

Original Article

Social Media and Youth with Disability

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Abstract

In this digital era, social media has become an essential part of human life. In the modern world, it is as vital as basic necessities like food and shelter. Young people extensively use social media to share entertainment, academic information, and stay connected with friends and family. However, the pervasive nature of social media raises significant questions about its necessity versus its potential for addiction, akin to substances like alcohol and drugs. Today, many youths find themselves addicted to various forms of social media, often leading to detrimental effects on their mental health and well-being. This addiction can result in decreased productivity, anxiety, and a distorted sense of reality, as individuals may prioritize online interactions over real-life relationships.

Despite these challenges, social media also holds immense potential for positive impact. It can be a powerful tool for helping those in need within society. For instance, young people with disabilities can leverage social media platforms to connect with support groups, access resources, and share their experiences. By fostering a sense of community, social media can empower these individuals to face life's challenges more confidently and advocate for their rights. Ultimately, it is crucial to strike a balance between the benefits and drawbacks of social media, ensuring it serves as a force for good in our lives.

Keyword: Social Media, Disability, Youth, Social Media Marketing

Introduction:

Humans have always sought ways to communicate, and social media has revolutionized this process. It allows instant, global connections, removing barriers of distance and time. While it has many positive uses, such as education and social justice, it also poses risks like promoting crime and fraud. Every coin has two sides, social media is a great tool for users but also misuse of social media should be harmful to the society. It is depended upon users how they can achieve their goals with the help of social media. Use of social media is like 'to be or not to be'. Shortly we can describe social media as a game of joy & risk. Everyone has a strong desire to communicate. Previously, in-person meetings were used for this communication. Thanks to technology, you may now reach anyone, wherever they may be. We can't help but wonder how much further the field of communication and communication technologies will go with the invention of the computer, the internet, the web, email, and now social media. When it comes to using this new social media platform, youth are leading the way. Social media seemed to be a great aid in facilitating communication when it first started to widen its reach. Even if the young person uses social media, they are also using the internet for real communication. However, this does not allow us to conclude that social media is good or bad. As with everything, there are advantages and disadvantages to social media usage. Digital media, mobile, and the Web are all simple to use and, most significantly, paperless. A person can work from anywhere in the world if they are holding an Android smartphone. Nelson claims that people's time is currently being consumed by social networking websites.



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Understanding social media:

Social media platforms, like Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, and YouTube, have turned the world into a global village. These platforms enable people to connect, share information, and collaborate across vast distances. However, the benefits come with drawbacks, such as the potential for misuse and the spread of misinformation. The cosmos has united into a single family. The human race has greatly benefited from this media's transforming power. However, it is impossible to ignore the fact that life has become more rapid and has a different course. Despite all of the benefits modern mediums offer, There is no decrease in crime. This explains the rise in cybercrime. Terrorism also saw an increase. It is impossible to dispute that social media serves society and that we are a part of it. Social Living in media is both a pleasure and a risk. These mediums are being abused as of late. large quantities are taken care of by fabricating accounts. This encourages fraud and crime. A fresh evolution is capable of if these mediums are utilised properly, be created in society.

Usage among Youth:

In this edge users are now techno savvy. Use of digital technology and use of social media is a craze among the youth. There is huge growth in users of social media. It is now a part of life. In the all field of universe use of technology is now need of era. Youth is now addict of social media like Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram etc. to communicate with society.

Impact on Disability Advocacy:

Disability advocacy groups utilize social media to reach out to and support their members. Social media offers a platform for inclusion and accessibility, providing opportunities for online learning and community building. However, there are challenges, such as ensuring everyone has access to these digital tools and addressing safety concerns.

Opportunities for eLearning:

Research shows that platforms like Facebook are often more accessible than traditional learning management systems, making education more inclusive and flexible. This chapter examines how social media, and Facebook in particular, can

be utilised to increase the accessibility of online or e-learning for those with disabilities, especially in higher education. It starts out by giving a quick synopsis of the emerging field of eLearning and how useful and appealing it could be for individuals with impairments. Next, it will examine social media's potential, particularly that of the social networking site Facebook, and how it might be used to complement formal education in an online tertiary setting while simultaneously serving as a significant social area. The third component of this chapter will then look at a specific case study addressing students with impairments who were learning totally online through Open Universities Australia (OUA). Purpose of the poll was to find out how accessible the various online learning environments were for the students, with a particular focus on contrasting Facebook with Blackboard, the biggest official online learning management system. Not only was the latter more accessible to these Youth with Disability students than Blackboard as a whole, but this was also the case in seven out of the eight major categories of impairment that the survey looked at. A quick examination of the implications of the findings for the creation of online learning environments that are accessible to those with impairments brings the chapter to a close.

Digital Media Education:

Digital media can help change attitudes towards disability, especially in educational settings. Courses that incorporate personal narratives of disability shared through social media can foster a more inclusive and empathetic environment on college campuses.

Social Media Use among the youth:

Young people, including those with disabilities, spend significant amounts of time on social media. It is a powerful tool for communication, self-expression, and advocacy. However, it is important to use social media wisely to avoid negative impacts like addiction or exposure to cybercrime. Different strategies were employed by businesses or individuals to communicate their message or product to others. But with time, young people have become interested in all of these movements. Everyone's home can save time and money by using online generating. Every day, a lot of businesses offer a

variety of schemes. However, they ought to go to our clients faster and at the appropriate moment. Social media platforms are great for that. The younger generation shares messages with their pals as soon as possible and is always on the internet. As a result, young people spend a lot of time sitting at computers. They are prepared to invest a lot of time on that.

Thanks to social networking sites, the world has gotten so small that you can find answers to most questions in a matter of seconds without having to pay money, no matter where your friend or loved one is in the globe or what you are doing. There's a new high. Billions of people utilise social media sites like Facebook and LinkedIn in emerging nations like India. The youth have been a major factor in the recent rapid growth of the online shopping industry. The young person has therefore avoided a great deal of traffic and wasted time. An increasing number of people have accounts on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn as a result of the rise in social media usage. To view this account, a new window must be opened each time. But opening a new window each time to access a social media site is no longer necessary thanks to a service called Hootsuite. Adolescents engage in multiple activities concurrently. talking to a buddy, going shopping, and trying to find employment. By using video chat, you might give the impression that someone you are not close to is. Youth use of social media has grown significantly in attraction. Eighty percent of young people between the ages of 28 and 30 utilise social networking sites, says a private industry poll. Politicians are now able to interact with young people on social media to a considerable degree. After winning, they are attempting to advance this endeavour. Schools are using the internet for this. As a result, the nation has witnessed a distinct revolution. In an effort to lessen the weight of books on kids' shoulders, they are working to make everyone in the nation use the internet and transition to a paperless society. The fact that schools are providing internet training to the younger generation makes them happy. Young people form WhatsApp groups with their new acquaintances. A few seconds are all it takes for a message to travel across the globe. As a result, exchange is rapidly growing. Newspapers, among other early postal commodities, required a lot of

time and money to process. Social media seems to be heavily utilised by the younger generation.

Research Design and Objectives:

This study employs an exploratory research design to understand how Youth with Disability youth use social media. The objectives are to explore the nature of social media use among Youth with Disability youth, its benefits and challenges, its role in promoting social responsibility, and its impact on communication and inclusion.

Conclusion:

Social media is a double-edged sword. While it has the potential to connect, educate, and support individuals, it can also cause harm if misused. Responsible use of social media is crucial to maximizing its benefits for everyone, including Youth with Disability youth. Ensuring accessibility and promoting safe, inclusive online spaces are essential steps towards harnessing the positive potential of social media.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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