

Quarantine and addiction to social networks in the Covid-19 pandemic period

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Abstract:

This paper addresses the impact of social networks on family relationships and aims to identify the most important motivations leading to their use. A questionnaire was used as a tool to identify the extent of social media addiction and its impacts on family relationships, on a sample of 200 people. The results have shown that addiction to social networks is caused by several factors, including recreational motives, and used to fill up the void and to see what is new. These networks provide also the individuals with comfort and bring them out of the isolation, pressures, and conflicts they face in the surrounding environment. The results showed also that social networks caused family disorders, instability of social relationships, the growth of individuality, and the escape from addressing the reality of life by living in a virtual world, weakening family ties and values.

Keywords: family cohesion; addiction; social ; networks; family disorders; virtual world

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1. Introduction

At the end of 2019 a new virus called covid-19 has emerged causing a pandemic. The latter has resulted in many decisions and changes. Algeria, like other countries, took a set of measures in this regard, the most vital of which was starting the quarantine process in many wilayas. This quarantine was amongst the health measures followed to reduce the risk of the spread of the Coronavirus, which resulted in a set of repercussions that affected both the healthy and quarantined individuals. The quarantine had social consequences, the most important of which was refraining from any visits between extended or outsider family members and friends, and stopping certain social practices such as meetings, shaking hands and hugging. In addition to that, the quarantine also contributed to the outbreak of some family problems as a result of quarrels and lack of understanding caused by losing jobs, staying at home for long periods of time in a state of poor living conditions, small spaces/houses, and the presence of numerous members of one single family, in addition to the deplorable financial conditions that many families suffer from. Not to mention marital quarrels and issues, which may be considered as an additional fuel to the violence against women, and in extreme cases, divorce. On the same line of thought, some media outlets have indicated an increase in the number of divorce cases during the quarantine period. The family is considered as the principal starting point that must be taken care of, in order to build a strong generation capable of giving at a time when it needs a human with virtue, lofty principles and moral values. The family relies on interdependence, good cohabitation, good education, and rejection of social corruption. These inevitably lead to affection, love, cohesion and permanent communication between family members, as it is the basic brick in any society, reflecting its mobility, cohesion and strength or weakness, and backwardness. Thus, the family is what supplies the society either

with the goodness to fix it, or with corruption so it results in further corruption and weakness.

However, with the emergence of social networks, the family is no longer considered as the main means of gathering its members, and is no longer a base for bonding, love and education. After these networks invaded the entire world, they became the subject of discussions about the dangerous role they play in individuals' addiction to them, their social isolation, and the dismantling of relationships between family members, especially in light of the spread of new patterns of values and behaviors developed in the Algerian society in specific and Arab societies in general. This leads to many problems and pests, as well as affects social and family relationships, consequently, the family has become a haven for sleeping, eating and communicating through social networking sites only, resulting in relationships that are dominated by introversion, isolation and disintegration within the same family. All of these factors contributed to the researcher's interest to study the various aspects of this subject in order to make a valuable addition to its literature.

2. Previous studies

The study of Hamdan Abdullah Al-Sufi (2004), titled "A new educational perspective of approaching the dangers of using the Internet among young people". The study dealt with the dangers of using the Internet among students, the most important of which is the danger of the electronic chat, which led to students in the study to feel alienation and isolation through the impersonation of the opposite gender, or giving various false personal information and data, which makes them live in a world of their own far from reality, which increases their distance from those around them in society.

The study of Mamdouh Abdel Raouf (2008), an expert on Internet networks at the Egyptian Information Center, confirms that the process of entering web chats “begins with an innocent curiosity encouraged by emotional investments, then turns into an addiction, especially when using MSN due to its privacy” (Mamdouh Abdel Raouf, 2008, p. 3).

Yotman (1995) study sheds light on the social activity of the American individual, which indicates that the participation of the American citizen in social activities, and their performance of their social roles, has declined significantly in recent years, as “social networks push people to adopt a new lifestyle, which is acquired by isolation and lack of social participation which in some societies became an integral part of the people’s culture and daily life” (Maraji, 2003, p. 46).

The study of Ezzo Muhammad Abdul Qadir Naji (2009): which aimed to investigate the average age of young people who frequent chat rooms, as it was shown that their ages range between 15 and 45 years old, and the age group between 18 and 35 years old constitutes more than 75% of the users of these rooms . He also confirmed that people above the age of 35, whether men or women, frequent these rooms as a kind of escape from problems and disagreements that are often marital in nature, such as lack of harmony and understanding, while single and divorced people use it to escape and spend time (Izzu Muhammad Abdul Qadir Naji, 2009).

3. Statement of the problem

The process of communication is considered as one of the necessities for life continuity, and it has a central role within the family as a cell, since its importance is attributed to the ability to participate and interact with its members, exchange ideas, opinions, and information that increase the chances of survival and success,

while the inability to communicate with others is a social deficiency. Communication within the family is one of the social processes that aim to preserve everything that is authentic and useful in order to move towards modernity by relying on the media and communicating with others.

By the same token, the Internet is one of the means of communication that is widely spread in contemporary society, as it received great attention from members of society, and was able to find a place for it within the family, in addition to that, it changed and developed the methods of communication, and made new social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Yahoo...). The main axis of human existence is interaction and communication and they have an effective role in linking the individual to the outside world. However, these new networks have had a significant negative impact on social and family relations. In light of these changes, and to unravel the impact of the use of these networks on the family, a number of questions have been raised, which we attempted to answer, respectively:

1. Have Algerian youth become addicted to social networks?
2. Is quarantine a cause of addiction to social networks?
3. Do social networks affect people's thoughts and behaviors?
4. Do social networks play a role in isolating individuals from their social and family surroundings during the quarantine period?

4. Research Hypotheses

Based on the theoretical framework and previous studies, the research hypotheses were formulated according to the questions of the aforementioned research problem, which are as follows:

1- Algerian youth have become addicted to social networks during the quarantine period.

2- Quarantine is a reason for young people's addiction to social networks.

3- Social networks affect the individual's thoughts and behaviors.

4- Social networks play a role in isolating individuals from their social and family surroundings during quarantine.

4.1. Research aims

The present research aims to identify the following:

- The extent of the role of quarantine in addiction to social networks.
- The impact of social networks on the personality of the addict.
- The extent of the impact of social networks on the thoughts and behaviors of the individual during the quarantine period.
- The extent of the impact of these networks on the social and family relationships of their users during the quarantine period.

4.2. The significance of the research

The significance of the present research lies in the fact that it is one of the modern scientific studies that is based on the uses of social networks, and the identification of the quality of the services it provides. Undoubtedly, the benefits of the Internet, with its vast technologies, can improve the world in various fields, if the individual uses it in a wise way, through raising the cultural level, and awareness towards the dangerous consequences when it is badly used.

4.3. Procedural definitions of the concepts used in the research:

4.3.1. Research concepts:

Corona virus pandemic: "Covid-19" is the name given by the World Health Organization (WHO) to the virus that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome, known as (Corona), which has been declared a global pandemic by WHO. The disease affects people differently, with most cases showing mild symptoms, especially in children and young adults. However, some cases can be acute and

dangerous, as about 20% of the affected need medical care in the hospital. This pandemic has affected Algeria like the rest of the world and has had a significant impact on the daily living of individuals, and in this study we will address the effects of this pandemic on the individual and society.

Quarantine: is the isolation of people who have been in contact with confirmed or potential cases for a period of time determined according to the incubation period of the disease - the period between the occurrence of infection and the appearance of symptoms - which was estimated to be 14 days in the case of Covid-19, and "isolation" is defined as the confinement of patients who are already showing symptoms. "Social distancing" is described as maintaining a distance - at least one meter - between healthy individuals, and the quarantined. This social distancing is intended to stop some social activities and determine the curfew time.

Addiction: is the weak attitude of the user's resistance to the internet in front of a computer screen or mobile phone in terms of leaving it or moving away from it as it unintentionally acquires all of the senses. It is a form of loss of control over behavior and an inability to stop.

Social Media: are interactive social networks that allow their users to communicate anywhere in the world and at any time they want. It has changed the concept of communication and rapprochement between peoples, as well as strengthening relations between them, and has recently multiplied its social function to become an expressive and protest tool through a large group of sites, the most important of which are Face book, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram...

Influence: It is the act that controls the individual's relationships inside and outside his family in the presence of social networks, resulting in a change in the behavior and way of thinking of the individual.

Family: It is a nuclear institution consisting of a father, a mother, and children who are linked by strong and solid bonds based on contacts and interactions between individuals through communication, cohesion and tolerance.

Social networking has a major role in breaking the classic human communication with its technologies. This new technology has been able to abolish the world's political borders, by jumping on geographical barriers, to allow communications to be more broad and comprehensive, and to accommodate dialogues and definitions of parties who were not able to communicate with each other previously.

It also provided individuals with the use of the Internet for professional and scientific purposes, such as preparing lessons, entertainment, learning, and allocating the largest time for students to study, as well as directing the family's attention towards scientific and educational interests (Mahmoud Saleh, 2006, p. 174).

It also provided the possibility of mutual influence, export and import of ideas, cultures and customs among people. To be the means that broke the gap of time and geography. This is what made communication a universal and human dimension, except that - as is well known - if something exceeds its limit, it turns into its opposite. Excessive use of social networking and being addicted to it, or the bad use of this technology has negative features that create many sensitive problems, and extraneous manifestations on our Arab societies, which arose from addiction to social networks. This is represented by a number of manifestations, the most important of which are:

1- Social and familial isolation: It is known that the Internet has the advantage of removing the physical borders which leads to the continuous influx of individuals who use it, and its spread across the world has led to the fascination with it which made its users be very interested in it. The Internet has changed, according to Ahmed Uzi Ahmed, "the behaviors and habits of the individuals who use it have been affected causing a shift in the user's lifestyles, so that they spend most of their time in front of this network, for long hours, which may reach about 20-30 hours per week, the individual may remain sitting in front of the computer and chatting sites like e-mail, through which s/he neglects all their basic duties, as they distance themselves from their friends, acquaintances and family, and become socially isolated (Ouzi Ahmed, 1994, p. 58). Thus, the individual is isolated from the real world in order to live in a virtual created world. This is what generates, according to Ahmed Ouzi (1994) "(D.S.), the so-called social media addiction; its symptoms resemble those of drug addiction. Thus, the addict has several problems, including the loss of ability to stop using these networks, and not dispensing with them except for necessity. This is an attempt by the addict to satisfy the highest number of desires, in addition to staying up late, insomnia and anxiety, which lead to the deterioration of the social relations by evading one's family duties towards their spouses and children, which causes the emergence of marital problems that threaten the stability of the family, in addition to other social problems outside the family, such as being late for work, losing a job, being expelled from school, losing friends (Ozzie, p. 58).

2-disappearance of social interaction: numerous researchers fear that social networks will lead to the disappearance of social interaction, because communicating through the former takes place through wires and links so that it depends on written texts, for example, the



misunderstanding that occurs through communication using these networks results from the absence of sensory signals that Supports real-world communication such as smiles, facial and other hand gestures, and eye contact that support real-world communication. In addition to that, transactions have become based on the individual, so instead of shopping with the family, the individual is doing it alone using these networks, which causes the emergence of generations that are only proficient in dealing with the computer (Mahmoud Saleh, 2006, p. 175). Furthermore, modern technology has contributed to widening the gap between parents and children, the relationship between family members has taken a shortened form, and a narrow range. This narrowness has imposed itself on our evening gatherings, causing a real rupture in the family structure, which is characterized by losing family ties, which were the source of gathering and bonding, during which daily problems are talked about, and future plans for the family are drawn up, ideas, experiences and knowledge are exchanged. It is natural that this influence includes the most sensitive relationship, which connects parents with their children in the early stages of their lives, and these are the stages in which the children most need this relationship (Abu Zaid, 2005, pp. 138-139).

3-The Impact of social networks on social values: The Internet is undoubtedly being used negatively by a large percentage of our youth and adolescents through pornography, electronic marriage, and chatting (Mahmoud Saleh, 2006, p. 174). The networks may be used to establish suspicious relationships through social networks, or what is known as chat. This addiction leads to an internal psychological conflict between one's values and values that are acquired through social networking.

The spread of pornography in Arab society is a negative indicator of the collapse of values within the social structure, which led to the spread of immoral practices, such as the abandonment of

legal marriage and the collapse and cracking of the values of married life and the foundations of its stability. Also, social networks and chat rooms are causing cases of emotional separation, in which the man becomes unwilling to talk to his wife, so they replace their sacred bond with these sites, especially during disagreements.

Some studies confirm that social networks have a significant negative impact even with regard to intimate relationships between spouses, which leads to a kind of estrangement and dull feelings, and thus to an increase in problems and the disintegration of marital ties. A large percentage of husbands lose the desire to communicate with their wives as a result of their fascination with models and women they see or chat with on these networks.

On the same line of thought, the spread of the phenomenon of infidelity is one of the most serious problems caused by social networks, as it made many husbands and wives go to these networks in search of new relationships, and in many cases of pornographic nature, which negatively affects their real relationship.

Furthermore, many studies indicated that 25 million people in the world practice virtual sex daily, and 65 million practice this form of sex on a regular basis, while 150 million have practiced it at least once in their lives, and that 65% of people who have established virtual relationships via social networking sites, try to meet the other party realistically (Al-Douri, 2012, pp. 34-37).

To sum it all up, all the negatives and risks of electronic chatting are not confined to the addict only, but also extend to the family and society. Ihsan Muhammad Al-Hassan (1996) summarized the dangers of social networking in the following points:

- Addiction to social networks and chats.

- Family isolation.
- Spending time in destructive matters.
- The dissolution of legitimate relationships and the establishment of out of wedlock relationships.
- Vulnerability to crime and delinquency.

5. Research Methodology

The importance of the topic requires a field study as a data collection tool which was prepared and applied to a sample of community members. A methodological tool for data collection has been prepared for this purpose.

data collection tool

In preparing the study tool, the researcher relied on a set of steps, which are summarized as follows:

- The researcher reviewed some previous research and studies, which dealt with this topic.

- Getting in contact with members of society, in order to see their perceptions about the impact of social networks on family relations during the quarantine period. The information was collected through the researcher's reliance on the remote interview, which was conducted with four families.

- After completing the theoretical side and field research, the researcher proceeded to formulate the questionnaire, which took a form of questions with three ways to answer, which are respectively:

(Yes/No) and (Always/Sometimes/Never) Multiple choice.

It contains (40) questions distributed according to the following sections:

The first section.

It is titled: Using Social networks causes addiction: It contains (15) questions.

The second section.

It is titled: The impact of social networks on the personality of the addict, and it contains (10) questions.

- The third section.

It is titled: The effect of these networks on their users' social and family relationships: It contains (15) questions.

The researcher used the questionnaire and the interviews in an exploratory study on a sample of 10 individuals.

The validity of the questionnaire's content was also verified by the opinions of specialized arbitrators to ensure the extent of the scale's questions in detecting addiction to the Internet and its impact on family relationships, and it was accepted by the unanimous consent of the arbitrators by at least 70 %. In addition to the subjective validity which is the square root of the reliability coefficient, which was estimated at: 0.929.

As for the reliability, it was confirmed by calculating the internal consistency between the questions of the scale, and the correlation coefficients ranged between 0.29 and 0.72, all of which are statistically significant.

The stability of the scale was also confirmed by the pilot method on a sample of users of social networks (n: 50) with an interval of two weeks, and the reliability coefficient was 0.763.

As for calculating the scores, it is according to the question: Yes (1) and no (2) - always (1), sometimes (2), and never (3).

After confirming the availability of the psychometric conditions in the tool, it was adopted in the practical part.

6. The practical study

6.1. The study sample

In the process of collecting data, the researcher relied on the electronic questionnaire, so that a random sample was obtained from the research community represented in the Algerian society, and the total number of the study sample was (200) individuals using social networks. The field study was implemented during the month of July 2021.

Table 1. Represents the distribution of sample members by gender

Gender	Frequency	%
Male	134	67
Female	66	33
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (1), we note that the percentage of males exceeds the percentage of females by 67%, compared to 33% of the percentage of females.

Table 2. Represents the distribution of sample members by age

Age	Frequency	%
15-20	52	26
21-25	84	42
26 beyond	64	32

The overall	200	100
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Through Table No. (2), we note that the age group (21-25) is the most age category which is frequent on the Internet by 42%, followed by the age group (26 and over) with 26%, and finally the age group (15-20) with a rate equivalent to 26 %.

Table 3. Represents the distribution of sample members by the educational level

The educational level	Frequency	%
Middle school	38	19
Secondary school	76	38
University	86	43
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (3), the largest percentage represents 19%, represents university students, followed by 38% of secondary school students, while the average level of education represents only 19%.

Table 4. Represents the distribution of sample members by marital status

Marital status	Frequency	%
Single	86	43
Married	44	22
Divorced	70	35
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (4), we note that 43% represents the percentage of single people, followed by 35% and represents the

percentage of divorced people, and at the end comes the percentage of married couples, equivalent to 22%.

Table 5. Represents the distribution of sample members by occupational status

Occupational status	Frequency	%
Unemployed	50	25
Student	90	45
Worker	40	20
Self employed	20	10
The overall	200	100

Table No. (5), we note that 45% represents the largest percentage, which represents students, followed by 25% representing the unemployed, then followed by the percentage of employees, which is estimated at 20%, and finally the category of self-employed people with 10%.

7. Results

Table 6. Represents the time the user spends while using social networks

Time	Frequency	%
From one to two hours	24	12
About 3 hours	28	14
More than 3 hours	148	74
The overall	200	100

Table No. (6), we note that the largest percentage are those who use the Internet for more than 3 hours, which is estimated at 74%, followed by 14%, which represents the percentage of those who use the Internet 3 hours a day, and in the last 12% represents the percentage of those who use the Internet for less than 3 hours.

Table 7. Represents the gender of whom the user is interested in chatting with by the sample:

The respective gender	Frequency	%
The user's gender	16	8
The opposite gender	88	44
Both genders	36	18
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (7), we note that the sample members prefer contact with the opposite gender with a percentage of 44%, followed by the percentage of individuals who are interested in both genders, which is estimated at 48%, and 8% represents the percentage of the sample members who prefer acquaintance with those of their own gender.

Table 8. Represents the country from which the user is interested in knowing acquaintances

The preference of connecting with people from:	Frequency	%
The same country	6	3

Other countries	66	33
Both options	128	64
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (8), we note that 44% of the sample members prefer acquaintances from the both their own country and other countries, followed by 33%, which represents the percentage of those who prefer acquaintance with people from other countries, as for those who prefer acquaintance with the people from their own country, it represents a small percentage estimated With only 3%.

Table 9. The nature of communication that takes place while using social networks

The nature of the connection	Frequency	%
With family	60	30
With colleagues and acquaintances	12	6
With friends	68	34
Romantic relationship	60	30
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (9), we note that 34% of the sample members use social networking sites to communicate with friends, followed by 30%, which represents the percentage of those who use them for emotional communication and communication with parents. As for the use of the Internet for the purpose of work and knowledge, it is estimated at 6% Just.

Table 10. Type of networks used

The used social media networks	Frequency	%
Messenger	50	25
Facebook	50	25
Yahoo	10	10
Instagram	20	10
All of them	60	30
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (10), we notice that most of the respondents use social networks of all kinds with an estimated percentage of 30%, and 25% represents the percentage of those who use Messenger, followed by the percentage of those who deal with Facebook with an estimated percentage of 25%. Using Twitter and Yahoo, the percentage of each is estimated at 10%.

Table 11. Represents the distribution of the sample by addiction

Have you become an addict to social media networks during the quarantine	Frequency	%
Yes	145	72.5
No	55	27.5
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (11), we note that 72.5% consider themselves addicted to social networks during the quarantine period, compared to 27.5% who do not consider themselves addicted to it.

Table 12. Represents the extent to which the sample suffers from emotional emptiness.

Suffering from emotional void	Frequency	%
Yes	120	60
No	80	40
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (12), we note that 60% of the respondents suffer from an emotional emptiness, compared to 40% of the sample members who do not suffer from an emotional emptiness.

Table 13. Represents the extent to which these networks can fill the social vacuum during the quarantine period

The ability of these networks to fill the emotional void	Frequency	%
Yes	118	59
No	26	13
Sometimes	56	28
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (13), we note that the largest percentage represents the ability of networks to fill the emotional void by 59%, corresponding to 13%, which represents the inability to fill the emotional void through networks, and 28% is a percentage representing the opinion that social networks may sometimes block emotional void.

Table 14. It represents the possibility of their being affected by the ideas presented to them:

The influence by the posted ideas	Frequency	%
Yes	126	63

No	74	37
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (14), we note that 63% are affected by the ideas presented to them by the Internet, while 37% of the sample members are not affected by the ideas presented to them.

Table 15. Represents the possibility of their morals being affected by social networks:

The effect of social media networks on morals	Frequency	%
Yes	140	70
No	60	30
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (15), we note that 70% of their morals are affected by the Internet, while 30% of the sample members are not affected by their morals.

Table 16. Represents the extent to which principles are abandoned to please those with whom they communicate:

Influencing morals	Frequency	%
Yes	70	35
No	130	65
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (16), we note that 65 percent represent those who give up their principles to satisfy those who communicate with them through social networks, compared to 35 percent of the respondents who do not give up their principles.

Table 17. Represents the extent to which social networks feel distracted from homework:

The feeling of being occupied from house duties and shores	Frequency	%
Yes	96	48
No	104	52
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (17), we note that 52 percent represent those who do not feel preoccupied with their families because of social networks, while 48 percent of the sample members feel that their family duties are shortened.

Table 18. Represents the extent to which hypothetical relationships can be canceled for real ones

The influence of the thoughts presented	Frequency	%
yes	150	75
no	50	25
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (18), we note that 65 percent represent those who give up their real relationships and prefer virtual relationships, compared to 35 percent of the respondents whose hypothetical relationships do not cancel their real relationships.

Table 19. Represents the extent to which family disputes arise due to social networks

The extent of familial problems because of social networks	Frequency	%
Yes	130	65
No	70	35
The overall	100	100

Through Table No. (19), we note that 65 percent represent family disputes due to social networking, compared to 35 percent of the sample members, showing that networks do not create disputes within the family.

Table 20. Represents the extent to which they prefer to communicate through networks instead of going out with the family

Preferring to spend time on social networks rather than with family	Frequency	%
Yes	154	77
No	46	23
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (20), we note that 77 percent represents the percentage of those who prefer to communicate online and not to go out with friends, compared to 23 percent of the sample members who prefer to go out with friends.

Table 21. Represents the impact of social networks on the intimate atmosphere of the family

The effect of social media on familial ties and bonding	Frequency	%

Very much	176	88
Not at all	24	12
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (21), we note that 88% show that there is an impact on the intimate atmosphere of the family due to social networking, corresponding to 12% of the sample members, which shows that these networks do not affect the intimate atmosphere of the family.

Table 22. Represents that social networking relationships compensate for seeing family members and discussing life matters with them

Replacing spending time with family with social networking	Frequency	%
Yes	90	45
No	110	55
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (22), we note that 55% of the relationships of social networks compensate for seeing family members and discussing life matters with them, corresponding to 45% of the sample members. The networks do not compensate for seeing family members and discussing life matters with them.

Social networking relationships compensate for seeing family members and discussing life matters with them.

Table 23. Represents the extent to which families complain about their children sitting for a long time on social networks during the quarantine period

Complaint of parents about their kids	Frequency	%
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spending time on social networks		
Yes	160	80
No	40	20
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (23), we note that 80% represents the percentage of families complaining about their children sitting for a long time on social networks, corresponding to 20% of the sample members.

Table 24. Represents the extent to which the sample members participate in discussing family issues during the quarantine period

The extent of participation in the discussion of family issues by the studied sample	Frequency	%
Yes	28	14
No	130	65
Sometimes	42	21
The overall	200	100

Through Table No. (24), we note that the largest percentage estimated at 65% represents the non-participation of the sample members in discussing family issues, corresponding to 14%, representing the participation rate of the sample members in discussing family issues, and 21% is the percentage representing participation in discussing issues family sometimes.

Table 25. Represents the extent to which families complain about the sample members sitting for a long time on social networks

The complaint of parents about their kids spending much time on the internet	Frequency	%

Yes	50	50
No	50	50
The overall	100	100

Through Table No. (25), we note that the ratios between the possibility of family disintegration due to social networks are the same, which indicates that these networks have no relation to family disintegration by 50%.

8. Discussions

The results which are based on the previous tables clearly show that many of the respondents, 74 %, use social networks for more than 3 hours a day. From research and reports on cases of addiction to social networks, where some users of these networks spend 18 hours a day in online chatting (Sherif Darwish, 2000, p. 41).

The results also show that 55 % of the sample consider themselves addicted to social networks, especially after the imposition of quarantine. At first, research was dealing with the Internet to solve problems and provide entertainment, but with time progressing it became an indispensable problem, a result that is supported by the study of Ouzy Ahmed. This confirms the validity of the first hypothesis that a large proportion of the Algerian youth are addicted to social networks.

The previous results also indicate that there are several motives that contribute to resorting to social networks, the most important of which are the freedom to express their opinions without social restrictions by expressing the repressions that circulate in the thoughts of young people, especially with their feeling of being restricted and confined at home as a result of the imposed quarantine, so they resort to a virtual world that distances them from the customs, traditions, and controls of the family and society, and they become more fluent and

expressive in all areas, especially with regard to topics that they cannot actually talk about, the most important of which are sexual issues, which are considered taboos in society, which was confirmed by Ahmed Muhammad Saleh and Ali Al-Hashemi Al-Douri.

The emotional void is said to be experienced by 60 % of the sample, so that Algerian youth believe that social networks can fill the emotional void they suffer from, and this is due to chatting and loosening that helps to get out of emotionality, as stated in the study of Mamdouh Abdel Raouf. In addition to many motives such as discovering the unknown, knowledge, and migration, this confirms the validity of the second general hypothesis that there are many motives for addiction to social networks.

The results of the research proved that 63 % are affected by the ideas presented to them, so what they see on social networks is completely different from the lived reality, especially with the emergence of the pandemic and the pressure of the imposed quarantine, so that social networks have access to influence and change the way they think, speak, and even dress. Therefore, it was possible to influence them quickly, and in this context, Ribhi Mustafa Alyan said, “belief spreads the infection from one individual to another quickly” (Ribhi Mustafa Alyan, 2006, p. 97).

The spread of websites outside the field of literature and morals monitoring, has a serious impact on Algerian youth, by transmitting incorrect information that helps spread voice and false information which is what Izzo Abdelkader Naji brought, and this confirms the validity of the third hypothesis that social networks affect the users' thoughts and behaviours. Social networks have had a significant impact on the intimate atmosphere of the family by 88 %, as social networks affect the duration of sitting with the family despite their



stay at home all day due to the quarantine, and this is due to their continuous demand for these networks, the use of social networks is at the expense of social interaction and family communication, as family members do not find enough time to exchange conversation and discuss family affairs, so that the results show that 80 % of families complain about their children's prolonged sitting on social networks, which have created new patterns of living, as well as special concepts among social media. On this line of thought, new concepts such as unilateralism and independence have emerged, and rapidly spread in a world in which cultures are diverse, and the diversity of the services of these networks gives a lot of options for the user to stay in front of the screen for hours and hours, which negatively affects the rest of his/her activities and a result that applies to what was brought by Ahmed Muhammad Saleh, the study of Maraji Fatima. Social networks also cause family disintegration 50 %, which has dire effects on family life, this leads to a decrease in family communication between family members, a diminishing individual's sense of social predicate, and contradictory indicators of psychological compatibility, all problems that may result in disputes and disintegration within the family that suffers from the extravagance of some of its members in the use of these networks. Also, one of the most important reasons that can lead to family disintegration due to social networks is electronic betrayal, as this phenomenon has begun to spread in societies with different cultures. This confirms the validity of the fourth hypothesis, which states that social networks have a major role in isolation and disintegration within the family and social environment.

Through the previous analysis, it became clear to the researcher, assuming the emergence of other factors that led individuals who use social networks to become addicted to them, so that they may no longer be responsible for social networks alone. Rather, the family

may be deficient in its role of care, attention and keenness on communication between family members, due to its preoccupation with other matters. The phenomenon of children staying for a long time in front of smart devices has also spread, especially after the emergence of the I Pad for young children, and perhaps adults encourage these children to use it, in order to get rid of their problems and troubles at home. But with time passing and after children are isolated from their parents, parents begin to complain about this device, which robbed them of their children, and made them spend time on it rather than on studying and doing homework.

As for resorting to social networks to search for free expression and the problems of the emotional void, the researcher believes that this is due to a defect in the level of relations within most Arab families. In other words, it is difficult for us to fill the emotional void and express it, although it is a natural and legitimate thing, but it is a matter that is prohibited in our Arab societies. Fathers do not express their love for their children, and the brother does not go out with his sister for a walk, and the father does not hold his daughter's hand while talking to her. The mother does not tell her son that she misses him. Rather, dealing with emotions within the Arab family is officially governed by negative controls that have nothing to do with values and religion, which may inevitably lead to the emotional void of young people and the search for its filling through social networks.

9. Conclusions

Social networks have served as a modern media to give a reverse image of the natural family pattern which is characterized by permanent communication which is the basic link of closeness between the family members, but in light of the presence of these

networks in the modern family, we notice the separation of the individual from the rest of the family.

The use of these social media networks have caused a rupture between family members despite their presence for a long time in a common space - the home - as a result of the imposed quarantine due to Covid-19 pandemic. The secretions of social networks have also become automatically heading towards what can be called cultural flattening or ignorance, meaning focusing on entertainment and devoid content, that does not provoke thought or contemplation, and instead focuses on arousing instincts and addressing feelings. Therefore, we proposed a set of preventive solutions that lead to the formation of an individual who deals positively and effectively with the cultures and ideas s/he carries, so they would choose what benefits and fits with their values and society and avoid what leads to addiction and deviation, and this can only be achieved by the availability of a set of factors that determine the base through which proper use of information technology. These suggestions are:

- Instilling religious, moral, social and cultural values in the hearts of our children.
- Encouraging young people to develop their abilities and skills.
- Using the Internet for what is useful, such as learning languages via remote training courses, creating profitable projects...
- Understanding the motives that lead our youth to use this space, and work to address it.
- Satisfying the psychological and social needs of our children by scientific methods, and knowing their shortcomings.
- avoid leaving children exposed to the street because it carries many values that lead to deviation.

- avoid giving children the freedom to dispose of the Internet as much as possible by permanent monitoring, and by defining a specific and appropriate time to run the Wi-Fi for all family members.
- Educating individuals about the need to deal with what benefits them, especially those related to the material received through the media, and trying to avoid them merging in decadent and perverted programs.
- Rehabilitation of the book by encouraging children to read to fill the void in a useful way.

The family should attempt to create activities that gather all family members and distract them from permanent connection to the Internet. Hence, we should deal with this method as one of the important modern challenges facing nations and peoples, considering it not all good nor all evil, but rather it can combine the two, so that we must realize the necessity of dealing with these networks rationally.

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