

## THE EFFECT OF PARENTING STYLES ON TEENAGERS' SOCIAL INTERACTION WITHIN SOCIAL MEDIA IN INDIA

DR. RUCHI SINGH GAUR

**Abstract:** As information technology develops with a formidable speed in India, social media such as QQ, Facebook, Twitter, Whatsup, Wechat are becoming more widespread than ever. Freedom of speech and expression is used like anything. With teenagers usually being the majority of users, there are parents worrying about the negative effects of social media. Many parents posed restriction on their children's use of social media which lead to conflicts that undermined parents and child relationship. There are so many examples as teens are using social media to pass negative information, In Bangalore one student committed suicide to put his camera on of his laptop, which creates a viral in youth. As India is a democratically county we are free here to give public platform to our thoughts and ideas. But there is a silver line between what and what should not publish online. As per India crime rate people are using social media 7/10 for any crime. There are 243 Million internet users in India, and probably in 2018 it will increase around 500 million. Indians are very active on different social networks and 88% of users share content on their social profiles and as well are increasingly speeding time on various social networking sites.

In my research I am going to work on how teens are using social media in negative ways, which kind of social-mental suffering they are facing, How social media is blocking their social interaction, did social media helping them in learning/ education? What parents are facing due to social freedom which creates parental authority questionnaire?

**Keywords:** Parenting Style, Social Media, Teenager, Parental Authority Questionnaire.

**Introduction:** Internet has become something most people in our century, rely on for anything in general, as a teen internet has helped in various ways, especially relating to academic work. In the past decades, a dazzling number of studies have investigated the effects of old and new media on teens. These studies have greatly improved our understanding of why youth are so massively attracted to media. And they have also shown how children and teens can be affected by media, in positive and negative ways. It's very difficult for parents to handle their teens, at this age they are more into doing what they want to do. Many parents posed restriction on their children's use of social media which lead to conflicts that undermined parents and child relationship.

India is a democratic country, where everyone has freedom to speak and express, and social media gives them platform to write anything to watch anything due to freedom of media teens is able to use all kind of content. During teen age it's hard to control a person, and it becomes a big change for parent to deal with their children. Internet provide them good enough space where they can watch, read, write, upload, download any kind of content, Yes it's not always a harmful situation but maximum when they don't know what to search or watch then it occurs as a problem for parents.

Excessive use of social media has become a problem in recent years, based on its ability to take away typical human interaction and replace them with conversations through the use of technology. The

excessive use of social media may lead to a decrease in the many communication process necessary to create strong bonds between a parent and a child. Beside the sheer amount of time spent on the device, the parents may be physically present but may be emotionally distant. As per the current status it's not only what teens are looking into web but it's about does parents gives enough time to children? The uses of online forms of media has many benefits for socialization and support; however the focus of the study is to identify how its usage effects parenting skills, parent-child attachment and whether social media usage is replacing or diminishing valuable quality time between parents and their children, how children are reacting with parents?

**Methodology:** In order to solicit for the required information the research adopted a descriptive research design. The design represents a broad category of techniques that need questioning as a strategy to elicit information. It gave description of how things are, starting the state of art on social media issues and parenting styles. The design takes the qualitative approach which is massive use of words in description of concepts. The descriptive design enabled to discuss case of parenting and social media in Indian social context.

**Purpose of Study:** The study hopes to answer the question: How does excessive parental use of social media affect parent-child attachment and parenting style? The hypothesis is that excessive use of social media, defined as over two or three hours of daily usage, by parents will negatively affect the strength of

attachment between the parent and child. When parents begin to spend more hours on social media during the time they are caring for their child, they may start to lose some of the important interactions necessary for a healthy attachment. At the same time, an increased use of social media can lead a parent to have a different parenting style, one that may be permissive or authoritarian versus a responsive and respectful parenting style more in tune with an authoritative/balanced style. The study focused on the use of social media by parents and its effects on their parenting, particularly their type of attachment to their children. Similar question how teens are approaching social media and less interacting with parents.

**Children and Social Media:** Ante-Contreras- Denise (2016) have found that mass media has potentially harmful effects on the health and behaviors of children, as they “are not yet mature enough to distinguish fantasy from reality, particularly when it is presented as “real life” (p.561). This can lead the child to have distorted views about the world and their relationships with other individuals. It can also lead the child in turn to spend less time with their parents, or doing outside activities, which can cause isolation and aggression over the time. Children on social media may be more likely to be exposed to violence, bullying and hate.

As per Times of India sept 2016 report- 22 to 25 % crime in India happens because of social media. Surprisingly the availability of crime content in social media is too much. According to a report from Symantec, a security solution provider, India ranked second among nations that were most targeted cyber-crimes through the social media in 2014, after US. It is evident that social media has immensely impacted real world interaction, yet there is minimal discussion and empirical research investigating the phenomenon. Opinions are strong both for and against the use of internet technology and its pervasive effect on society. There are universal patterns and cultural forces that guide child development both biologically and socio-emotionally. In the industrialized world there has been a trend over the last century for puberty to begin earlier than it did historically.

Throughout the 20th century parents were raising children who experienced the transition to adolescence through various cultural phenomenon

that were mostly expressed through lifestyle and entertainment choices. These were guided by macro-systemic events such as the world wars, the cold war and economic fluctuations such as the great depression. Music, fashion, art and socio-political positions were in a state of constant change and for the early part of the century the modernist ideology was a pervasive cultural force. Qualman, E. (2012). More recently, with the beginning of the digital age and the respective development of social media there is sharp contrast between the last century and the modern way of life. Originally, social media was considered another passing trend, a subculture like the music and fashion trends. By the year 2010 it was evident that the industrialized world was adopting social media and digital technology as a new way of life.

In conclusion, the study indicates that mothers attribute social media to be a significant event in their child’s identity construction and psychosocial development. The findings indicated that participants exerted a concerted effort in order to protect their children from the potential negative impact of social media. The research found that excessive access use of social media was impacting upon the children’s sleeping patterns and use of time. The children who had changed habits and hobbies because of social media, had withdrawn from family life and began to seek privacy, a new behavior that had formed from when the child began using social media. Although the participants perceived social media to be a threat to their child’s academic potential, the study reported no immediate change in academic performance as well. There are good enough impact of social media on parents and children, behavior issues, lack of communication creates a mess in family.

Parents who are more involved in internet are unable to give proper time to their children similar due to use of internet children are getting more aggressive and negative. When parents are involved in their own life teens are busy in exploring world. According to a recent poll, 22% of teenagers log on to their favorite social media site more than 10 times a day, and more than half of adolescents log on to a social media site more than once a day. Which all the research focused on the parenting behavior because of new media and gap of communication which effects teens behavior over all.

## References:

1. Ante-Contreras, Denise, "Distracted Parenting: How Social Media Affects Parent-Child Attachment", Electronic Theses, Projects, and Dissertations Paper 292. (2016).
2. Xu Jihong & Ni Shiguang “The Relationship between Parenting Styles and Adolescents’ Social Anxiety in Migrant Families: A Study in Guangdong, China” 20 April 2017

3. Castro, L., Pablo, J., Gomez, J., Arrindell, W. A., and Toro, J., "Assessing rearing behavior from the perspective of the parents: a new form of the EMBU" 1997.
4. Xuemeng Li, Ann Zedginidze, " The effect of parenting styles on teenager's social interaction within social media in China" sept 2015
5. Bhargaw Yuthika " India ranks second in cyber-attacks through social media" 22April 2015
6. Kotharil Vishawas "Misuse of social media accounts for 25% cyber- crimes in Pune" Sept 2016
7. Qualman, E. "Socialnomic How social media transforms the way we live and do business" (2nd ed.) 2012.
8. Spies Shapiro, & Margolin "Growing up wired: Social networking sites and adolescent psychosocial development. Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review" 2013.

\*\*\*

Dr. Ruchi Singh Gaur  
Amity University Rajasthan (Jaipur-India), Amity School of Communication