



ASSESSING THE SOCIOECONOMIC EFFECTS OF FACEBOOK USAGE ON ADOLESCENTS: (A STUDY AT ALBERONI UNIVERSITY)

Asmatullah Daneshjo

*PhD Scholar, Department of Sociology, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University
Surat, Gujarat, India.*

Abstract

The proliferation of Facebook usage among youth has become a significant aspect of their social and academic lives. The widespread popularity of Facebook among students has prompted this research endeavor, which aims to conduct a preliminary analysis of Facebook's utilization and its economic impact on adolescents at Alberoni University, specifically within the Languages and Literature Faculty. This study proposes a research model to examine the patterns of Facebook usage and assess its economic implications on adolescents. The primary objective of this research is to ascertain the extent to which Afghan adolescents employ Facebook for negative and positive purposes.

This paper relies on a questionnaire distributed exclusively to students at Alberoni University. The survey, administered to 200 students, sought to gauge the extent to which they utilize Facebook for positive and negative activities. The questionnaire comprises both open-ended and closed-ended questions. In the interest of data analysis convenience, Excel was employed to process both qualitative and quantitative data.

This study delves into the dynamics of Facebook usage and its economic ramifications among adolescents in Afghanistan. In the pursuit of data collection, a comprehensive approach combining qualitative and quantitative methods, inclusive of open-ended and closed-ended questions, was employed. It is essential to note that this research was confined to the Kapisa province within the precincts of Alberoni University. The participants encompassed a mix of male and female students. The findings of this research indicate that Facebook is predominantly used in Afghanistan for negative purposes, including the dissemination of discriminatory content, the sharing of immoral images and videos, derogatory remarks targeting individuals and government officials, the propagation of frivolous ideas, self-promotion through photos, fostering illicit relationships, and, most significantly, wasting valuable time rather than contributing positively to society. And it is found that the economic condition of people is very low and it has directly impacted their economic.

Key words: *Social Media, Youths, Facebook, Economic, Society.*

Introduction

In Afghanistan, the adoption of social media has been hindered by costly internet access and limited network infrastructure, even in the capital, Kabul. This contrasts with the global prevalence of social networking sites, notably Facebook, which emerged in 2004 and reshaped global communication. Facebook, known as a social utility, facilitates efficient communication among individuals and maps real-world social connections digitally through the "social graph." In Afghanistan's landscape, Facebook offers both positive avenues, such as information dissemination and problem-solving and negative aspects, including cyber bullying and the consumption of objectionable content. Responsible Facebook use holds potential for addressing societal challenges and streamlining daily life for Afghan youth. However, unchecked usage may lead to wasted time, psychological distress, and economic risks. This research investigates Facebook's multifaceted role in contemporary Afghan society, aiming to provide Afghan individuals, especially youth, with a comprehensive understanding of the platform.



Armed with this knowledge, they can navigate Facebook responsibly, enhancing personal well-being and contributing to societal progress in a unique social and technological context.

Various impacts of Facebook on people's lives and behaviors, as proposed by the Bartarinha newspaper in 2012

1. Facebook addiction: Many users find it difficult to go 24 hours without checking their Facebook accounts, leading to addiction that can harm their sleep and job performance.
2. Emotionalizing and creating envy: Facebook users often check their romantic partner's actions and speeches, leading to issues in emotional communication. It can create competition and envy in relationships, even contributing to divorces.
3. Sorrow and depression: Facebook users often showcase only positive aspects of their lives, leading others to perceive their lives as problem-free. This can lead to feelings of sadness, frustration, and even depression.
4. Job achievement: Despite job restrictions, accessing Facebook can enhance creativity and concentration, providing a mental break to refresh the mind.
5. Boosting self-confidence: While Facebook can lead to depression, it can also strengthen self-confidence when users view positive information on their pages.
6. Impact on friendships: Sharing negative life experiences on Facebook can lead to feelings of boredom and disinterest among friends.
7. Body image issues: Users often feel dissatisfied with their appearance, with 51% reporting increased dissatisfaction since using Facebook. Comparing themselves to others in photos can intensify these feelings.
8. Stress: While Facebook is meant for socializing, it can sometimes lead to stress due to delayed responses and the guilt associated with rejecting friend requests.

In conclusion, Facebook has both positive and negative effects on people's lives, impacting their mental health, self-esteem, relationships, and even body image. Users should be mindful of these potential effects when using the platform.

Statement of the problem

This research explores the impact of online networks, focusing on Facebook and other platforms, on adolescents. Online networks, like Facebook, have become immensely popular, starting from its inception at Harvard University in 2004. These platforms now have millions of users, primarily adolescents, globally. However, the impact of online networks can be both positive and negative. The research aims to investigate how adolescents utilize online networks, assessing the balance between positive and negative usage. It seeks to answer questions regarding the extent to which online networks are used positively or negatively by this demographic.

Research Objectives

In this study, the following goals will be pursued:

1. Investigate the negative usage of Facebook among adolescents.
2. Identify the underlying reasons that drive adolescents to use Facebook in a negative manner.
3. Examine the extent to which Facebook serves as a positive platform for adolescents.
4. Assess the extent to which Facebook is used negatively by adolescents.
5. Explore the detrimental effects of negative Facebook usage.
6. Identify and analyze the economic, social, cultural, and mental effects of Facebook on adolescents.
7. Determine the extent to which Facebook poses economic risks to adolescents.



Research questions

The following questions serve the purpose of identifying strategies for youths to utilize Facebook in a responsible manner while avoiding its negative consequences. They are essential for guiding the research process and ultimately finding effective solutions to the research problem.

1. How do adolescents in Afghanistan utilize Facebook?
2. Does Facebook exert an economic impact on Afghan adolescents?
3. What are the consequences of negative Facebook usage?
4. What are the outcomes of Facebook being used as a positive platform by Afghan adolescents?

Literature Review

Facebook Usage among College Students in the Philippines (Leodoro, 2012): The study focused on Filipino college students' Facebook usage. It found that Facebook remains popular among students, with a majority of them using it daily for about 90 minutes. The study also explored the relationship between Facebook usage and negative emotional states like depression, anxiety, and stress. While there was no direct link between Facebook usage intensity and these emotional states, an increase in time spent on Facebook was associated with higher depression and anxiety scores. The study also examined how undergraduates use Facebook, finding that it is integrated into their daily routines. It was primarily used for social interaction with existing friends, especially those from high school. Maintaining connections with high school classmates was a strong motivation for Facebook usage.

A study on Youth vs, Elders usage (Altman et al., 1975) discovered that adolescents tend to disclose more information on Facebook and use privacy settings less than adults. Despite these differences, both groups were similar in the factors influencing their information disclosure and control.

Users disclosed information primarily to share, store, and be entertained, with positive consequences such as improved relationship management and negative consequences like spending too much time on the platform. Motivations and consequences were similar for males and females. (Susan, 2011)

Britany, 2012 surveyed 199 students in La Grange collage on Facebook usage and academic performance revealed that students who spent more time on Facebook tended to have lower GPAs. Additionally, the study suggested that the importance of a social life and the role of Facebook in it contributed to increased Facebook usage. The study's findings suggest that the more students perceive Facebook as intertwined with their social aspects of college life, the more time they invest in the platform. This increased usage, particularly when engaged in distracting activities, negatively correlates with GPA, potentially impacting academic performance. The research highlights the need for further exploration into effective Facebook usage strategies among students, as it is evident that improper use can act as a significant distraction and hinder academic success.

Students with extraverted personalities tended to have lower academic performance due to extensive Facebook usage. However, students with better self-regulation skills controlled their Facebook usage more effectively. Trust in others did not significantly impact Facebook usage, but cognitive absorption was influenced by self-control and personality traits. (Rouis et al., 2011)

A survey conducted by Yunus and Salehi in 2007 delved into the effects of Facebook groups on students' writing abilities and their emotional experiences. The research found that Facebook groups played a constructive role in aiding students in various aspects of their writing process, such as facilitating brainstorming sessions, enhancing vocabulary acquisition, and minimizing spelling errors. However, despite these positive outcomes, students maintained a preference for traditional classroom discussions over virtual interactions conducted on the Facebook platform. This preference stemmed



from the inherent asynchronicity of online discussions, which differed from the real-time, in-person dynamics of classroom discourse.

In essence, Yunus and Salehi's research highlights the valuable contributions of Facebook groups to students' writing skills and their overall learning experiences. It underscores the platform's ability to promote collaborative writing and language development. Nevertheless, it also acknowledges the enduring appeal of face-to-face classroom interactions, shedding light on the challenges of fully replicating the dynamics of physical classrooms within virtual spaces. Saifullahi and Shateri's study in 2015 investigated the impact of Facebook usage on Iranian women. The research revealed a mix of positive and negative consequences associated with their Facebook engagement. On the positive side, Facebook offered women increased freedom, enhanced communication opportunities, and a boost in self-confidence. However, the study also highlighted negative outcomes, including the potential for women to distance themselves from their families and religious beliefs due to their Facebook interactions.

The findings underscore the importance of implementing educational initiatives that address the challenges and opportunities presented by Facebook in the context of Iranian women's lives. This study emphasizes the need for a balanced approach to Facebook usage, one that harnesses its benefits while mitigating potential drawbacks, particularly concerning cultural and familial ties.

A study by Eqdam, Rasolzada, 2014 explored how Facebook usage relates to social challenges. They found that increased membership duration, usage frequency, sharing, and overall activity on Facebook were associated with reduced social challenges. However, "meaningless use" of Facebook, such as playing games and consuming non-moral content, was linked to increased social difficulties. This highlights the importance of purposeful and mindful Facebook engagement to mitigate social challenges.

Pajwak news agency conducted a survey interview with 100 people in Kabul city regarding Facebook usage. The research findings indicate that Facebook is considered a valuable and effective social networking platform. However, issues arising from improper use, such as cheating and annoying behavior, have given rise to various problems. In Afghanistan, especially among the general population, Facebook surpasses other platforms like Twitter and Imo in terms of popularity. Many interviewees expressed that Facebook serves as a useful tool for communication, information acquisition, and raising awareness. Nonetheless, some individuals employ Facebook in harmful ways, leading to problems within families, instances of cheating, irritation caused by fictitious profiles, and the exacerbation of group and tribal discrimination. Additionally, the platform contributes to increased addiction among adolescents. (Shabnam, 2015).

The findings of Teelar's 2012 investigation show that the combination of imaginary social networking with Western powers has led to the displacement of some nations, weakening their national identities and traditions. Additionally, Teelar believes that these virtual networks have brought together people from various parts of the world, exposing them to foreign cultures and beliefs, thereby instilling a sense of concern about the potential loss of their national and religious identities.

Users disclosed on Facebook for various reasons, including sharing and storing information, seeking entertainment, staying updated with trends, and showcasing their activities. A positive outcome of disclosure was the sense of control over relationship management and psychological well-being, while the negative consequence was the potential for excessive time spent on the platform. Interestingly, motivations and consequences of disclosure appeared to be similar for both males and females,



although females tended to disclose more for information storage and entertainment, while males leaned towards information sharing. This finding aligned somewhat with previous research suggesting that males are more inclined to disclose for the benefits, whereas females are more cautious due to perceived risks. (Bankston, 2009)

In summary, these studies collectively provide insights into the extensive use of Facebook among adolescents and its multifaceted effects on academic, social, and emotional aspects of their lives. They also emphasize the importance of responsible and mindful Facebook usage.

Hypotheses

1. Adolescents who use Facebook negatively outnumber those who use it positively.
2. Facebook has an economic impact on youth in Afghanistan and worldwide.
3. Most Afghan youth use Facebook negatively.
4. There are only a few individuals who use Facebook positively.
5. Facebook is used as a platform for discrimination by Afghan adolescents.

Online networks can have both positive and negative aspects, depending on how users utilize them. For instance, Facebook boasts millions of users in Afghanistan and around the world, with a significant portion being adolescents. In my opinion, the majority of these adolescents tend to use Facebook in a negative manner. Some spend excessive time on the platform instead of focusing on their studies or other productive activities, while others post content that is discriminatory, morally questionable, or unrelated to constructive topics. This group of adolescents, which I refer to as negative users, appears to be more prevalent.

Conversely, there are some adolescents who use Facebook in a positive manner. They share informative content, engage in communication with relatives, and post Islamic texts. However, I believe that the number of positive users is smaller than that of negative users.

I also believe that using Facebook has economic consequences for its users. This impact is most significant on youth who use the platform negatively, as previously mentioned. Following non-moral pages or spending excessive time on Facebook can lead to confusion, depression, and even mental health issues among youth. Additionally, engaging with unethical content on the platform can result in significant financial costs, as downloading such content often comes with expenses.

Research Design

The study has conducted at Alberoni University in Afghanistan in September 2017. It employed a mixed-method research design, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches to explore students' participation and assess the impact of Facebook usage on adolescents in Afghanistan. The research utilized both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, as the study addressed both aspects.

Population and Sample

This research paper aims to investigate Facebook usage among adolescents, specifically university students. The target population for this study comprises all young individuals attending university. Data will be collected through 200 questionnaires, which will include both male and female participants. There will be 120 male and 80 female participants, as males typically have greater access to this platform. Due to constraints related to time, resources, and the unavailability of facilities, it is not feasible to distribute questionnaires to all adolescents in Afghanistan or conduct interviews with them. Therefore, this research will be conducted exclusively at Alberoni University, which consists of nine faculties.



Significance

In Afghanistan, a significant portion of the population, particularly the youth, remains unfamiliar with the positive and culturally appropriate uses of Facebook. They encounter numerous challenges in their Facebook usage. Moreover, many individuals lack a comprehensive understanding of the true purpose and potential benefits of Facebook; their knowledge often limited to creating profiles and sharing photos.

This investigation holds paramount significance as it endeavors to

1. Illuminate the perils associated with negative Facebook usage, serving as a cautionary guide for youths regarding the potential consequences of such behavior.
2. Promote a nuanced understanding of Facebook, emphasizing the constructive ways it can be harnessed for social networking and personal development.

By addressing these issues, this research seeks to bridge the knowledge gap and empower individuals to engage with Facebook in a more informed and positive manner.

Data Collection

Data was gathered at Alberoni University from a student population 200 consisting of both genders 120 males and 80 females. The research employed a questionnaire featuring a blend of structured, semi-structured, and open-ended questions, with a focus on multiple-choice questions for efficient response and analysis. Time permitting, interviews may be conducted with knowledgeable faculty members.

Data Analysis

Evaluation of Statistical data

The research utilized a questionnaire distributed to 200 participants, of which 160 were deemed valid responses, while 40 were rejected due to various issues such as blank or multiple-choice answers. Of the participants, 57 were female, and 103 were male, representing various provinces (20 in total) and districts (44 in total) across Afghanistan. The majority hailed from provincial centers and belonged to different academic classes, including freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors, all of whom were university students.

One crucial question posed to participants was whether they were Facebook users or not. The results revealed that 135 participants, or 84.375%, identified as Facebook users, while 25, or 15.625%, did not use Facebook. This indicates that the majority of respondents were experienced Facebook users, contributing to the reliability of the research findings, as users possess firsthand experience with the platform compared to non-users.

Evaluation of Qualitative Data

The researcher thoughtfully incorporated open-ended questions into the questionnaire to provide participants with the opportunity to express their ideas and insights without any constraints. These open-ended questions were strategically designed to elicit fresh perspectives and valuable information concerning Facebook usage. The primary objective was to uncover novel insights that could significantly contribute to the research's outcomes. Let's now delve into the participants' opinions and responses regarding the three key open-ended questions:

1. What factors, in your opinion, lead young people to engage in negative Facebook usage?

When participants were asked to share their perspectives on what drives youths to utilize Facebook in a detrimental manner, a diverse range of ideas emerged from their responses.



Below, we present the most prevalent and widely agreed-upon factors that were identified as causing negative Facebook usage among Afghan youths:

1. Illiteracy
2. Weak Family Monitoring
3. Lack of Government Regulations
4. Insufficient Knowledge of religion rules
5. Lack of Daily Planning
6. Dissemination of Discriminatory Content on Facebook Sites and Pages
7. Illegal Relationships between Boys and Girls

2. Based on your view what are the economic impacts of Facebook?

In response to the question about the economic impacts of Facebook, participants provided various insights. Afghanistan's economic challenges were a recurring theme, with some individuals struggling to afford basic expenses like car rentals while still spending money on expensive daily, weekly, or monthly Facebook data bundles. This created a divide where telecom companies profited, but common residents faced financial strain. Participants raised concerns about wasteful spending on Facebook, noting that this money could have been used more wisely. They also worried that excessive Facebook use exacerbated poverty and economic difficulties, diverting funds that could have been invested more productively, such as in education or other opportunities. Some participants distinguished between positive and negative Facebook use, with negative use involving significant data consumption seen as economically harmful. Afghanistan's expensive internet services compared to other countries intensified the economic consequences of Facebook usage. 1GB internet bundle equals to 200afg which is 3\$. Average yearly income of an Afghan is estimate to 550\$ by UNDP and monthly it will be 45\$ and the average use of Internet among youths is 3GB in a month which is 9\$ a month and yearly it will be 108\$. So we can say people use almost 20% of their income in internet. In summary, participants expressed diverse views on Facebook's economic effects, highlighting the intricate relationship between Facebook and Afghanistan's economic conditions.

3. From your perspective, what strategies can be employed to prevent young people from using Facebook in a negative manner?

- Various ideas exist on how to deter young individuals from using Facebook negatively. Common among these ideas are:
- Encouraging academic engagement and organizing educational events for students.
- Instilling a sense of responsibility, community values, and religious teachings in early education.
- Stressing the importance of time management and education.
- Exercising parental oversight of children's access to smartphones and computers.
- Enforcing government regulations on Facebook content.
- Promoting youth involvement in sports and other extracurricular activities as alternatives to Facebook.
- Offering educational resources and positive content on Facebook.
- Government supervision of online networks to restrict negative content.
- Encouraging job opportunities and educational pursuits for unemployed youth.
- Cultivating a culture of learning and academic growth.

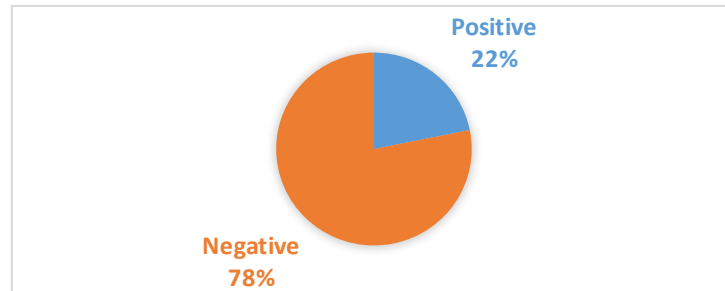


The most effective strategies involve government intervention to regulate inappropriate content, active parental participation in monitoring online activities, public awareness campaigns highlighting the adverse effects of Facebook, educational workshops, and promotion of knowledge development among students.

Evaluation of Quantitative Data

1. In your point of view for which purposes Facebook is use more in Afghanistan?

- Positive
- Negative



Out of the 160 participants, 35 chose the "positive" option, while the remaining 125 opted for "negative." Here's a graph displaying the percentages for each choice 78% for negative and 22% for positive.

2. How much hour do you spend on Facebook at 24 hour during a day and night?
 _____hour/hours.

Total hours	All participant	Average	Range
379.5 Hour	160 People		
$379 \div 160$		2.37Hour	
High value of hour	Low value of hour		9
10	1	$(10-1) =$	

The data reveals variations in the amount of time Facebook users, specifically youths, spend on the platform during both day and night. In total, the surveyed students reported spending a cumulative total of 379.5 hours on Facebook. Upon calculating the average, the findings indicate an approximate mean of 2.37 hours spent daily by these individuals. Consequently, it can be inferred that, on average, youths devote approximately 2 hours and 23 minutes to Facebook each day.

To further assess the accuracy of this estimate, it becomes imperative to determine the range of these time allocation scores. The range, which represents the difference between the highest and lowest values in the dataset, is calculated as 9 hours (the maximum) minus 1 hour (the minimum), resulting in



a range of 8 hours. This wide range underscores the considerable variation in Facebook usage among the surveyed individuals, with some dedicating substantial portions of their day to the platform, while others allocate much less time for this activity.

3. How much the maximum of your Facebook fee in a month is?

Total money	All participant	Average	Range
28945	160 People		
$28945 \div 160$		180.90	980
High value	Low value		
1000	20	$(1000-20) =$	

The above chart shows that the total money which is used on Facebook during a month is (28945) which the highest is (1000) and the lowest is (20) which it includes a wide range of variation. There are some people that spend much money and also there are others that do not spend much money, so in this question the average spends of money is 180AF in a month.

4. In your perspective how much youths in Afghanistan use Facebook as a negative source?

Least	Less	None	much	Very much

Options	Participants	Percentage	Total people	Total Percentage
Very much	48	30%	160	100%
Much	88	55%		
None	0	0%		
Less	19	12%		
Least	5	3%		

Among all the participants, 48 of the adolescents, constituting 30% of the total respondents, chose the first option ("very much"). Furthermore, 88 of the youths, comprising 55% of the participants, selected the second option ("much"). Interestingly, none of the participants chose the third option ("none"). Nineteen individuals, equivalent to 12% of the participants, opted for the fourth option ("less"). Lastly, five people, representing 3% of the participants, selected the fifth option ("least"). The data presented in this chart provides insights into how adolescents perceive Facebook as a negative influence in varying degrees, shedding light on the prevalence of different perceptions within the sample group. According to the chart most of youths use Facebook in negative ways, there is very less number use it as positive source.

Factors that cause youths to use Facebook as negative source in Likert scale.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	No opinion	Somewhat agree	Agree	strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
%011	%57	%71	%1	%71	%57	%011



1. Lack of government management caused that youths use Facebook as a negative source.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. Some of the youths post the discriminatory and meaningless texts and provoke the discrimination between tribes.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. Joblessness, illiteracy, and being no familiarize to actual aim of Facebook caused that youths use Facebook as negative field.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. Most of Afghan's youths while they are free spend most of their time on Facebook instead of studying.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

In the following table all the averages are calculated, the data could be analyzed by calculating a total or an average for each item. According to Tara Bates (2014) calculation the average puts the data somewhat close to its original units; in other words, calculating the average puts the data together all of the numbers and dividing them by the number of responses. In the following table there are averages of all four options regarding using Facebook as a negative source which shows clearly and very obviously.

Analyzing the four factors that cause negative use.

Options	Total	Average of all		
1. Lack of government management caused that youths use Facebook as a negative source.	938	5.86	Total averages of all	Final Average
2. Some of the youths post the discriminatory and meaningless texts and provoke the discrimination between tribes.	1002	6.26	24.72	6.18
3. Joblessness, illiteracy, and being no familiarize to actual aim of Facebook caused that youths use Facebook as negative field.	969	6		
4. Most of Afghan's youths while they are free spend most of their time on Facebook instead of studying.	1056	6.6		

In this case, since all of these statements aim to convey a single idea, which is the 'negative use of Facebook,' it is also possible to calculate the 'negative use of Facebook' by averaging the averages of the different statements. Since all of the statements are related to actions people take when using Facebook, an average score on the 'agree' side (5-7 on the Likert scale) would indicate that students, as a group, are motivated to use Facebook as a negative source. Conversely, a score on the 'disagree' side (1-3) would indicate that they do not use Facebook as a negative source. The average can be calculated as follow.

$$\text{Average} = \frac{\text{sum of items}}{\text{number of items}} \quad \text{total}$$

$$\text{Group average (1-4)} = \frac{(5.86 + 6.26 + 6 + 6.6)}{4} = 6.18$$



I could argue that this "grand average" represents the overall motivation of students for using Facebook in a negative context. The validity of this statement depends on how well the researcher has captured the ideas of motivation for negative use (Tara Bates, 2014).

In this case, the final average of all the questions was 6.18, corresponding to the "agree" side on the Likert scale and roughly equivalent to "strongly agree." If we assume that people are agreeing with the options presented in "Figure 8," I can claim that most people agree with the mentioned options or elements. By the way, perceptual data indicates that the motivation for using Facebook as a negative source is high, and people tend to use Facebook negatively rather than positively. Indeed, the findings illustrate that factors such as lack of government management, discriminatory texts, provoking discrimination between tribes, joblessness, illiteracy, a lack of familiarity with the actual purpose of Facebook, and using Facebook instead of studying lead youths (adolescents) to use Facebook in a negative way.

Therefore, the data strongly suggest that these factors are the fundamental and problematic elements that drive youths to use Facebook negatively. The agreement among youths regarding this issue is evident from the data. In light of this, the government can take steps to prevent such negative issues and redirect the focus of youths elsewhere. As mentioned previously in the open-ended questions, one crucial and effective way to deter youths from engaging in negative use is for government officials to pay attention to Facebook-related matters and introduce some legal limitations on the platform.

Negative Impact of Facebook.

1. Facebook causing depression and change the mood of people.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. One of the negative impact of Facebook corresponding confuse and depression of youths in a society.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Total average of data correspond causing depression and confuse.

All numbers	Averages	Participant	Averages	total
885	5.53125	160	11.125	5.5625
895	5.59375			
$885 \div 160 = 5.53125$		$11.125 \div 2 = 5.5625$		
$895 \div 160 = 5.59375$				

5. The graph above illustrates that people generally agree with two statements: first, that Facebook can lead to depression and mood changes, and second, that it can cause confusion and depression among youths. The average score for both of these statements is 5.56, which falls between 5 (somewhat agree) and 6 (agree). This result indicates that these two options are indeed valid, and they represent the two significant factors that have a negative impact on Afghan youths. These two factors, namely, depression and confusion, have a notable influence on the behavior of youths.



The following options delineate the purposes for which young individuals use Facebook.

1. Despite being aware of the disadvantages of Facebook, the majority of youths continue to use it in a negative manner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. Certain youths utilize Facebook as an informational resource and then share that information with others	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. Many young people utilize Facebook to establish connections with their relatives and to share their photos with others.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. A portion of Afghan youths who are Facebook users endeavors to foster and promote Afghan culture within society through the platform.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

As we all know, Facebook is used for both positive and negative purposes. This aspect highlights how learners employ Facebook in various ways, and indeed, there are both positive and negative uses. It ultimately depends on the users themselves how they choose to utilize it, whether for cultural or non-cultural purposes. If they employ it for cultural purposes, it is commendable; otherwise, it may not be as favorable.

Options, participant, and total averages of using Facebook.

Options	Participant	Averages
1. Despite being aware of the disadvantages of Facebook, the majority of youths continue to use it in a negative manner.	160	5.6
2. Certain youths utilize Facebook as an informational resource and then share that information with others	160	5.8375
3. Many young people utilize Facebook to establish connections with their relatives and to share their photos with others.	160	5.55625
4. A portion of Afghan youths who are Facebook users endeavors to foster and promote Afghan culture within society through the platform.	160	4.79375

The provided chart illustrates four options pertaining to the various ways Facebook is used, encompassing both negative and positive aspects. The researcher collected data on these four options and assessed them using Microsoft Excel software.

The first option suggests that despite being aware of the adverse effects of Facebook, many youths still tend to use it negatively. The evaluation conducted by the researcher indicates that youths are not in complete agreement with this option, but they do somewhat agree with it. The average score for this



option is 5.6, falling between 5 and 6, signifying that participants somewhat agree that most youths use Facebook negatively despite their awareness of its drawbacks.

The second option in this section pertains to a positive aspect, but the majority of participants do not fully agree; instead, they somewhat agree. The average score for this option is 5.83, which is very close to the 'agree' point. In this context, the answer is 'agree,' and the researcher can conclude that some youths use Facebook as an informative source.

The third option deals with Facebook's use for connecting with relatives and sharing photos with others, yielding an average score of 5.55. This average suggests that youths somewhat agree with this option, falling between 'agree' and 'somewhat agree.' The data indicates that youths agree with this option; they use Facebook for communication with relatives and sharing photos with others.

The fourth option has an average score of 4.79, indicating that Afghan adolescents do not have a strong opinion about this option. The average for this option is very close to 5 ('somewhat agree'). This implies that there are very few people who use Facebook to develop and promote Afghan culture. While it cannot be said that no one uses Facebook for this purpose, the average score for this question is very close to 'somewhat agree.'

In summary, the first three options fall between 5 ('somewhat agree') and 6 ('agree'), leading to the conclusion that youths use Facebook as an informative source for getting information and sharing photos with others. However, there are also some youths who use Facebook in negative ways despite being aware of its detrimental effects. The final question in this research has an average score of 4.79, close to 5, which on the Likert scale corresponds to 'no opinion.'

Discussion

This study aims to assess the impact of Facebook usage among students at Alberoni University in Kapisa province, Afghanistan. Out of 200 participants, 84% were Facebook users, and 16% were non-users. The research had three main phases.

Informational Data: The first stage involved evaluating data gathered through a questionnaire. It revealed that various negative factors, such as exposure to discriminatory content, immoral media, and offensive material, led youths to use Facebook negatively. Additionally, economic challenges, including a lack of income, played a role. Strategies to mitigate negative use were also discussed, including time management, knowledge development, and parental control.

Qualitative Data: The research provided insights into Facebook usage patterns and its economic impact on adolescents. It also identified elements that led youths to use Facebook negatively, including exposure to immoral content, insults towards prominent individuals, and various biases. The study was based on questionnaires distributed among the participants and incorporated findings from a literature review.

Quantitative Data: The quantitative data indicated that 78% of Afghan youths primarily used Facebook negatively. On average, youths in Afghanistan spent 2 hours and 37 minutes daily on Facebook and spent approximately 180 Afghanis per month, despite economic challenges. Negative Facebook use was associated with issues such as a lack of government regulation, discriminatory content, unemployment, illiteracy, and a lack of awareness of its intended purpose.



If the researcher compares his research to his hypothesis, there are several similarities. Adolescents who use Facebook negatively outnumber those who use it positively. Facebook has a notable economic impact on Afghan youths, as well as youths worldwide. A significant proportion of Afghan youths primarily use Facebook for negative purposes, and only a few utilize it positively. Facebook is also used as a platform for discrimination by Afghan adolescents. The data demonstrates a high degree of similarity between the hypothesis and the actual results.

Furthermore, comparing this research to previous studies, it aligns with findings that acknowledge both positive and negative aspects of Facebook usage, as indicated by Saifullahi and Shateri in 2015 which can be found in literature review section. In summary, this research offers valuable insights into Facebook usage among Afghan youths, highlighting both its advantages and challenges.

Conclusion

In this investigation, when we refer to Facebook, we mean the popular online social network that has become a central part of many people's lives today, especially among the youth. The data collected in this study indicate that the majority of youths in Afghanistan use Facebook in a negative manner. Although Facebook can be used in positive ways, the number of individuals using it for negative purposes outweighs those using it positively. Statistical data reveals that approximately 87% of Afghan youths utilize Facebook negatively.

This investigation sheds light on the negative aspects of Facebook and its economic impact, exploring the reasons behind the prevalence of negative usage. Factors such as illiteracy, insufficient knowledge, lack of parental control, unemployment, and various temptations contribute to the negative use of Facebook. Additionally, issues like posting discriminatory content, promoting cultural, religious, and linguistic biases, and disinterest in formal education, the absence of government regulations, and more play a role in negative Facebook usage.

However, it's essential to acknowledge that Facebook can also serve positive purposes. It can be used as an informative source, a platform for sharing religious documents, and a means of legal communication with relatives and friends. In the literature review, a study conducted by Pajwak News Agency involving 100 people in Kabul city highlighted the effectiveness and positive aspects of Facebook as a social networking platform. Nevertheless, misuses of Facebook, such as cheating, harassment, and the proliferation of fake profiles, contribute to various problems. These issues include the reinforcement of group and tribal discrimination and the growing addiction of adolescents to excessive Facebook usage.

One recurring theme that stands out among various concerns is discrimination, whether it be based on language, tribe, religion, or political affiliation. The results of this research further emphasize the prevalence of individuals who misuse Facebook to perpetuate discrimination among different ethnic groups. This issue presents a significant challenge and concern among Afghan youths today.

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