

The repercussions of virtual websites on the family fabric in Algerian society.

Farouk BOKRETA^{1*}, Leyla BOUHARAOUA²

¹ University of Djillali Bounaama, Khemis Miliana. (Algeria), f.bokreta@univ-dbkkm.dz

² University of Djillali Bounaama, Khemis Miliana. (Algeria), l.bouharaoua@univ-dbkkm.dz

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Abstract :

This study aimed to find out the relationship between addiction to social networking sites “Facebook” and the collapse of moral values within the Algerian family. We allocated a group of adolescents to conduct this research. To diagnose this phenomenon, we conducted a field study in which we relied on 10 cases, from the category of adolescents, who had Facebook accounts and were exposed to socially unacceptable content. We used the descriptive analytical approach in describing and interpreting this phenomenon, and we relied on observation and interview techniques in collecting data. The results of the study showed that the absence of parental control and adolescents’ addiction to Facebook, especially its immoral content, has contributed to them acquiring moral values that are reprehensible and rejected in our society.

Keywords: social networking sites; digital addiction; moral values; adolescence.

* Corresponding author.

1. Introduction

Algerian society is witnessing a state of continuous change that has contributed to the change in family structures, and the resulting repercussions on the value system within it. In recent decades, many transformations have been witnessed at the social, cultural, political and economic levels, which have affected the social structure of Algerian society. Such transformations have been accompanied by repercussions on society, its systems and structural components, including its value system. Among the most important forms of changes that have occurred in the family are in its structure and form due to the spread of industrialization and the exit of women. To work, and the subsequent changes in the methods of education, socialization and care, the authority in it became linked to the economic situation and the social, political, scientific and administrative status, after it had been linked to values, customs and traditions, and was often based on older males, but due to the transformations that occurred in our society this authority became shared between the spouses, and in some cases it was based on the wife, especially after she left for work, which gave her a kind of economic independence.

Add to that what the world has witnessed in recent years of a revolution and explosion in the field of communication and information technology, and a continuous increase in the dependence of various sectors of countries on the Internet, and various programs, applications and electronic equipment, and since we live in the age of technology, most members of society, similar to the teenage group, whether male or female today, have smart phones equipped with Internet service, whether with the knowledge of their parents or without it, which has increased the number of users of the social networking network, which many parents believe that it is much better for their children to stay inside the home browsing these virtual platforms. From their going out to the street, which prompted us to conduct this study to identify the repercussions of teenagers' use of social networking sites, including content that differs from the moral values approved by their society, and therefore we pose the following question:

Is the use of the social networking site Facebook related to the collapse of moral values among adolescents in the Algerian family?

The following two questions emerged from it:

Does the absence of parental control on social networking sites have anything to do with the collapse of the moral values of children within the Algerian family?

Is teenagers' addiction to social networking sites with immoral content related to the collapse of their moral values?

The research hypotheses were as follows:

The first hypothesis: The absence of parental control contributes to children's use of the social networking site Facebook in a way that reinforces the collapse of their moral values.

The second hypothesis: Adolescents' addiction to social networking sites with immoral content contributes to the collapse of their moral values.

2. Defining the concepts of the study

2.1 Social networking sites: Social networking sites We define it as web-based services that allow individuals to (1) construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system, (boyd & Nicol.B.E, 2007) AND WE CAN defined as a global communication network that connects thousands of computer systems, allowing millions of users worldwide to exchange information continuously (laggoun.S & khelifi.H, 2006) SO this system of electronic networks across the Internet, which allow the subscriber to create his own website, and then connect it through an electronic social system with other members who have the same interests and identities. However, these sites have evolved over time to become in the form of large sites that include in their content many personal pages for subscribers, which are easily created instead of creating an integrated site and bearing its cost, and thus these sites have moved to become important sites such as Facebook, Twitter... etc so modern information and communication technology has brought has opened new horizons and brought about profound changes in various aspects of human life, cultural, intellectual and social. It has also greatly influenced all patterns of human communication, as it has opened wide scope for embodying the concept of the global village referred to by Marshall McLuhan.

2.2 Moral values: We have found that moral values is defined as essentially cover those properties of objects and subjects of the surrounding reality, explicating the positions of "good – evil" and are manifested in interpersonal relationships (L, rozokha.A, & Azmaan.C, 2022)

- Moral values, which essentially cover those properties of objects and subjects of the surrounding reality, explicating the positions of "good – evil" and are manifested in interpersonal relationships so maybe indicated that values are characterized by a set of characteristics that distinguish them from other concepts, such as need, motivation, belief, direction, and behavior.

in the same case we have defined of this concept of values refer to interests, desires, inclinations, details, duties, moral obligations, wishes, demands, goals, needs, what people hate, what attracts them, and various other types of chosen orientations. As for moral values, they are standard psychological organizations that the individual absorbs and represents during his upbringing and normalization practices in the environment in which he lives, so that these organizations appear through his verbal, emotional, and behavioral activity .

2.3 Adolescence: The meaning that various cultures give to adolescence differs greatly. for example, adolescence is marked by initiation rites in some cultures. These ceremonies publicly celebrate the transition of the individual from childhood to adulthood; before the event, the person is regarded as a child, but afterward he or she given adult status (KIMMEL & IRVING B, 2017).in our study it has the same meaning when the stage in which the gradual transition towards physical, sexual, mental and psychological maturity occurs. The term adolescence in psychology also means the stage of transition from childhood to adulthood and maturity. Adolescence is a stage of preparation for adulthood, and extends in the second decade of an individual's life from approximately thirteen to nineteen, or a year or two before that.

2.4 Digital addiction: marked by compulsive use of devices like smartphones, gaming consoles, and social media platforms, poses increasing threats to mental, emotional, and physical health. Though not formally classified in the DSM-5 (except Internet Gaming Disorder), it shares traits with substance addiction—withdrawal, tolerance, and impaired control. Adolescents and young adults are particularly vulnerable, with excessive screen time linked to disrupted sleep, depression, anxiety, and obesity. (SA.T, 2025) But in the reality the most danger addiction is addictions of social media so we could to defined it as using the Internet for long time. So if we describes addiction as an escape process in which an individual engages in behaviors that provide temporary pleasure and relief from internal suffering and we find Volkow and others define addiction as a disorder characterized by repetitive engagement in actions that lead to recurrent intoxication, followed by progressive dependence, leading to symptoms of withdrawal, compulsive thoughts, and cravings. (Batoul & Azieze, 2024) so we can say the addiction in this case is using the social edia more than what it should for example if someone use phone more than 38 hours a week for purposes other than work, with a tendency to increase the hours of Internet use to satisfy the same desire that was previously satisfied with fewer hours, while suffering from psychological and physical symptoms when the connection is interrupted,

including psychological and motor tension, anxiety, and compulsive concentration of thinking about the Internet. It also means overusing the Internet and relying on it almost completely and feeling a constant longing if it is prevented, so that it becomes the person's main concern and sitting in front of it becomes a prisoner of this. Web. identified decreased communication among family members in a household and concluded that this was caused by Internet usage. They attributed these negative outcomes to a social displacement effect, such that time used on social relationships online displaces offline relationships. (Brandtzaeg, 2012)

3. The Impact of Digital Addiction on Adolescent Identity

Digital addiction in adolescents is linked to a loss of control over real life and the erosion of their personal identity and social relationships. This leads to the emergence of new images far removed from their surrounding reality. The most significant impacts of digital addiction on adolescent identity can be summarized as follows:

3.1 Erosion of Social Values: we have seen that values refer to moral principles or other judgments of worth. the term is used by sociologists in a number of different ways (BRAYAN S2006) . And this values can be spoiled by unregulated and unplanned internet using furthermore can lead to changes it in the system that constitutes the framework and structure of social life and the growth and emergence of multicultural societies. This may manifest in specific relationships, ideas, attitudes, or behaviors. The internet transforms information and ideas into communicative media charged with a set of values that influence subsystems such as the family.

3.2 The Tyranny of Virtual Identity: With the increased use of social networking sites by teenagers, identity has become one of the most important issues has raised by this use. While some prefer to embody their real identity online, we found others this attention is superficial and diffuse, and his identity is not just multiple but is out of focus (E.R., 2019). And they are taking a different approach, impersonating others or imagining new identities for various purposes. Because the content of virtual identity is defined as a process of actual stereotyping, the material of which is the actors themselves, and which has become subject to modeling within the networked society, users of this virtual space find themselves surrounded by diverse cultural models. This places them in a constant state of questioning between an original culture they strive to preserve and an imported one that may isolate or dominate them, directly impacting the content of their identity as manifested in their virtual interactions, and

consequently, their practices and aspirations for their civic roles.

3.3 The Disintegration of Social Bonds: when Yoesoep Edhie Rachmad a symptom of fractured relationships and weakened moral attachments. when he refer to how family breakdown, institutional failure, and cultural alienation create emotional and social voids that foster deviance (Rachmad, 2025). Young people and teenagers seek to form special human and social relationships outside the family circle. This may be for various reasons, including a lack of familial warmth or as a result of suffering from psychological, familial, or marital problems.

3.4 Adolescent isolation from their surroundings: The continuous use of social networks for long hours each day leads to the isolation of many adolescent users from their families and a lack of desire for physical activity, social engagement, and family participation in exchanging opinions and solving problems. Thus, this obsession is considered a symptom of continuous use or immersion in social media. And in this case the social isolation can be defined as the absence of social interactions, contacts, and relationships with family, friends, and neighbors (Mahboub, Danah A, Haneen S, Amwaj I, Leena A, & Njoud N, 2023)

3.5 Lying and concealing one's identity: Lying has long been identified as a critical unethical behavior in real life or in virtual life on social media, with honesty presented as a minimum moral standard for both society and modern organizational life (Leavitt & David, 2015). So lying is considered one of the behavioral problems adolescents use to assert their independence. They often resort to it out of fear of punishment. Online users, especially on social media, display lying and concealing their identity in the way they desire and wish to be perceived.

4. Methodological Procedures of the Study

4.1 Methodology Used: Scientific method refers to a standardized set of techniques for building scientific knowledge, such as how to make valid observations, how to interpret results, and how to generalize that results (Bhattacharjee, 2012). this is why we use a descriptive-analytical method was adopted, which is considered "a method of systematic scientific analysis and interpretation in order to achieve specific objectives for a social situation.

4.2 Data Collection Tools: We relied on the interview technique, which is a two way method which permits an exchange of ideas and information. "Interviewing is fundamentally a process of social interaction. (Pandey & Meenu Mishra, 2015) so we use this tool because it is one of the most popular and frequently used

methods of gathering information from people about anything is by interviewing them. It is also the most popular method used within the social sciences (MacDonald & Nicola).

4.3 Study Sample: A sample is a subset of the larger population that will serve as the data source. (stolley, 2005) so the study included ten (10) participants from the category of adolescent users of the Facebook application, both male and female.

4.4 Spatial and Temporal Scope of the Study: The study was conducted in the city of Tipaza, from November 10, 2025, to December 25, 2025.

5. Study Results

5.1. Preliminary Data Results:

- _ The sample included 10 participants, 5 males and 5 females.
- _ The age range of the participants was 14 to 17 years.
- _ Their educational level ranged from the fifth grade of primary school to the second year of secondary school.
- _ The duration of the participants' activity on the Facebook platform ranged from one to four years.
- _ The participants spent between three and seven hours daily on the Facebook platform, and in some cases, more, especially on weekends and holidays, given that most of the participants were students still have attended school.

5.2. Partial Analysis of the First Hypothesis:

"The absence of parental supervision contributes to children's use of Facebook in a way that reinforces the erosion of their moral values."

Through our field study, we confirmed the validity of this hypothesis. Eight out of ten cases (cases 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10) confirmed that their phones were not monitored by their parents. These individuals stated that their parents did not review the content of their personal Facebook accounts. This indicates a lack of parental supervision, which grants these teenagers a degree of freedom to do as they please, including acquiring unethical values, free from the indirect social control that is one of the most important responsibilities of parents towards their children. This is what the pioneers of social control theory pointed out when they emphasized that "the first line of social defense for society is the group's norms, which discourage and reject deviance because it is socially unacceptable and

reprehensible behavior. Therefore, social control institutions must be activated, starting with the first institution, which is the family" (Ma'touq, 2011, p. 269). Travers Hershey, a leading figure in this theory, argues in his book "Causes of Juvenile Delinquency" that socialization is crucial in producing conformity to social rules. When this conformity is broken, deviance occurs. Weak control in any societal institution, such as the family, school, club, or peer group, leads to a weakening of the bond that connects individuals to the system. This weakened bond automatically allows for a significant degree of deviance. Returning to the results of the field study related to the first hypothesis, we find that most of the respondents have more than one Facebook account, including secret accounts created without their parents' knowledge. These accounts are often used for immoral behavior, most notably illicit relationships. One reason for this is the constant exposure of these teenagers to immoral content on Facebook, such as pornographic images and videos, posts promoting moral decay, and illicit relationships undertaken out of curiosity and experimentation, under the guise of love and mutual interest. This immersion in the online world makes them more susceptible to negative content, which has negatively impacted their social relationships, particularly their interaction with their parents. The stronger the bond between children and their parents, the lower the chances of their delinquency. Conversely, the chances of delinquency and crime increase among children from dysfunctional families due to parental neglect, especially the absence of the father's role because of his work or deviant behavior. As is well known, the authority to control and correct children's behavior rests more heavily with the father than the mother. His absence leads to these teenagers rebelling against established rules and values. Social interaction and a propensity for unethical behavior.

It is important to note the lack of parental control over modern technologies and insufficient awareness of the risks associated with using social media platforms like Facebook. Most parents are primarily concerned with warning their children against excessive smartphone use to prevent academic decline, unaware of the serious consequences of their children's online activities in this virtual space, which have far-reaching repercussions on real life. This contrasts sharply with teenagers who have grown up with these technologies, wielding considerable control over them and understanding their intricacies. Consequently, they often manage to deceive their parents by claiming to use their smartphones for studying, or by presenting seemingly innocuous Facebook accounts with socially acceptable posts, while secret accounts are used for various immoral activities. Even when

their parents monitor their phones, these teenagers take precautions such as using them at night while their parents are asleep, deleting conversations, photos, and explicit videos as a precaution, and constantly changing their passwords. Thus, these teenagers have learned various methods and tricks to conceal their secrets from their parents. Their guardians, and the resulting lies they tell them, and behavior that they may become accustomed to and that will lead to negative consequences for their lives in the future.

5. 3. Partial analysis of the second hypothesis:

"The addiction of adolescents to social media sites with immoral content contributes to the erosion of their moral values."

Our field study, specifically regarding the second hypothesis, found that the majority of cases confirmed its validity. Nine out of ten respondents admitted to being addicted to Facebook, unable to do without browsing it. Their average daily usage of the site was approximately five hours. They also confirmed their exposure to immoral content, including pornographic videos and images, and their membership in groups with immoral content. Eight respondents confirmed being in illicit romantic relationships, discussing immoral topics and using the application's video camera to chat with friends. Most respondents stated they had acquired immoral values, including: openly discussing sexual topics and engaging in immoral conversations with strangers; viewing pornographic images and videos; masturbating; sharing indecent personal photos and videos; lying to parents and concealing secrets; stealing; swearing; and other socially unacceptable practices that contradict societal values and standards. These behaviors were not exhibited by most of them before using the application. Facebook, in fact, was among the consequences and repercussions of its use. Many justified these behaviors as a means of satisfying their emotional and sexual desires, especially given the ease of doing so through these virtual platforms. Other motives included experimentation, curiosity, self-affirmation, a need for attention and appreciation, a form of rebellion against parental authority, and a search for independence—all characteristics of adolescence and its accompanying emotional and behavioral changes.

In this context, it's worth noting that the Uses and Gratifications Theory posits that audiences now select and choose content from modern media to satisfy their underlying desires and respond to individual needs. This theory also suggests that audiences use media content to fulfill specific desires related to the material presented. In other words, adolescents resort to social **media to fill emotional**

voids and achieve their desired goals through these platforms.

6. General Conclusion of the Stud

This study concluded that the absence or weakness of parental supervision over teenagers' Facebook accounts contributes to their adoption of immoral values. This is due to their constant and prolonged daily exposure to content that contradicts the values and standards of Algerian society. While parents are obligated to raise their children properly according to established standards derived from our Islamic faith and our cultural and social heritage, passed down from generation to generation to create socially well-adjusted individuals, modern technology, including various social media platforms like Facebook, has complicated the socialization process. Monitoring children's use of social media is difficult because most parents lack control over these applications and are unaware of the dangers posed by these websites and the immoral content that circulates, impacting their children's character development and contributing to the acquisition of socially unacceptable behaviors.

Teenagers' addiction to Facebook, their inability to do without it, and their immersion in browsing its content—including pages, posts, photos, videos, and inappropriate conversations—and engaging in illicit relationships through the app, have led them to adopt unethical values. They justify this by claiming it satisfies their emotional needs, many of which are denied, and their sexual desires, which are subject to strict controls and restrictions in real life but are easily fulfilled in this virtual space.

These findings remain relative and cannot be generalized to the entire phenomenon. They can only be generalized to the individuals in the studied sample. This topic remains a fertile ground for future sociological studies due to its importance and prevalence in Algerian society.

7. Conclusion

The increasing use of social media networks, including Facebook, especially by teenagers, has led to the emergence of many deviant behaviors that contradict the moral values that Algerian families strive to instill in their members, such as chastity, honor, responsibility, respect for others, especially obedience to parents, honesty, integrity, and postponing the gratification of desires, especially sexual ones, until their appropriate time and through legitimate means determined by society. However, due to social change and the influence of social media networks with their dissemination of immoral content that contradicts the values and

standards of our society, and given the constant exposure of teenagers to this content, this has contributed to their acquisition of immoral values, represented in viewing and exchanging pornographic images and videos, entering into illicit relationships, and exchanging sexual conversations, images, and indecent videos under the pretext of entertainment, love, filling free time, curiosity, experimentation, a misunderstanding of permissible sexual relations, and imitation of friends and what is broadcast in the media, as a kind of rebellion against social control and a challenge to parental authority. As a form of self-affirmation and asserting independence, especially during this sensitive age when adolescents experience rapid physical and emotional changes, parents should be making greater efforts to guide and monitor their children. This was largely absent in the cases studied, resulting in weak social control among these teenagers. This, in turn, granted them a degree of freedom to engage in numerous unethical practices, both in the virtual world and by transferring these experiences to real life.

Therefore, parents must embrace their children, especially during adolescence, offering them advice and guidance, listening to their concerns, suggesting and providing solutions to the problems their children face, and working to instill in them sound sexual education in accordance with what is stipulated by our Islamic religion and what is known in our values and traditions. They must pay more attention to them, especially emotionally, and provide positive behavioral role models for them to emulate. If adolescents are not cared for and embraced at this stage, even if deviant behaviors begin to appear, this will lead to their adoption of immoral values and the continuation and escalation of their deviant behaviors. A deviant adolescent who is not guided and directed at this age will turn into a professional criminal with antisocial behaviors. It is also necessary to raise awareness among members of society about the dangers of using Facebook in a negative way, and the need to urge parents to monitor their children, limit the times they use their smartphones, and constantly warn them of the dangers of social media networks.

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