THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN THE ERA OF INTERNET GENERATION

A DISSERTATION REPORT

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CHAPTER - 1

INTRODUCTION

Social media is increasingly becoming a part of everyday life for many children, with user numbers of social media platforms and applications increasing exponentially each year. Social media refers to websites and applications where users can create ideas, share information, or participate in social networking. Social media activities can include interacting with others on social networking sites like Facebook, reading online blogs written by a favorite author, watching YouTube clips, or exploring a virtual world in an online game. Social media use can be done as a discrete activity that individuals pursue on their own (e.g., reading a Facebook timeline) or a collaborative activity done with other people (e.g., playing an online game with other players). Social media can also play an important role in helping children connect and interact with their social networks. While social media is broader than just social networking, it is important to note that many social networking sites impose an age restriction on when a potential user can join the site. For instance, Facebook and Snapchat require children to be thirteen years old before they can join, and this age restriction is in line with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. Safeguards such as age restrictions are imposed by these sites to protect children from online threats. However, in reality, underage users are joining and interacting within social networking sites. Therefore, preteens or children (those aged under thirteen, the term "child," may often be used to refer to children as well as adolescents) may be using various types of social media without a full understanding of the consequences. The research examining children role and social media is still relatively under-researched. It should, be noted that in the reviewed literature, the term "child," may often be used to refer to children as well as adolescents.

In 2007, there were 500,000 sexually seductive web pages and 250 websites showing nude video clips of teenagers in Thailand,some of them are self-produced. In other countries in the region, there is a serious lack of research on these issues. and data on the prevalence of child abuses online is quite unknown. For these reasons, it is imperative for us to be more aware, cautious and examine the issues of Child Pornography, Child Sexual abuse and Sexting, Child grooming, Identity theft, Cyberbullying and Cyberstalking, Mental ill health, narcissism and behavioral disorder among children. We will try to examine these issues in this article one by one and also study what social media offers good and positive improvements in our children.22Therefore, it is necessary for us to priorities our obligations and play an active role in educating our younger generation how to behave safely online.