated in Table (06), which concerns gender and its correlation with the objectives of Algerian youth in relation to social media usage, it is evident that the primary objective of social media engagement is entertainment, accounting for 51% of responses. This is followed by the pursuit of virtual world knowledge, which accounts for 32.55%, and the establishment of relationships to enhance psychological well-being, accounting for 16.27%. With regard to the females who responded that the purpose was entertainment, the estimated percentage was 69.2%, with learning about the virtual world accounting for 30.8%. With regard to male respondents, the percentage who believed that the purpose of communication was entertainment was estimated at 43.3%, followed by 33.3% who stated that the purpose of communication was to learn about the virtual world, and 7% who indicated that it was to establish relationships with others.

The sample members' opinions regarding the purpose of using social media were found to vary, with many believing that individuals who interact with the outside world have a negative relationship or are on the wrong path, without realising that the virtual space is rich in educational and religious channels that may benefit the individual, whether male or female, adolescent or not. The present study has demonstrated that females are more inclined to utilise social media for the purposes of entertainment, as evidenced by their frequent engagement with culinary and fashion videos. Furthermore, these findings suggest a propensity among females to engage with social media for language learning purposes, as well as to access a variety of social media channels. In relation to male users, it has been confirmed that the primary purpose of their engagement with social media is for the purpose of entertainment, specifically through the consumption of video content and games. This behavior is driven by a desire to alleviate stress and provide a respite from their daily routine, thereby offering a means of escape from the challenges they encounter in their lives. The present study aligns with the research conducted by Siham Bouglouf (2018) [10], which concentrated on the extent of social media utilization and its impact on social and moral values through the intensive use of digital media.

Table (07): Represents the most used electronic platform and its impact on youth values and morals.

Most used online platform	Face book		TikTok		YouT ube		Instagra m		Telegra m or Whats App		Total	
	k	%	k	%	k	%	k	%	k	%	k	%
Yes	27	100 %	6	75%	2	100 %	4	100 %	2	100 %	41	95.34 %
No	0	0%	2	25%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	4.65 %
Total	27	100 %	8	100 %	2	100 %	4	100 %	2	100 %	43	100 %

Source: Researcher using SPSS 24 package

As demonstrated in Table (07), which concerns the impact of electronic platforms on the values and morals of young people, a resounding 95.35% of the sample answered in the affirmative when asked whether such platforms have an influence on the values and morals of Algerian youth. Conversely, 4.65% of the sample answered "no" to this question. This finding suggests that electronic platforms do not exert a significant influence on the values held by Algerian youth. With regard to the most widely used platforms that have an impact on the values and morals of Algerian youth, Telegram, Instagram, YouTube and Face book were all rated at 100%. TikTok was the second most popular choice, with 75% of respondents answering in the affirmative. It was followed by 25% of respondents who answered in the negative. This suggests that electronic platforms exert no influence on the values and morals of young people. This phenomenon can be attributed to the pervasive use of these social media platforms by young people, who engage with them on a daily basis and at all times. The content available on these channels has the capacity to influence their values, morals, cognitive frameworks, attire, and even their verbal expression. In this context, the impact of these platforms on young people becomes evident, propelling them into a cycle of social transformation that engenders a shift in their worldview through the influence of this thinking and these cultures on their cognitive processes and their inclination towards embracing change.

These platforms have a significant impact on individuals' perceptions of false awareness and behavior, occupying their time and shaping their daily interactions. Instagram, for instance, places significant emphasis on aesthetics and personal images, thereby influencing the notion of identity and success. This is due to the fact that adolescents tend to associate it with appearance and fame rather than internal values. YouTube is a popular platform among young people, who often unwittingly encounter content that fosters values of rebellious consumerism and verbal violence, among other problematic phenomena. It is evident that platforms exert a significant influence on moral and behavioral values, whether through the process of imitation or repeated exposure to uncontrolled content. The regulation of these

Social change and cyberspace Patterns of social change across the virtual space of Algerian youth---Sabiha .H platforms is imperative to ensure the preservation of values and morals among young people. This finding is supported by the conclusions of a study by Siham Bouglouf (2018) [11] , which examined the extent of social media use and its impact on social and moral values.

Table (08):Represents the change in lifestyle and its relationship to migration outside the country.

Lifestyle Change	Changed		I didn't change		Sometimes		Total	
Thinking about emigrating	k	%	k	%	k	%	k	%
Yes	5	62.5 %	3	21.4 %	13	61.9%	21	48.83
No	3	37.5 %	11	78.6 %	8	38.1%	22	51.16
Total	8	100 %	14	100 %	21	100%	43	100%

Source: Researcher using SPSS 24 package

As demonstrated in Table (08), the data reveal a discernible shift in lifestyle patterns facilitated by electronic platforms, with a concomitant relationship to immigration. The survey findings indicate that the proportion of respondents who reported a change in lifestyle through virtual spaces, yet expressed no consideration of immigration, accounted for 51.16% of the sample. This was followed by 48.83% of individuals who acknowledged a change in lifestyle due to electronic communication, concomitant with a shift in perspective on immigration. In contrast, respondents who did not modify their lifestyle through social media and did not contemplate emigrating constituted 78.6% of the sample. This was followed by 21.4% of respondents who did not change their lifestyle but expressed considerations regarding emigrating. With regard to the individuals who modified their lifestyle and entertained the prospect of emigrating, the estimated figure was 62.5%, with 37.5% of individuals who had previously considered emigrating subsequently opting against doing so. Those who answered "sometimes" indicated that their lifestyle occasionally changes and that they perceive emigration as the most straightforward method of gaining exposure to the global community. This demographic was estimated to account for 61.9% of the sample, with 38.1% of respondents admitting to being influenced by social media and modifying their lifestyle, yet not contemplating emigration. Cyberspace is a vast domain that can be influenced by anyone, but this is not measured by the site itself, rather by the personality of the affected individual. It is argued that young people can benefit from social media and use it as a scientific background through which they achieve intellectual and scientific development. It is evident that certain individuals are susceptible to the rapid influence of these technologies, to the extent that they seek to modify their lifestyles and contemplate emigrating. This is achieved by displaying idealised images of a life of luxury, which serve as a motivation to emigrate in pursuit of such an existence. Furthermore, social

media has been shown to facilitate the preparation of young people for migration by providing access to information regarding destinations, travel routes and employment opportunities. There are those who seek to effect change in their lifestyle in terms of dress, culture, way of speaking, and so forth, without entertaining the possibility of emigrating or even leaving the country. Historically, individuals residing in small villages sought to enhance their knowledge and expertise by migrating to new locations where they could pursue their interests. However, contemporary developments have rendered these obstacles obsolete, enabling individuals residing in rural areas to acquire advanced values without the necessity of urban migration (internal migration). It is evident that they engage with global concepts, products and values on a daily basis, which serves to render them virtual global citizens. However, it is not necessary for the individual to consider emigrating from their country of origin. It is imperative to acknowledge the reciprocal relationship between virtual space and migration. Immigrants have been instrumental in preserving their cultural and social connections with their respective homelands by navigating feelings of alienation and fostering a sense of belonging. Moreover, advancements in technology have facilitated the accelerated integration of immigrants into society. This is what the study (Khairat Hamza, 2023) [12], concluded regarding the role of virtual reality technology in developing cultural awareness among children, and increasing their social interaction through digital acquaintance with various issues that concern them.

Table (09):Represents age and its relationship to the values that the individual seeks to obtain through virtual space.

Age	18-23		23-28		28-33		Total	
Values the individual seeks to achieve	k	%	k	%	k	%	k	%
Fame	2	8.3%	0	0%	0	0%	2	4.65%
Evolution	18	75%	6	46.2%	5	83.3%	29	67.44%
Freedom to participate	3	12.5%	7	53.8%	1	16.7%	11	25.58%
Changing individual identity	1	4.2%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2.32%
Total	24	100%	13	100%	6	100%	43	100%

Source: Researcher using SPSS 24 package

Table (09) represents age and its relationship to the values that the individual seeks to acquire. The percentage of youth who see the value of development was estimated at 67.44%, followed by 25% who see the freedom of participation, then 4.65% who see fame, and finally those who see the change of identity, which was estimated at 2.32%. In relation

to the correlation between age and the acquisition of values, it was determined that 83.3% of the sample population between the ages of 33 and 38 identified 'development' as the primary value they sought to acquire. This was followed by 16.7% of the sample who selected 'freedom of participation'. The remaining 0% of the sample did not express a preference for any specific values. Subsequently, individuals between the ages of 18 and 23 observed that the acquired values were development and its percentage was estimated at 75%. Following this, freedom of participation was estimated at 12.5%, and fame was estimated at 8.3%. Then, changing identity was estimated at 4.2%. Finally, individuals between the ages of 28 and 33 had the first acquired value as obtaining freedom of participation, which was estimated at 53.8%. This was followed by development at 46.2%, while the rest of the acquired values were estimated at 0%.

There exists a plethora of values that individuals seek to achieve and attain, with the aim of fulfilling their desires and ambitions. This assertion is supported by the findings of our study, which revealed that individuals in this age group possess specific ambitions and values that they seek to actualise. Notably, these aspirations are particularly pronounced among young people who are motivated by the pursuit of development and stability. Examples of such aspirations include language acquisition, e-commerce, and freelance endeavors. The acquisition of knowledge regarding a variety of websites and technological developments, in addition to the utilisation and interaction with these, such as artificial intelligence, contributes to self-development and the maintenance of pace with the digital transformation. Furthermore, the liberty to engage, which is exercised with individuals in a more deliberate manner while evading issues and digital distractions, and the utilisation of freedom of expression to disseminate life experiences within the framework of awareness and guidance, in addition to other values, as individuals are significantly distant from them, and virtual space is a factor that facilitates the redistribution of these values and their representation in ways that differ from one generation to the next. The present study aligns with the research conducted by Khairat Hamza (2023) [13], which concentrated on the function of virtual reality technology in fostering social interaction by modifying the behavior of children who are exposed to content that upholds established social values.

Results:

- ❖ It became evident through the course of the research that digital communication has had a considerable impact on individual behavior. Individuals endeavor to emulate the virtual world through the medium of dress or overly affective speech regarding their personal lives.
- ❖ Digital communication has had a profound impact on the manner in which individuals interact within the context of virtual reality. The influence of this interaction on the emotional state of the parties involved has been demonstrated to vary, with the potential to shift from positive to negative as a result of imitation and subsequent influence from the other party.
- ❖ It is evident that Algerian youth have relinquished numerous customs and values that were once esteemed by them. This phenomenon can be attributed to the pervasive

influence of digital communication, which has been identified by researchers as a catalyst for familial disintegration. This disintegration can be attributed to the severing of family ties resulting from excessive external contacts.

- ❖ The study demonstrated that virtual space has contributed to change among young people in several ways that go beyond the superficial. Virtual spaces, such as the internet, for example, allow young people to be exposed to ideas from diverse cultures and societies. The study demonstrated that the expansive nature of the virtual realm has facilitated increased engagement among young individuals, thereby amplifying their influence and affording them the liberty to articulate their perspectives. Moreover, the formation of individuals' identities is no longer predicated on their interactions in real life (e.g. family, university, community), but is now being shaped digitally.
- ❖ The study indicated that the virtual space is profoundly impacting the subjects' cognitive processes, interpersonal interactions, and behavioral patterns. The objective of this impact is to influence their personality development, career aspirations, and social connections.
- ❖ The study concluded that the lives of Algerian youth have been significantly impacted by virtual space. This phenomenon can be viewed from two distinct perspectives. Firstly, the digital age has necessitated the implementation of conscious digital education, which has been met with varying degrees of enthusiasm. Secondly, the internet has facilitated heightened awareness among young people regarding national and global issues, in addition to fostering familiarity with diverse cultures and ideologies through interactions with individuals from various backgrounds.
- ❖ These changes include the utilisation of virtual spaces for the pursuit of employment opportunities and the demonstration of competencies that have heretofore encountered challenges in achieving tangible success.

Conclusion:

In the midst of the rapid transformations witnessed by the digital age, the concept of virtual space has emerged as a novel social actor, exerting a significant influence on the dynamics of relationships, representations, and behaviors within societies, particularly among youth demographics. The notion of virtual space is no longer merely a technological means of communication or entertainment; it has become a broad social sphere that profoundly influences patterns of thought and behavior within society. This phenomenon has given rise to novel values, the dissolution of certain traditional bonds, and the reconceptualisation of notions such as identity and belonging. The contemporary social landscape is characterized by the intricate interpenetration of real and virtual domains. The present study demonstrates that virtual space exerts a significant influence on young people, prompting them to engage in a subconscious spiral that impacts various aspects of their personal lives. Consequently, it is imperative that young Algerians are cognizant of the methods through which they can engage in virtual spaces in a manner that aligns with established standards, thereby facilitating their social interactions without being influenced by virtual ideologies that might compromise their capacity to exercise restraint over their impulses. Consequently, young

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people become the focal point of a virtual space that is susceptible to both negative and positive transformations.

Recommendations:

- ❖ The objective is to empower young people to engage consciously with the aforementioned changes. This will protect them from deviant behavior and enable them to understand and adapt to the content disseminated by these sites. The advent of rapid social change necessitates the establishment of a legal and ethical framework that is conducive to the regulation of digital behavior and the prevention of the propagation of deleterious phenomena.
- ❖ The encouragement of sociological research that addresses the relationship between virtual space and the transformation of social structure is of paramount importance in order to avoid the pitfalls resulting from unregulated interaction with modern media.
- ❖ It is imperative to raise awareness and encourage young people to engage with topics that address their concerns and interests in digital spaces by shaping authentic virtual values.

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