

Impact Of Social Media On Mental Health Of Generation-Z

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Abstract

This study explores the complex relationship between social media usage and the mental health of Generation Z, individuals born between 1996 and 2012. As digital natives, Gen Z is deeply embedded in the online ecosystem, making them particularly vulnerable to the psychological effects of prolonged social media exposure. The research investigates both the positive and negative impacts of social media, focusing on its influence on depression, anxiety, stress, and self-esteem. Using a structured questionnaire and stratified random sampling, responses were collected from 134 participants to analyze usage patterns, addiction levels, and perceived mental health outcomes. Findings indicate that while social media serves as a tool for education, connectivity, and entertainment, it also contributes to emotional exhaustion, comparison-driven self-doubt, and decreased attention spans. Notably, a significant portion of respondents acknowledged feelings of addiction and adverse effects on academic performance and well-being. The study underscores the importance of promoting responsible digital engagement, enhancing digital literacy, and encouraging further research to support mental health in a tech-driven generation.

1. INTRODUCTION

Social media can serve multiple purposes, for example providing a need in several areas such as communication, entertainment, and/or occupation (Clemmitt, 2013). However, with the increase in social media use, individuals have been impacted in various ways, including financial, behavioral, and personal mental health (Lenhart, 2018). Further research on the impact of social media use on an individual's overall mental health is only going to become more relevant due amount of use and the number of areas social media can have influence on an individual's life (Clemmitt, 2013)

With increasing amounts of research being conducted for social media impact on personal mental health, there have been several identified limitations when it comes to the populations studied. It is more common to look at younger populations, Generation Z, regarding this topic (Cipolletta, 2020). There have not been studies specifically that have considered age cohort comparisons for social media impact, which laid the foundation for the current study.

The current study aimed to look at the broad impact of social media and to compare reported levels of depression, anxiety, stress, and self-esteem on the Generation Z, which are individuals born between the years of 1996 and 2012. Based on prior literature, it is believed that

Generation Z will report more negative mental health scores because they grew up in the prime

IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON MENTAL HEALTH OF GENERATION-Z

of social media and the internet (Golbeck, 2017); however, this may also be the case with Millennials that were born toward the end of the generation. This study targeted four areas of study. (Clemmitt, 2013) mental health: depression, anxiety, stress, and self-esteem, which will be the focus of the current

2. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 To study the pros and cons of impact of social media on mental health.
- 2.2 To examine the long-term effects of social media addiction on mental health and wellbeing.
- 2.3 To study spending a lot of time on social media make people feel worse about themselves and their bodies.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Barrense-Dias, et al. (2019) shared that social media is the most exceedingly terrible stage for youth where the younger's use for cyberbullying and trolling which is a hazard for youngster's mental health. (Barrense-Dias, 2015)

Oberst, et al. (2017) have characterized the effects of online networking that particularly impacts on youngster psychological wellness, the overutilization of internet-based life causes emotional wellbeing issues. There is another predator's gal; conversely, different researchers have given the pessimistic effect of online life, such as World Health Organization, disclosed that the individuals who have been utilizing internet based life for quite a while, they have been refreshing from the dangers, it is additionally considered by them about the future issues of a nation. (Oberst, 2017)

Pater & Mynatt (2017) depicted that social media causes for hostile and unsafe conduct in this manner it is harmful to the emotional well-being of a person, particularly for youngsters. The impact of internet-based life relies upon its use if an individual who utilizes too much social media as well as whatever can be hurt to him. (Pater, 2017)

Parmar (2017) expressed that in 21st -century youth has been investing their energy in various social contraptions, a normal 12-15 hours per day on stimulation media, including, telephones, PCs, workstations, TVs, just as some others gadgets. With the assistance of these gadgets, they use WhatsApp, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and some others. (Parmar, 2016)

Thornicroft, et al. (2016) given supposition that online networking is significant for youngsters' lives since it has incredible connection to people groups emotional wellbeing, however then again some speculative portrayal thought of it as, is extraordinary hazard and perilous for human's psychological wellness, also youth utilizes social networking sites for digital harassing, similar to ridicule others, mimicries, and so on as result others lose their confidence. (Thornicroft, 2016)

Miller, et al. (2016) portrayed that internet based life changes the method for correspondence, socialization additionally it keeps companionship. While its advantages to turning into the development bunch part however opposite side it has a few dangers been investing their energy in society that is perilous for their emotional health. (Miller, 2016)

Len-Ríos, et al. (2016) have said that social media frequently use for long-range interpersonal communication bookkeeping that is not a kidding hazard for youth for adolescents since ordinary utilization of person to person communication bookkeeping can impact emotional wellness of the adolescents. (Len-Ríos, 2016)

Patel, et al. (2016.) pointed out that online networking is creating a problem like uneasiness, sorrow, and dietary issues. Besides, the utilization of social media has been turning out to be a progressively troublesome issue for younger's since more invests their energy looking over however social media applications and they don't get anything as result it is a huge danger of youngster's mental health. (Patel, 2016)

GermannMolz and Paris, (2015)described that the adolescent checks out online life in light because the cutting edge innovation engages them, also they contribute their aptitudes to their companions additionally they contact with family, thusly it makes their psychological wellness more grounded. (GermannMolz, 2015)

Jelenchick et al; (2013) states that there is no verification of interrelationship among SNS and clinical depression. Jelenchick investigated the connection between social networking use and depression in young people. As per their exploration, depression can't be without a doubt related to the person to social networking media utilization among American adolescents. (Jelenchick, 2013)

4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 4.1 What are the pros and cons of impact of social media on mental health?
- 4.2 What are the long-term effects of social media addiction on mental health and well-being?
- 4.3 How does spending a lot of time on social media make people feel worse about themselves and their bodies?
- 4.4 How does using social media use lead to increased stress and anxiety?
- 4.5 How does content on social media impact mental health?

5. VARIABLES

- 5.1 Dependent Variable: Mental health
- 5.2 Independent Variable: Social media
- 5.3 Mediating Variable: Increase in Stress & Anxiety
- **5.4** Moderating Variable: Generation-Z

6. HYPOTHESIS

- **6.1**: There is no relation between social media and mental health.
- **6.2**: There is positive relation between social media and mental health.

7. RESEARCH METHOD

We used the survey method to know the impact of social media on mental health of generation-z.

8. TYPE OF RESEARCH

In survey method we create a google form for the survey and circulate the google form almost among the 250 people and we get response from 134 people on the basis of that response we know about how the social media impact on mental health of generation-z. The response not only get from the students but it also get from other people also who are not student.

RESEARCH DESIGN

QUESTIONNAIRE

. Gender
Male
Female
. Age
16-20
21-25
26-30
31-35
On an average, how many hours do you spend on social media every day?
Less than 1 hour
1 hours to 2 hours
2 hours to 3 hours
3 hours to 4 hours
4 hours to 5 hours
More than 5 hours
More than 5 hours
Do you use social media for educational purpose?
Yes
O No Research Through Innovation

5.Is social m	edia made a positive impact on your academic performance?
\bigcirc	Strongly Disagree
\bigcirc	Disagree
\bigcirc	Neutral
0	Agree
\bigcirc	Strongly Agree
6.Is social	media made a negative impact on your academic performance? Strongly Disagree
\bigcirc	Disagree
\bigcirc	Neutral
\bigcirc	Agree
\bigcirc	Strongly Agree
7.Do you fee	l <mark>that</mark> you are ad <mark>dicted to soci</mark> al me <mark>dia?</mark>
	Yes
\bigcirc	No
8.How do yo	u feel if you use social media for a longer time?
\bigcirc	Happy
\bigcirc	Stressed
\bigcirc	Exhausted
\bigcirc	Anxiety
	Loneliness

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9.Do you find yo	ourself comparing your life, achievements, or appearance to others on social media? Yes
\bigcirc	
	No
\bigcirc	Some Times
10.Is social med	ia impacting your mental health?
	Yes
\bigcirc	No
	Maybe
11.Is social medi	a affecting your attention span?
	Yes
	No
12.Have your tri	ed to limit your social media usage?
\bigcirc	Yes
	No
13.If yes then, ha	ave you observed any difficulties to limit your social media usage?
O Your a	ınswer
14.Rank the foll	owing factors from 1-5, rank 1 being the most used media platform and rank 5 being the
least important n	
PARAMETER	RANK
INSTAGRAM	
FACEBOOK	
SNAPCHAT	Research Through Innovation

WHATSAPP

TWITTER

15. How do you rate the social media platform when you use.

No.	Factors	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	Connect with friends and family					
2	For networking					
3	Share moments					
4	For entertainment					
5	To learn and educate					
6	To stay informed				6	
7	To promote business					
8	For research purpose					
9	To find and join communities					0
10	For influencer interaction	0		9 (
11	Personal branding					
12	Digital marketing	rnatio	nal R	erea	reh Jo	urnal
13	For Fame					
14	Promotion					
15	Relaxat <mark>ion</mark>					

9. SAMPLING DESIGN

9.1 Stratified Sampling Design:

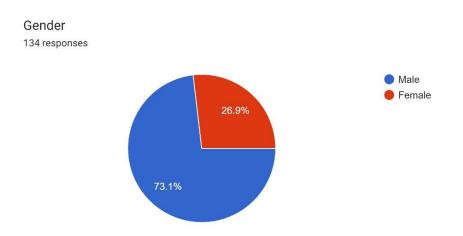
Using a stratified random sampling approach for studying how social media affects Gen-Z is like making sure we get a good mix of different Gen-Z groups in our research. This helps us look closely at specific factors like age, background, and how much they use social media. By doing this, we can make more accurate comparisons, avoid biases, and give insights that are useful for policies and actions. It's a way of making sure our study represents the diverse experiences of Gen-Z and gives reliable results.

9.2 SAMPLE SIZE

The sample size of the research is about 1000 people which are came from different different background and their level of knowledge also different. So, on that basis we have some information of our research which is impact of social media on mental health of generation-z and on the basis of that information we done our research.

10. Analysis of data and Interpretation

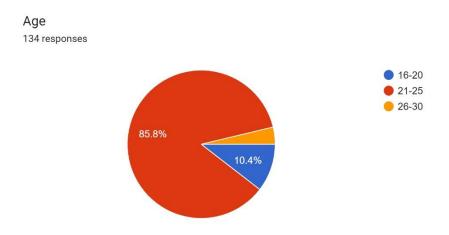
Classification on the basis of Gender



Gender	No of Respondents	Percentage
Male	98	73.1%
Female	36	26.9%
Not Defined	0	0%
Total	134	100%

The above table shows that, 73.1% of the respondents are Male And 26.9% of the respondents are Female.

☐ Classification On The Basis Of Age



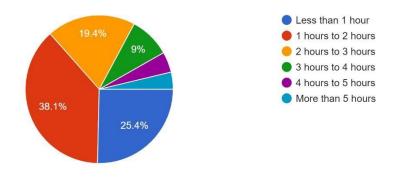
Age	No of Respondents	Percentage
16-20	14	10.4%
21-25	115	85.8%
26-30	5	3.7%
Total	134	100%

In Above data Our 10.4% Of Respondents are Between 16-20 Age Group, 85.8% Of respondents are Between 21-25 Age Group And 3.7% Of Respondents Are Between 26-Above Age Group.



☐ Classification On The Basis Of Time Spent On Social Media

On an average, how many hours do you spend on social media every day? 134 responses



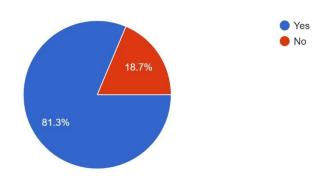
Average Time Spend By People On Social Media	No of Respo <mark>nd</mark> ents	Percentage
Less Than 1 Hrs	34	25.4%
1-2 Hrs	51	38.1%
2-3 Hrs	26	19.4%
3-4 Hrs	12	9%
More Than 5 Hrs	11	8.1%
Total	134	100%

The above table shows that, 38.1% of the respondents are Spend 1-2Hrs On Social Media And 25.4% of the respondents are Spend less Than 1 Hrs, 19.4% of the respondents are Spend 3-4 Hrs, 9% of the respondents are Spend 3-4Hrs And Remaining 8.1% of the respondents are Spend More Than 4Hrs On Social Media.

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Classification Based On The Use Of Social Media Towards Educational Purpose

Do you use social media for educational purpose? 134 responses



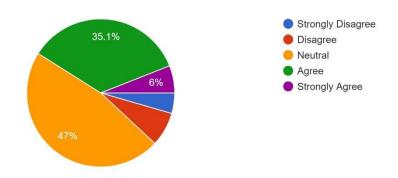
Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	109	81.3%
No	25	18.7%

It is clear from the table that 81.3% of the respondents Are Use Social Media For Educational Purpose And Remaining 18.7% of the respondents Are Use Social Media For Non-educational Purpose.



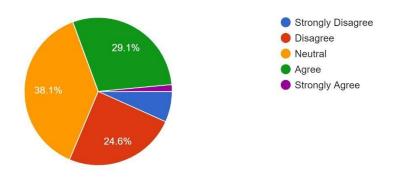
Classification Based On The Positive Impact Of Social Media On Academic Performence

Is social media made a positive impact on your academic performance? 134 responses



Partucular	No of Respondents	Percentage
Neutral	63	47%
Agree	47	35.1%
Disagree	10	7.5%
Strongly Agree	8	6%
Strongly Disagree	6	4.5%
Total	134	100%

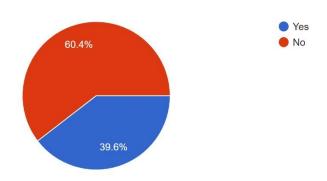
Is social media made a negative impact on your academic performance? 134 responses



Partucular	No of Respondents	Percentage
Neutral	51	38.1%%
Agree	39	29.1%
Disagree	33	24.6%
Strongly Agree	2	1.5%
Strongly Disagree	90 (6/60)	6.7%
Total	134	100%

Classification Based On The People Addicted Towards Social Media

Do you feel that you are addicted to social media? 134 responses

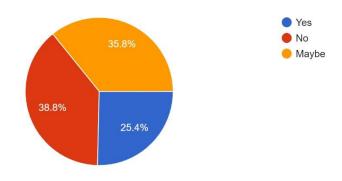


Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	53	39.6%
No	81	60.4%
Total	134	100%

The above table shows that, 39.6% of the respondents Says "Yes" That They Are Addicted to Social Media, And Remaining 60.4% of the respondents Says "No" That They Are Not Addicted to Social Media.

Classification Based On Social Media Impaction On mental Health

Is social media impacting your mental health? 134 responses

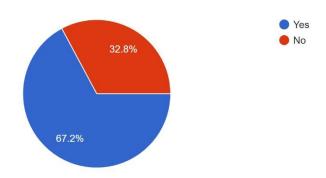


Particulars	No o <mark>f Re</mark> spondents	Percentage
Yes	34	25.4%
No	52	38.8%
Maybe	48	35.8%
Total	134	100%

The above table shows that, 25.4% of the respondents are Says "Yes" That Social Media Is Impacting On Their Mental Health, 38.8% of the respondents are Says "No" That Social Media Does Not Impacting On Their Mental Health.



Is social media affecting your attention span? 134 responses

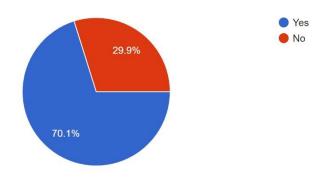


Particulars	No o <mark>f Re</mark> spondents	Percentage
Yes	90	67.2%
No	44	32.8%
Total	134	100%

The above table shows that, 67.2% of the respondents are Says "Yes" That Social Media Is affecting their Attention Span, 32.8% of the respondents are Says "No" That Social Media Does Not affecting their Attention Span.



Have your tried to limit your social media usage? 134 responses



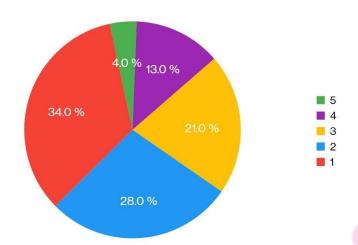
Particulars	No o <mark>f Re</mark> spondents	Percentage
Yes	94	70.1%
No	40	29.9%
Total	134	100%

It is clear from the table that shows 70.1% of the respondents Are Tried To Limit Their Social Media Usage and 29.9% of the respondents Are Not Tried To Limit Their Social Media Usage.



Rank the following factors 1-5, rank 1 being the most used media platform and rank 5 being the least important media platform

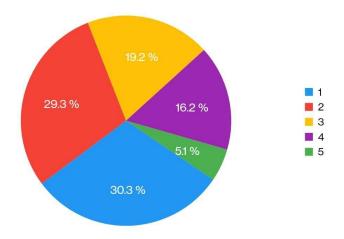
1) Instagram



Ranking	No of R <mark>espondents</mark>	Percentage
1	45	34%
2	37	28%
3	28	21%
4	18	13%
5 INCHINGE	6 (4)	4%
Total	134	100%

In this clear from the table, 34% of the respondents Are Gaves 1st Ranking to Instagram, 28% of the respondents Are Gaves 2nd Ranking, 21% of the respondents Are Gaves 3rd Ranking, 13% of the respondents Are Gaves 4th Ranking, And remaining 4% of the respondents Are Gaves 5th Ranking.

2)Facebook

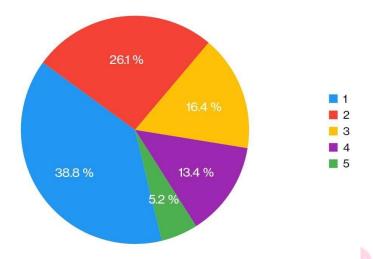


Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	41	30.59%
2	39	29.6%
3	26	19.40%
4	21	15.67%
5	7	5.22%
Total	134	100%

It is clear from the table, 30.59% of the respondents Are Gaves 1st Ranking to Facebook, 29.6% of the respondents Are Gaves 2nd Ranking, 19.4% of the respondents Are Gaves 3rd Ranking, 15.67% of the respondents Are Gaves 4th Ranking, And remaining 5.22% of the respondents Are Gaves 5th Ranking.



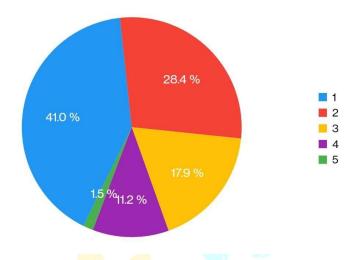
3)Snapchat



Ranking	No of Respondents	Per <mark>centa</mark> ge
1	52	38.8%
2	35	26.1%
3	22	16.4%
4	18	13.4%
5	7	5.22%
Total	134	100%

It is clear from the table, 38.8% of the respondents Are Gaves 1st Ranking to Instagram, 26.1% of the respondents Are Gaves 2nd Ranking, 16.4% of the respondents Are Gaves 3rd Ranking, 13.4% of the respondents Are Gaves 4th Ranking, And remaining 5.22% of the respondents Are Gaves 5th Ranking.

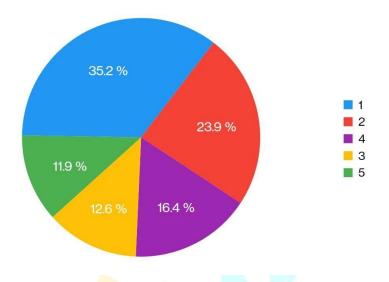
4) Twitter



Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	55	41%
2	38	28.3%
3	24	17.9%
4	15	11.1%
5	2	1.49%
Total Maring Hon	134	100%

It is clear from the table, 41% of the respondents Are Gaves 1st Ranking to Instagram, 28.3% of the respondents Are Gaves 2nd Ranking, 17.9% of the respondents Are Gaves 3rd Ranking, 11.1% of the respondents Are Gaves 4th Ranking, And remaining 1.49% of the respondents Are Gaves 5th Ranking

5) WhatsApp



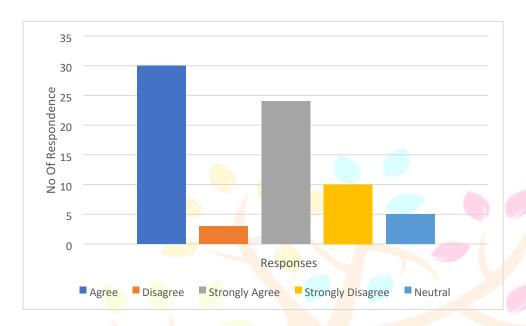
Ranking	No of Res <mark>po</mark> ndents	Percentage
1	47	35.2%
2	32	23.8%
3	17	12.6%
4	22	16.4%
5	16	12%
Total	134	100%

It is clear from the table, 35.2% of the respondents Are Gaves 1st Ranking to Instagram, 23.8% of the respondents Are Gaves 2nd Ranking, 12.6% of the

respondents Are Gaves 3rd Ranking, 16.4% of the respondents Are Gaves 4th Ranking, And remaining 12% of the respondents Are Gaves 5th Ranking to WhatsApp.

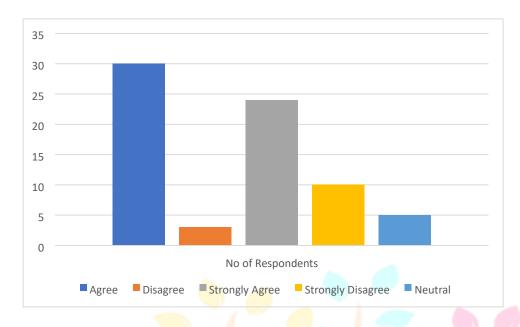
☐ Reasons that you consider while using social media platform

1 Connect with friends and family



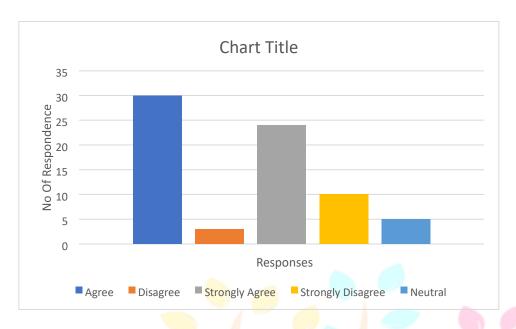
Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	30	41.66%
Disagree	3	4.16%
Strongly Agree	24	33.33%
Strongly Disagree	10 (2)(2)(3)	13.88%
Neutral	5	6.94%
Total	72	100%

2. For networking



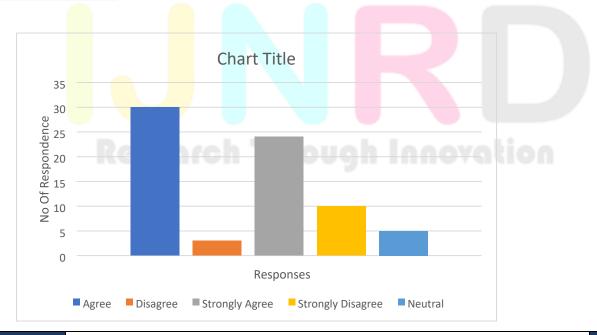
Ranking	No Of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	30	41.66%
Disagree	3	4.16%
Strongly Agree	24	33.33%
Strongly Disagree	10	13.88%
Neutral	5	6.94%
Total	72	100%





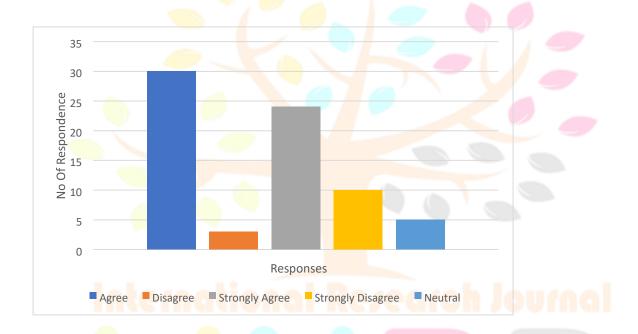
Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	27	37.50%
Disagree	6	8.33%
Strongly Agree	18	25.00%
Strongly Disagree	9	12.50%
Neutral	12	16.66%

4 For entertainment



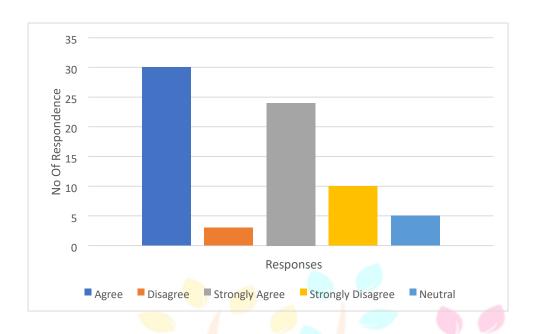
Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	22	30.5%
Disagree	2	2.77%
Strongly Agree	31	43%
Strongly Disagree	7	9.7%
Neutral	10	13.88%
Total	72	100%

5. To learn and educate



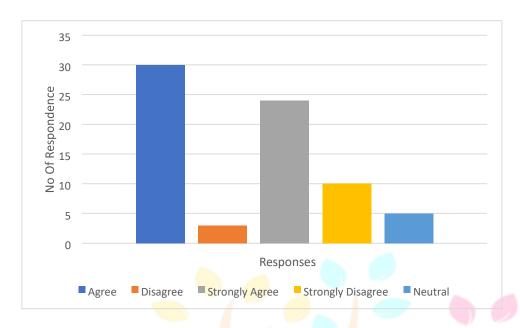
Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	37	51.38%
Disagree	3	4.16%
Strongly Agree	14	19.4%
Strongly Disagree	8	11.1%
Neutral	10	13.8%
Total	72	100%

6. To stay informed



Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	23	32%
Disagree	4	5 .55%
Strongly Agree	20	27.7%
Strongly Disagree	7	9.7%
Neutral Neutral	18 (2)(2)(3)	25%
Total	72	100%

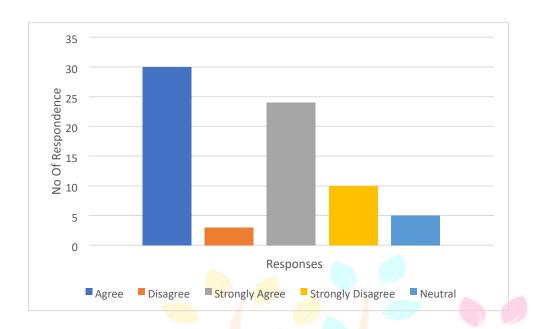
7. To promote business



Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	13	18%
Disagree	10	13.8%
Strongly Agree	22	30.5%
Strongly Disagree	11	15.2%
Neutral	16	22.2%
Total	72	100%



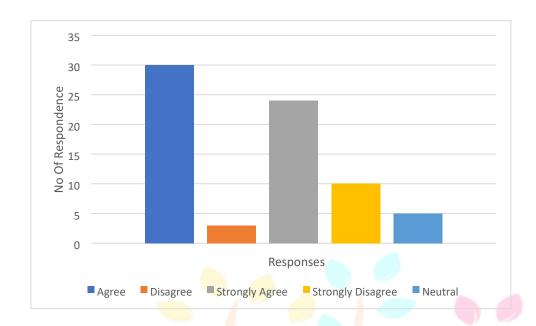
8. For research purpose



Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	21	29.1%
Disagree	9	12.5%
Strongly Agree	16	22.2%
Strongly Disagree	9	12.5%
Neutral	17	23.6%
Total	72	100%



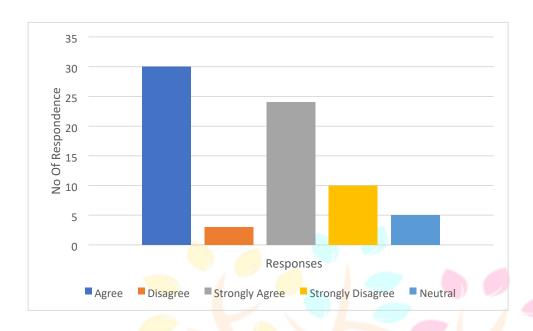
9. To find and join communities



Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	24	33.3%
Disagree	10	13.8%
Strongly Agree	15	20.8%
Strongly Disagree	8	11.1%
Neutral	15	20.8%
Total	72 (2)2010	100%

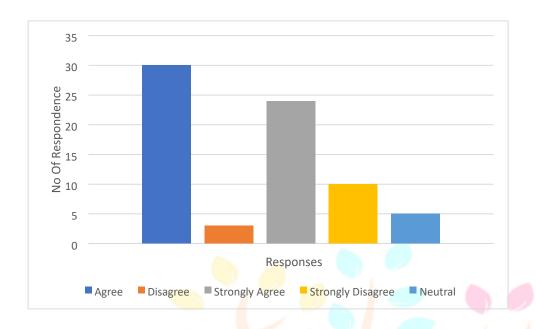


10. For influencer interaction



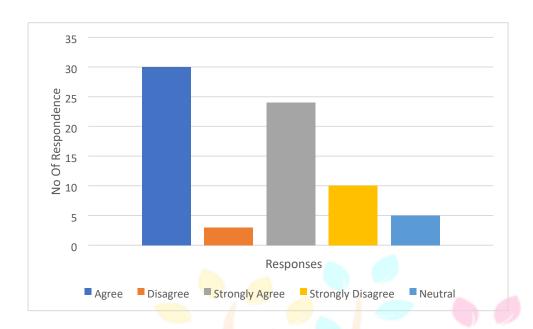
Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage	
Agree	12	16.6%	
Disagree	15	20.8%	
Strongly Agree	15	20.8%	
Strongly Disagree	12	16.6%	
Neutral	18	25%	
Total	72	100%	

11. Personal branding



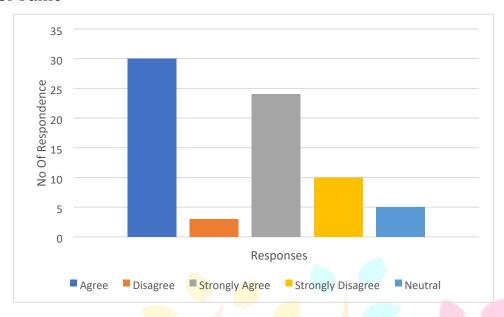
Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage	
Agree	16	22.2%	
Disagree	10	13.8%	
Strongly Agree	15	20.8%	
Strongly Disagree	12 (C) (C)	16.6%	
Neutral	19	26.3%	
Total	72	100%	

12. Digital marketing



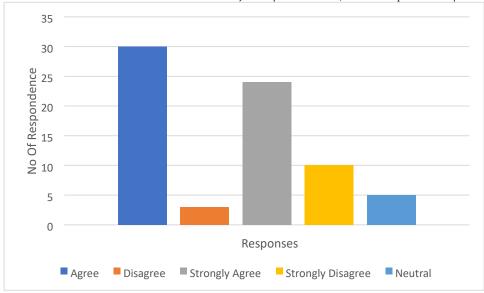
Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	19	26.3%
Disagree	13	18.5%
Strongly Agree	15	20.8%
Strongly Disagree	10	13.8%
Neutral	15 (e)(e)(20.8%
Total	72	100%

13. For Fame



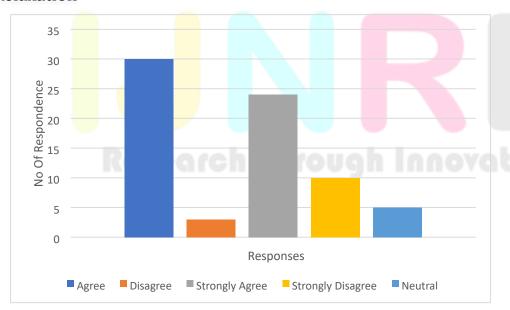
14. Promotion

Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage	
Agree	10	13.8%	
Disagree	11	15.2%	
Strongly Agree	13 Revento	18%	
Strongly Disagree	15	20.8%	
Neutral	23	32%	
Total	72	100%	



Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	18	25 <mark>%</mark>
Disagree	9	12.5%
Strongly Agree	13	18%
Strongly Disagree	17	23.6%
Neutral	15	20.8%
Total	72	100%

15. Relaxation



Ranking	No of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	20	27.7%
Disagree	9	12.5%
Strongly Agree	19	26.3%
Strongly Disagree	10	13.8%
Neutral	14	19.4%
Total	72	100%

No.	Factors	Strongly Disagree	Disagree		Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
1	Connect with friends and family	10	3	5	30	24	72
2	For networking	7	6	10	26	23	72
3	Share moments	9	6	12	27	18	72
4	For entertainment	7 notion	2	10	22	31	72
5	To learn and educate	7	4	18	23	20	72
6	To stay informed	8	3	10	37	14	72
7	To promote business	search ,	10	16	13	22	72
8	For research purpose	9	9	17	21	16	72
9	To find and join communities	8	10	15	24	15	72

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10	For influencer interaction	12	15	18	12	15	72
11	Personal branding	12	10	19	16	15	72
12	Digital marketing	10	13	15	19	15	72
13	For Fame	15	11	23	10	13	72
14	Promotion	17	9	15	18	13	72
15	Relaxation	10	20	14	9	19	72

11.CONCLUSION

- In conclusion, this research has shed light on the intricate relationship between social media usage and mental health outcomes. The pervasive influence of platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and others cannot be understated, as they have become integral components of daily life for millions across the globe. Our investigation has revealed both positive and negative implications for mental health, underscoring the need for a nuanced understanding of this complex interplay.
- On the positive side, social media provides a platform for social connectivity and support, fostering a sense of community among individuals. It serves as a valuable resource for information dissemination and can play a role in reducing stigma surrounding mental health issues. However, our findings also illuminate the darker side of social media, where excessive use, cyberbullying, and the constant comparison facilitated by curated online personas contribute to heightened levels of stress, anxiety, and depression.
- Importantly, this study emphasizes the need for responsible social media use and effective digital literacy programs. Educating individuals about the potential risks and benefits of social media can empower users to make informed decisions about their online engagement. Moreover, mental health professionals should be attuned to the impact of social media on their clients and incorporate discussions about digital habits into therapeutic interventions.
- As we move forward, it is crucial for researchers, policymakers, and technology developers to collaborate in order to create a digital landscape that prioritizes mental well-being. Striking a balance between the advantages of social connectivity and the potential harms is paramount. Future studies should delve deeper into specific demographic factors, diverse cultural contexts, and evolving social media trends to refine our understanding and inform targeted interventions.

Ultimately, this research contributes to the growing body of knowledge on the intersection of social media and mental health, urging stakeholders to work collectively towards fostering a digital environment that nurtures positive mental well-being. Only through a comprehensive and collaborative effort can we navigate the challenges posed by social media and harness its potential for the betterment of mental health in our increasingly interconnected world.

