

A Gender based Study on Disagreement between Parents and Adolescents for use of Social Networking Sites

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

In today's world, social networking services are quite popular among adolescents. The usage of social networking sites is seen differently by adolescents and parents. As a result, when it comes to the use of social networking sites, there is a distinction between parents and adolescents. In today's world, parents value their adolescent's education, social life and health irrespective of their gender.

Aim: The goal of this study was to see if there was a gender difference in parent and adolescent disagreement regarding the use of social networking site.

Methodology: A multi-stage selection method was used to choose 118 adolescents and each one of their parents (a total of 236 samples) from five schools in the Jorhat Block. To gather the essential information, a self-made questionnaire was used.

Results: The results revealed from the findings that there was no significant gender difference in disagreement between parents and adolescents for use of Social networking sites.

Keywords: Social networking sites; disagreement; gender differences.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Social networking has become a worldwide phenomenon, as millions of people are attracted to such sites. The rise of social media changed the entire world of communication, as the use of social media makes communication fast and effective. Social networking sites are online interaction services that manage to connect people and share their interests on that platform [1]. Social media usage has shifted dramatically in recent years. People use these sites for communication, information, education, entertainment, and business. Moreover, Social media play a vital role in everything from communication to education. It helps to interact with people all over the world [2]. In a single click, social networking helps to communicate and interact with people. Especially the young generation is relatively more reliant on social networking sites for education. Moreover, communication and entertainment are the foremost overlooked purposes of using social media [3]. They visited these Social networking sites frequently for making new friends and communicating with others [4]. Especially the young generation is comparatively more reliant on social networking sites for education. Moreover, communication and entertainment are the most overlooked purposes of using social media [3]. Teens are spending increasing amounts of time, using the web and cell phones. Teenagers and youth today are unable to consider every day in their life with none of those media facilities (Diamanduros et al., 2007). As parents are the primary caregiver of the child so they are more concerned about the impact of social media on their children. In the early days both the parents are not involved in their children's care and education. Most mothers are taking care of all these responsibilities, according to some studies adolescents in North America [5] and the UK [6] reported that adolescents were closer to mothers than fathers, particularly in processes related to care and routine family tasks [7]. Similarly, the involvement of mothers and the time provided by mothers to communicate with adolescents is more than that of fathers [8]. But nowadays both male and female parents are taking equal responsibilities for their children's social and academic life. Both mother and father are now highly involved with their young adolescents. In terms of time spend most of the fathers agreed that mothers spend more time with adolescent's care and recreational activities and fathers showed higher involvement in adolescent's activities (Phares et

al.,2008). So parents want a discipline life pattern for their growing adolescents. They think that at this stage their children should choose a correct path for their carrier as well as social life and social media is not an appropriate path for their learning. The study revealed that adolescents spend more time on social networking sites, so they were less attached to their parents and other family members [9]. Parents and guardians were concerned because they believed their children spent too much time on social media sites and not enough time studying, which negatively impacts their school performance [10]. But on the contrary, adolescents think that Social networking sites help them for knowing new things, build their self-confidence and it is very important as well as useful media for them, for which the disagreement occurs between parents and adolescents regarding the use of social networking sites. The parents give equal opportunities for their child's growth and development in regards to their gender. As they believe that social media has a more negative impact on their children and they think that social media has no privacy policy which is more dangerous for their girl child than the boy. For which they are worried about their girl child spending more time on social media. Shah (2016) studied that both parents revealed that their girls are using more social media for chatting and making friends than boys due to which the disturbance occur between them.

1.1 Review of Literature

Social networking sites influence the views and choices of adolescents about their behaviors. Parents claim that their sons used more social networking sites than their daughters because they of more engaged in Social networking sites, for which the disturbance occurred between parents and sons [11]. Parents said their girls use Social networking sites to text and make friends, while their sons use Social networking sites to play games and share photos and spend more time than girls, so they didn't spend family time with their parents [12]. In this modern age, parents give their children equal importance. Parents offer education, social life, and health for their children, regardless of their gender. The present study was undertaken to find out the disagreement between parents and adolescents for use of social networking sites in regards to gender.

2. METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Jorhat block, Jorhat district of state Assam. For the study, five schools located within the Jorhat block were selected by using simple sampling and therefore the samples were selected by a complete of 236 samples were selected for the study. Among them, 118 numbers of adolescents were selected by using the method of probability proportional to size (PPS) and one each of their parents for every adolescent's i.e. 118 numbers of parents, from the chosen schools. The samples consisted of equal numbers of boys and girls. For collecting the desired data, prior permission was taken from the respective schools. An honest rapport was established with the oldsters and adolescents. Before proceeding with data collection an informal interaction was made to gather knowledge about the study. Self-constructed questionnaires were accustomed collect the required information from the respondent. The questionnaire consisted of 25 statements and these statements were supported three areas namely- academic performance, socialization, and health. After the gathering of information, the chi-square value was computerized and therefore the results were interpreted.

3. RESULTS

It shows $P > 0.05$ which indicates that results are not statistically significant. Hence, it can be

interpreted that there is no significant gender difference in disagreement between parents and adolescents in the area of academic performance. The reason for no significant gender difference may be because most of the parents usually do not discriminate among the children based on their gender, parents try to support and guide their children equally and also create awareness among the children, about the ill effect of the overuse of Social networking sites on academic performance. Nam [13] studied that parents are aware of the importance of education for building a greater future for their children, so they gave equal opportunities to their children irrespective of gender.

Table 2 depicts the value of $P > 0.05$ which indicates that the results are not statistically significant. Hence, it can be interpreted that there is no significant gender difference in disagreement between parents and adolescents in the area of socialization. The reasons for no significant gender difference in disagreement between parents and adolescents in use of Social networking sites may be because every parent wants their children regardless of gender to learn how to participate and be accepted by society, which is very important for their holistic development and future lives. Maccoby and Jacklin [14] suggested that both males and females have a similar self-regard and they get equal opportunities throughout their childhood to adolescent period.

Table 1. Disagreement between parents and adolescents for use of Social networking sites in the area of academic performance in regards to gender

Reasons	Parent	Gender	χ^2 value	P- value
Ignoring regular school activities	Parent	Male	6.441	0.100
		Female		
Wasting of time while viewing others updates	Parent	Male	6.115	0.191
		Female		
Affects creativity of the adolescents	Parent	Male	8.284	0.082
		Female		
Poor academic performance	Parent	Male	8.284	0.082
		Female		
Procrastination in academic work	Parent	Male	3.566	0.468
		Female		
Less interest in reading books	Parent	Male	5.821	0.213
		Female		
Less interest in reading magazines	Parent	Male	2.946	0.229
		Female		
Less interest in reading newspaper	Parent	Male	2.946	0.229
		Female		

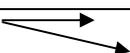
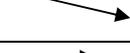
Indicate significance of value at $P=0.05$

Table 2 Disagreement between parents and adolescents for use of Social networking sites in the area of socialization in regards to gender

Reasons	Parent	Gender	χ^2 value	P value
Less interaction between family members	Parent 	Male Female	4.275	0.190
Isolation from friends and family	Parent 	Male Female	6.571	0.122
Less interaction between peers	Parent 	Male Female	5.894	0.149
No interest in social gatherings	Parent 	Male Female	6.475	0.100
Poor communication	Parent 	Male Female	6.857	0.202
Less interaction with guests	Parent 	Male Female	7.244	0.190

Indicate significance of value at $P=0.05$

Table 3 Disagreement between parents and adolescents for use of Social networking sites in the area of health in regards to gender

Reasons	Parent	Gender	χ^2 value	P- value
Decrease of physical activities	Parent 	Male Female	5.476	0.242
Does not want to play outdoor games and exercising	Parent 	Male Female	4.251	0.373
Interrupt in sleeping schedule	Parent 	Male Female	4.775	0.311
Eye problems	Parent 	Male Female	4.775	0.311
Interrupt in diet schedule	Parent 	Male Female	3.940	0.414
Stay distracted during daily activities	Parent 	Male Female	5.946	0.203
Depression	Parent 	Male Female	3.325	0.190
Anxiety	Parent 	Male Female	3.325	0.190
Mood swings	Parent 	Male Female	5.896	0.207
Headache	Parent 	Male Female	7.898	0.095
Obesity	Parent 	Male Female	1.198	0.549

Indicate significance of value at $P=0.05$

Table 3 depicts the value of $P > 0.05$ which indicates that the results are not significant statistically. Hence, it can be interpreted that there is no significant gender difference in disagreement between parents and adolescents in the area of health. This may be because both parents and adolescents are not aware about the health related problems such as depression, anxiety, mood swings, and other health-related issues so they are unknown about the

seriousness of health affected by the over use of Social networking sites [15].

4. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that there was no significant gender difference in disagreement between parents and adolescents for use of Social networking sites. Parents give equal importance to both male and female children and encourage and take care of their children irrespective of their gender.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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