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# Educational Risks of Social Media and Ways to Reduce Them

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Abstract: The objective of the research is to uncover the educational risks of social media networks from the point of view of postgraduate students in the Palestinian universities' education colleges and ways to reduce them, and to achieve the goal of research, a resolution was prepared composed of (29) phrases distributed among four axes. It was distributed to (100) students and postgraduate students at Palestinian universities in the southern governorates. The result indicated that the most common risks are the security risks for social networks and it was from the point of view of graduate students in faculties of education, followed by moral risks, then social and finally cultural and academic risks, and that back to: in order: "social silence", reluctance to read the paper, "lack of personal privacy", "recognizing bad friends". On relative weights (87.6%) (89.04%) (88.05%) (86.66%) and very large degrees of agreement. The study found a group of ways to reduce the risks of social networking sites, including developing self-monitoring for social media users by parents, Enacting deterrent laws and penalties for anyone who spies and penetrates, Conducting awareness sessions by state institutions targeting university and school students to increase their awareness of the dangers of security, ethical, social and cultural networking sites.

#### Introduction

The world is witnessing a series of rapid changes brought about by the digital technological revolution, which created various and various communication technologies, which made the world a small cosmic village in which information is transmitted with a very fast speed as to reach parts of the second. These changes have affected all aspects of life for the societies in the contemporary world, which made the societies accept these developments, deal with them and adapt to achieve benefit from them, The Palestinian community as one of these societies which was affected by the communications revolution and was not far from this revolution and witnesses a great demand for it to turn into a technical society to benefit from the information Provided by communication technology and to keep up with the technological and information developments imposed on all. The rapid and successive technological developments in the Internet have contributed to creating a new form of media called "new media", or "social media", which includes virtual social networking sites, blogs, postal groups and other forms (Abu Yaqoub, 2015: 27)

The first appearance of social networks was at the beginning of the 1990s, in 1995 Randy Conrads designed (Classmates.com) was intended to help friends and colleagues collected in the study of his life and separated by the conditions of life (Khaza'ala, Al-Khalfan, 2015: 201).

In 1997 a social site named Six Degrees appeared and this site was more developed than its predecessor, it provided the user with the same as the empty sites but it did not last long as it stopped in 2001 because the world's lack of preparedness for this kind of sites at the time and the lack of sufficient and good publicity for them (slaves, 2015.: 651)

After that, a group of social networks emerged that could not achieve great success between 1999 and 2001 until 2003 and 2004 came. Facebook and Twitter sites were created and these sites began to achieve great popularity among young people (Al-Halabi and others, 2015: 24)

Castelles believes that social networks are "communication channels that create an open social structure interacting with leaders on innovation, without compromising the shape of this structure, with the difficulty of defining the goal of these innovative social cells through technical and information development" (Abu Yaqoub, 2015: 30)

Social networks have many types of Facebook, Twitter, Blog, YouTube forums, remote network, Instagram conversations (Al-Humairi, 2017: 130), best known of which are Facebook and Twitter, and it has witnessed a huge turnout, as "the total of Facebook users exceeded the barrier (1.44) billion users, and (800) million for the application of Messenger, and the total number of Twitter users reached more than (300) million users (www.marketsvoice.com)).

In this regard, "the official statistics issued by the Sharek Youth Forum indicated that there are approximately (1.6) million subscribers in the Facebook site in the name of Palestine, and this number is increasing with great acceleration, as the website statistics indicate that Palestine has recorded more than once the highest rate of participation in Facebook monthly "(www.alwatanvoice.com). This indicates the widespread use of social media in the world in general and in the Palestinian environment

In particular, because of its characteristics that distinguish it from other websites, it has spread widely among the spectrums of society and its various age groups.

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Communication networks have features that distinguish them from other websites, which contributed to increasing the demand for them from Internet surfers, the most prominent of these characteristics as mentioned in the study of the executioner (2.14: 943) ease of use, participation, openness and conversation, the formation of societies, interconnection, interactivity and democracy of access to the information.

Social media has become one of the important things for individuals, and its use has reached the point of addiction for many young people, despite it has many positives, there are many problems and negatives have appeared for those sites, which have reached the point of danger, as opponents emphasized that imaginary communication and virtual social environments created many Educational risks, which are the most prominent

- Social risks: the most important of which are isolation from society and the family, the family disintegration, "divorce abandonment of wives neglect of children the deterioration of professional capabilities, increased feelings of aggression, selfishness, psychological distress and depression, loss of parents' control over children, social trauma" family with empty shell.
- Cultural and academic risks: Mass cheating among students, academic failure and the low level of reading and writing among school students refrain from paper reading, the disappearance of classical Arabic, the emergence of a special language for users of these networks that are neither pure Arabic nor colloquial acceptable, it is a strange mixture of broken Arabic and colloquial Arabic with dialects that are flooded with localism.
- Security risks: the spread of crime and violence, being affected by the bad morals of others, spreading false news and rumors, weak citizenship or patriotism in the hearts of young people, trapping young people in its spy network.
- Moral risks: addiction to pornography, dissolves the personality of the individual, works to create values, ideas, and traditions that bind societies other than the ones that once prevailed, and earns young people "bad habits from others, depending on weakness, helping to create forbidden relationships between young men and women who develop in Sometimes to fall into the big.

### Research problem and its questions

Social media sites of all kinds expose young people and adolescents to some of the risks resulting from limited self-control, exposure to strange ideas from unknown persons, as well as exposure to intimidation and sexual issues, in addition to increasing challenges facing intellectual security among young people, including ideological, military, psychological and media wars (Al-Muaither), 2015: 605).

The monthly study (1434) revealed the negative effects resulting from the use of Facebook and Twitter, and according to the results of the study, there was a lack of family interaction, and the results of the pilot study (2014) emphasized the negative effects of university students using social networks such as being able to have illegal relationships with the opposite sex, neglect in religious rituals, and the results of Shennawi and Abbas (2014) showed a negative relationship between Facebook use and the level of psychological compatibility, and the study recommended the need to reveal the psychological, social, educational, and academic effects of using Facebook on adolescents, as the study confirmed. Sullivan & Paradise (2012) study that that addiction to Facebook leads to social isolation, and balanced and moderate use leads to good levels of psychosocial harmony.

The study conducted by Aren Karnesy (2010). "Karbinsiki, Aren" aimed to reveal the impact of the use of Facebook on the academic achievement of university students, the study found that university students who perpetuate the use of social networking sites "Facebook" obtained grades much lower than students who do not use Facebook. Michelle Fanson (2010) "Meashel, Vansoon, A study aimed at identifying the impact of the use of social access networks on social relationships, and the results also confirmed that social networks have already caused a change in their lifestyles.

The study of Sebastienvalenzilla et al. (D.T.) Sebastián Valenzuela, Namsu Park, and Kerk F. Kee examines the effect of social network sites on social capital among university students in the United States of America, A random sample data of 2603 students has been surveyed. The results indicate that social media sites have instilled values and behaviors, that promotes public life and civil work, and the study demonstrated that there is a moderate positive relationship between intensity of use and the degree of student satisfaction with life and social confidence, and civil and political participation.

Based on the foregoing, it can be said that social networking sites may constitute a source of danger to family, social, and social relationships. Therefore, the current research seeks to reveal the educational risks of social networks to children through answering the following questions:

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- 1- What are the educational dangers of the most common social networks from the viewpoint of graduate students in the colleges of education in the southern Palestinian universities?
- 2- What are the ways to reduce the educational risks of social networks from the point of view of postgraduate students at the higher education schools in the southern Palestinian universities?

## **Study limits:**

The study tool was applied to the second semester of the academic year 2020/2021 to postgraduate students at the Faculties of Education (Islamic University, Al-Azhar University).

#### Search terms:/

#### Social media risks:

The researchers knowing that the social networking sites: "the threats that the beneficiaries of social networking sites from all age groups related to social, academic, educational, security and ethical aspects go through, and this will be measured through a questionnaire prepared for that."

## **Study procedures:**

Research methodology: To achieve the objectives of the research, the descriptive analytical approach will be used, which is the method that studies a phenomenon, an event, or an existing issue from which information can be obtained that answers the study's questions without the researcher's intervention in it

Study tool "The questionnaire: The study tool was designed" "to achieve the objectives of the study. It included (29) items distributed in four areas.

-Validity and reliability of the tool: After confirming the validity and reliability of the questionnaire, the questionnaire was finally adopted, and it became applicable to the sample of study from graduate students of Palestinian universities in the southern governorates, i.e. Al-Azhar and Islamic Universities.

Study Population and Sample: The study community consists of all postgraduate students enrolled in the University (Islamic and Al-Azhar University) in the second semester of the academic year (2017-2018) of (500) male and female students. A random sample of (100) male and female students was chosen at 20% From the study community

# **Results:**

The study reached the following results by answering the study questions:

## Answer to the first question:

What are the educational risks of social networks on the most common children from the viewpoint of graduate students in Palestinian universities?

The responses of the individuals in the study sample about the risks of social networking sites to the most common children came from the viewpoint of graduate students in the Palestinian universities as a whole, as shown in the following table:

Table (1) Mean, standard deviation, relative weight and order of responses of respondents on the risks of social networking sites on the most common children.

#	Items	Mean	Standard	Relative	Order
			deviation	weight	
1	Social risks	27.3	5.48295	78.09	3
2	Cultural and academic risks	26.97	4.84636	77.074	4
3	Security risks	36.35	5.68619	80.793	1
4	Moral risks	23.9048	5.15520	79.68267	2
Total Summation		118.9524	18.75380	79.3016	

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It is clear from the previous table that the most common social media risks from graduate students 'point of view are security risks, as they obtained the first rank among the other areas under study related to social media risks, and the researchers attribute this to:

\* The nature of the political life in which the Palestinian people live through occupation, blockade, and frequent wars. Parents feel dangerous and easy to reach children and control their minds and their intellectual tendencies, followed by ranking moral hazard. (Vega, Malamuth, 2007) study indicated that (63%) of adolescents who visit pages And pictures of prostitution without their guardians knowing the nature of what they are browsing (Al-Majali, Al-Majali, 2015: 294).

A psychologist at the French University of Provence mentioned in his book on the dangers of the Internet that there are some networks that have been revealed, run by Israeli psychologists, who are recruited to attract third world youth especially those residing in the Arab-Israeli conflict countries, in addition to South America Saliha 2015

\* The following is an explanation of the most common risks to sub-paragraphs for each area of social media (social, educational, security, ethical) risk areas:

## First: Social risks to social media

Table 2: Mean, standard deviation, relative weight, and order to the social risks

#	Items	Mean	Standard deviation	Relative weight	Order
1	It causes poor social communication skills	3.69	1.082	73.8	6
2	It leads to addiction in the virtual world and the isolation of the surrounding real world	3.92	1.123	78.5	5
3	Contribute to social silence	4.09	.896	81.90	1
4	Increase the feeling of alienation from the social environment	3.95	1.156	79.04	4
5	Contribute to family disintegration (divorce, desertion of wives, neglect of children,.)	3.97	1.037	79.52	3
6	Feelings of mistrust and security froth	3.61	1.1356	72.38	7
7	Limit the ability of parents to control their children	4.07	1.057	81.42	2
	Total	27.3	5.482	78.09	

The responses of the members of the study sample about the dangers of social networking sites on children showed that social dementia, loss of control over children, and family disintegration are among the most common social risks to social networking sites from the viewpoint of graduate students at colleges of education in Palestinian universities in the southern governorates (Al-Azhar, Islamic). "Social mute" got the first order with a relative weight (87.6%) and a very large degree of approval, and it is considered a social risk indicator, and the researchers attribute this to:

The social satisfaction that the individual feels through his presence in the virtual world.

The feeling of the individual when communicating with the virtual world that he coexists with an actual social reality, which allows communication with members of the global community, suffices him from his real world and causes social silence with members of his family and society, and isolates him from them.

Followed in the order "Loss of control over children, I got a relative weight (81.4) with a great degree of approval, and family disintegration" I got a relative weight (79.5) with a great degree of approval, which are natural results. It causes his family to break up.

This result is consistent with the results of the study by Sullivan & Paradise (2012), which confirmed that Facebook addiction leads to social isolation.

- The feeling of the individual, when communicating with the hypothetical world, that he coexists with an actual social reality, dispensing with his true condition.

### Second: cultural and academic risks

Table 3: Mean, standard deviation, relative weight, and order to the academic and educational risks

#	Items	Means	Standard	Relative	Order
			deviation	weight	
1	lead to loss of intellectual property	3.476	1.162	69.52	5
2	It contributes to lowering the educational level	3.357	1.089	67.14	7
3	Increase the spread of mass fraud	3.785	1.083	75.71	4
4	It helps to stop reading paper	4.452	0.8243	89.04	1
5	Increase the spread of the Franc Arab language	4.166	0.8996	83.33	3
6	Contribute to the disappearance of the classical Arabic language	4.309	0.9656	86.19	2
7	It leads to the burial of talents and purposeful activities	3.428	1.096	68.57	6
	Total	26.97	4.846	77.07	

While the responses of the members of the study sample about the cultural and academic risks of social networking sites to children showed that the reluctance of paper reading, the disappearance of classical Arabic, addiction and spread of the Franks language are more common than the cultural and academic risks of social networking sites, the "reluctance of paper reading" has occurred, respectively. The first with a relative weight (89.04%) and a very large degree of approval. The researchers attribute this to: The person's addiction to looking at the computer makes him refrain from reading, and prefers reading on the computer, and gets bored from reading paper.

Followed in the order by "the disappearance of the Arabic language, it obtained a relative weight (86.19) with a very high degree of approval, and the addiction and spread of the Franc-Arab language" I got a relative weight (83.33) with a very large approval degree, which are natural results, resulting from the reluctance of young people to read paper, and that Some computers do not write letters in the Arabic language, and an Egyptian study warned of the emergence of this language that threatens the fate of the Arabic language in the daily lives of these young people, and casts negative shadows on the culture and behavior of Arab youth in general. The study prepared by the National Center for Social and Criminal Research in Cairo considered that choosing Young people have a culture and a language of their own, which is a rebellion against the social system (Abdul Haq, Dr. T.)

## Third: Security risks

Table 4: Means, standard deviation, relative weight, and order to the security risks

#	Items	Means	Standard deviation	Relative weight	Order
1	Leads to vulnerability and acceptance of the personalities of criminals	3.428	1.200	68.57	8
2	It helps in gaining criminal experience	3.381	1.274	67.62	9
3	Contribute to spreading false and false news and rumors	4.333	0.8658	86.66	3
4	Reduce religious and national scruples	3.857	1.106	77.14	7
5	It increases the attraction of young people to work with foreign bodies	4.285	0.666	85.71	4
6	Young people exposed to fraud and swindle	4.261	0.658	85.23	5
7	Help attract young people to create chaos in the country	4.000	0.901	80	6
8	Reduce personal privacy	4.428	0.851	88.57	1
9	Contribute to increased exposure to spying and hacking	4.381	0.654	87.62	2
	Total	36.35	5.686	80.79	

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While the responses of the members of the study sample showed the security risks of social networking sites on children, that the lack of personal privacy, exposure to spying and penetration, and the publication of false news and rumors of the security risks are more common for social networking sites from the viewpoint of graduate students at the colleges of education in the Palestinian universities in the southern governorates (Al-Azhar, Islamic), The "lack of personal privacy" came first with a relative weight (88.05%) and a very large degree of approval, and the researchers attribute this to:

- Ease of use of communication sites, as it blurs the line between symbols and the public, and provides open services for reactions, participation and benefit from the content of the pages on the site, which makes easy access to the participants' pages and knowledge of their content, as well as publishing false news

In addition to the lack of clear laws and penalties in some countries that limit the bad use of social networks, which gives the opportunity for sick souls to hack and spy on others' pages while spreading rumours.

## Fourth: moral risks

Table 5: Mean, standard deviation, relative weight, and order to the moral risks

#	Items	Mean	Standard	Relative	Order
			deviation	weight	
1	Help identify bad friends	4.333	0.77	86.66	1
2	Increase viewing of unethical images	4.238	0.92	84.76	2
3	Contribute to the establishment of suspicious	4.095	0.86	81.90	3
	relations				
4	It leads to addiction to watching porn	3.785	1.22	75.71	5
5	Helps with drug and alcohol addiction	3.619	1.21	72.38	6
6	Contribute to the spread of low taste and ugly	3.833	1.13	76.66	4
	approbation				
	Total	23.90	5.15	79.68	

While the responses of the members of the study sample showed the moral dangers of social networking sites on children, that identifying bad friends, viewing unethical images, and establishing suspicious relationships from the most common ethical dangers to social networking sites from the viewpoint of graduate students at the colleges of education in the Palestinian universities in the southern governorates (Al-Azhar, Islamic)), "Identifying Bad Friends" came first with a relative weight (86.66%) and a very large degree of approval, and the researchers attribute this to the huge flow of uncontrolled information and the inability of some societies to choose the best, and leave it free From censorship and ability to jump into the forbidden world almost completely free.

Answer to the second question: What are the ways to reduce educational risks for social media sites from the viewpoint of graduate students at the Faculty of Education in the southern Palestinian universities?

To answer this question, a group of ways was reached, the most important of which are:

## **First: Family Methods:**

Spreading awareness among children about the dangers of social media

Monitor children when using social media

Urging children to choose meaningful sites (scientifically, culturally, socially).

The frequent family meeting to discuss issues of concern to the family

Spreading religious belief among children.

### **Second: Country-specific means:**

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Monitor pages and groups that originate on social networks to protect young people from extremist ideas, penetration and espionage (security and moral protection).

Enacting deterrent laws and penalties for anyone who spies, infiltrates, incites violence and electronic crime, and publishes rumors and exposes others

Conduct awareness-raising sessions and seminars by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Culture to increase the awareness of youth and children.

#### **Recommendations:**

Based on the findings in the study, the researchers recommend:

The need to work on putting social media sites under the supervision of the state and the family, to protect children from destructive, and immoral ideas.

Establish laws and legislations by the family and the state to use social networks, which limit their misuse.

Holding awareness sessions and seminars for the emerging generation by the state, and its various institutions, to introduce the educational, social, cultural, and moral educational risks.

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