

Role of Mass Media on Mankind: Time to Rethink

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ABSTRACT

In the era of 21st century, mass media is important part of everyone's life which includes e-mails, online marketing, education sites, etc. Media and computer facilitated new skills that enable the formation and discussion of ideas, problems, data, and views and in another way of presence via network and communities. This review covers all features of mass media with its positive as well as negative aspects. With the emphasis of media on areas such as education, community, children, adolescent, obesity, sexuality, and business, etc., therefore, this research review describes how mass media will comprehensively affect all aspects. Since 2000, mass media has blossomed to prospect and is still growing limitlessly sideways with media sharing, and several other entries that offered real-time updates were announced by the example of Twitter, Facebook, etc. It has become the vital part of everyone's life.

Search strategy: Articles were extracted using MESH keywords, such as children, adolescents, human, electronic mail, mass media, marketing, and health education, etc., from Embase, PubMed, and Google Scholar search engine. For additional information, we also used literature to obtain information on mass media impact in several fields. Mass media use has grown up exponentially over the past era, and this growth is expected to continue. It has a drastic impact on lives of all age-groups. Mass media is an essential or significant force in this modern civilization which has an impact on several aspects of human life. Overall, mass media has both positive effects and negative effects, but overuse of mass media may lead to a tendency of antisocial behavior.

Keywords: Adolescent, Child, Electronic media, Health education, Humans, Marketing, Obesity, Social media.

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INTRODUCTION

Presently, mass media plays a main role in the day-to-day life, and media has become an essential part of life. Mass media, such as television, radio, movies, computer, and cell-phone, etc., are expected to play crucial roles in our children's routine lives.

The media has reported profound effects both positive and negative on children's behavioral and cognitive development as well as social life.¹ In early childhood, there is intensifying use of media, which significantly affects kids and the young generation; moreover, it becomes an essential element of education. Within a short time, it is challenging to envisage the creation without such worldwide media and the Internet that we use routine life.

The impact of media on the development of psychology of kids is profound. Media is not the only source of entertainment or information but also a resource of the statement. By using media, we get to connect with near and dear ones who are living quite far from us. "MEDIA YOUTHFUL" describes the impact of mass media on the young generation, influencing relationships, behavioral change, knowledge gain, skills update, and emotional changes. Mass media is a lifetime appendage of children, as they use computers, watch television, and use mobile phones and Internet connection. Frequent use of media does not leave a way to escape from the impact on social life. Self-directed applications and websites facilitate the users to fulfill their purpose without any guidance, and facilitation may also move toward constructive or destructive directions. Special attention to the children as well as adults who do not have the wisdom to think what is right and wrong leads them to put in challenges and trouble situations.²

POPULAR SITES OF MEDIA

Around the world, media is a platform to describe people's opinions and issues. Everyone is getting up in the morning with cell phones and till they go to bed in the night are busy

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communicating through social networking sites, such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat, Twitter, etc., which is why media is a key feature in human life. The role of media is to convert the behavior of the young generation, their blood relation, and friends, but it also depends on how they practice social media technology³ (Fig. 1).

IMPACT OF MEDIA ON EDUCATION

The media is a future of negotiation, which includes tools that are based on net and platform. Media improves and enhances information or data experience. The mass media platform is about content sharing, input on the community-based contact and reconciliation. In India, till 2014, on YouTube, the national program on an e-learning engineering course and technology-enhanced learning were seen by 110 million. In 2013, social media was used as

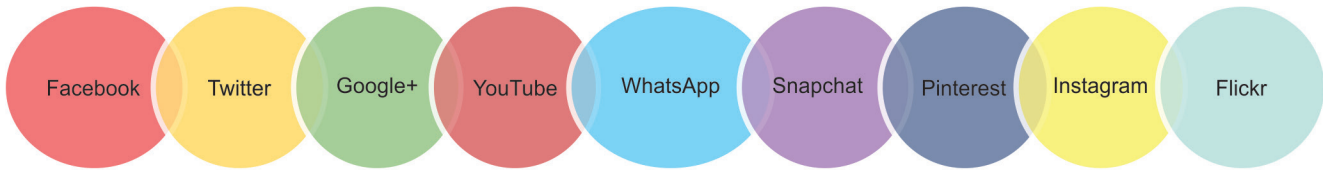


Fig. 1: Popular sites of social media

a teaching tool by 41.1% of American professors. At the same time, a variety of free web applications and software tools are used by the faculty to improve communication, new learning, and to prepare for higher education by social media.⁴

Today, social media has turned into popular slices of life of the young generation. Mostly, people join media with short of inhibiting to consider what are the effects on their own life, whether it will be negative or positive. Some of the positive impact of social media on education are that Google has helped out 20 billion students in the educational tool; it permits the kids to discuss and learn fresh stuff, to do group projects, or for help on home and school work assignments, etc. The social media is helpful for the teachers, and they can post on social media about school events, activities of the class, and homework. It will be very beneficial to students.⁵ Media also helps in capability to know new belongings. This helps to refresh their information particularly.³

Addiction

It is a physical or and psychological compulsion, in which individual is not able to stop to do act or eating chemical substance/drug, although he/she know the harmful effects. Addiction of media, such as regularly checking LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, and other updates of media, is the primary bad impact of social media on children as well as adults. The addiction negatively impacts adolescents valuable activities, i.e., study concentration, taking active participation in sports, refusing realities, and communication of real life.⁶

Privacy

In multimedia, privacy is a big issue, such as uploading personal information on online social sites that are accessed by everyone. Several, inaccurate, and unauthentic information are available online which are manipulating and judgmental and may clue the students to the erroneous side.⁷ Due to this readily available information on social media, the students lose their capability to engage themselves for one-to-one communication and less concentration on classes. Several bloggers and writers post erroneous information on social media platform which leads the education system to fiasco.⁸

Studies have been confirmed that children’s behavior is affected by advertising on social media. Children up to the age-group 4 or 5 years are not making a difference between reality and social media content.^{9,10} According to Article 17 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, all children must be protected from any kind of content that could harm children physically and mentally. The fact is that, there was no significant improvement in the last few years, which is confirmed by Children’s Ombudsman Report for the year 2013.¹¹ It is also addressed that reporting of unsuccessful efforts in view of protecting children in the relation of inadequate regulation in such area. It is also evident that there are many legal hurdles to maximize the possibilities to protect children from various consequences of advertisements.¹²

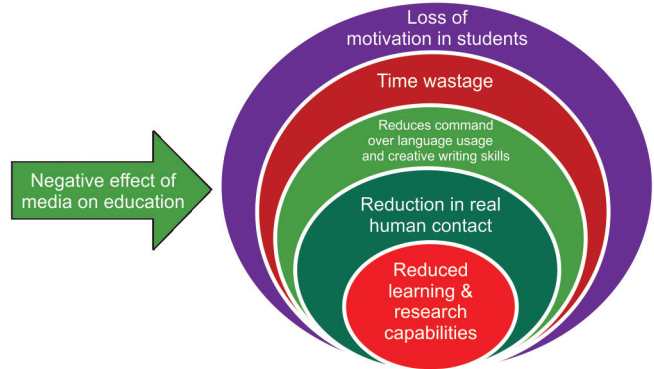


Fig. 2: Negative effect of media on education

The use of social media and networking tools in education to support teachers and a balanced education system has been explored. A study has shown that almost 91% of teachers used various kinds of social media tools such as e-mail, slide share, WhatsApp, and Facebook, and use of YouTube was the highest. In all, 63% teachers admitted that they have basic skills required to use this kind of social media tools in education. In case of usability of these tools, 50% of them were using on a daily basis, and 17% and 12% used it on weekly basis and monthly basis, respectively. It is indicated that in educational system, social media has given deeper benefits¹³ (Fig. 2).

MEDIA AND TEENAGERS

Media is a huge part of many teenagers’ lives. A survey of nearly 750 in 2018 between the age of 13 and 17 years found that 45% are online regularly, and 97.1% use platform of social media. In the United States, 12- to 15-year-olds who used up 3 hours per day in 2019 are found to be at higher risk of mental health, whereas more than 12,000 those in England between the age of 13 and 16 years were found using media.¹⁴ Nowadays, broadcasting has a massive impact; Be it video games, social networking sites and computers, and television—this broadly holds all sides of a kid’s life.

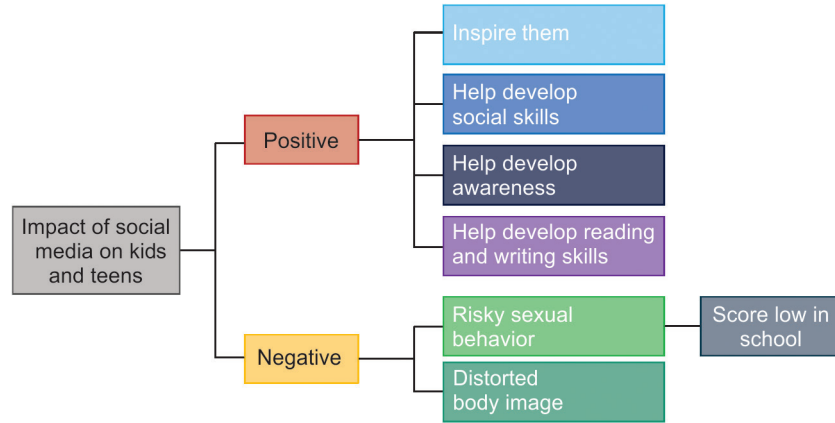
According to a recent survey, more than half of adolescents and 22% teenagers are logging their favorite site of media per day or more than 10 times a day. Most (75%) of teenagers have their own phone now, with 24% using it for messaging, 54% for texting, and 25% for mass media. Most parents used technology unlimited and feel relaxed and skilled with program and online settings that their adolescents and children are using.^{15,16} Impact of media on teenagers is depicted in Flowchart 1.

IMPACT OF MEDIA ON SOCIETY

Media and society are very close to each other. Mass media acts as an umbrella that develops very interesting features to make life easier such as tagging friends, video and photos upload, sharing



Flowchart 1: Impact of social media on kids and teens



of location, video calling, chatting, etc. A study revealed that 70% use media every day for getting up-to-date information.¹⁷ Media works as a vehicle for news, conveying message, and is helpful in entertainment and education.¹⁸ In 2015, a survey reported that by Pew Internet research that media users among adult Americans those use single networking site has raised from 10.01 to 76.01% since 2005.¹⁹

Social media provides opportunity for generation to reconnect with their colleagues, friends, and relatives. It is also helpful to make new contents, friends, audios, pictures, and videos between them. Social media also fluctuates society lifestyle such as culture, norms, and work.⁸

Through social media, people interact more easily with everyone. It gives the opportunity to upload present activities around in the global. In contrast, fake messages are spread easily by mass media, leading to disequilibrium in community harmony. Confidentiality and private life of people are unsafe. Robbery is second issue that can give financial losses to anyone by hacking their personal accounts. The addictive broadcasting part is wicked and may distract private lives as well. Youths are more obsessed with media and loosing connection with social life. Social media may simply decay somebody's status only by generating a fake division and dispersal through the social media.²⁰

IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON BUSINESS

In the present era, many business executives, mass media concept has reached the top agenda. Many information technology (IT) companies are trying to find out ways to make profitable apps use like YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, etc. The social media phenomenon significantly influences sales, reputation, and survival.²¹ The importance of media in business is increasing. With more people joining social media sites and using them continuously/capably, the social media business is bound to become larger in the coming years; it is growing like never earlier.²²

Nowadays, people take the help of media to comprehend their spectators by their dislikes and likes; it can be an economic saver and a grovel business with its clients. Media also permits a business to answer to its customers and make any alteration quickly.²³ Social media in business field is not totally risk free, as many of the devotees and followers are free to post their views on a precise organization, and the negative comment can clue the organization to a let-down.⁸

MEDIA AND SUBSTANCES USE

Alcohol, tobacco, and cigarette industries have huge integration with media platforms with strategies in marketing that are fully available to teenagers. A study at Columbia University in 2011 reported that those who used social media sites were more frequent to use alcohol and tobacco in comparison to those do not use media which is reported by National Center on Addiction and Substances Use.²⁴ Many young adults and adolescents are exposed to use of substances, which are seen on media, i.e., social sites of network and brand websites. Use of these substances create negative effects on cognitive capacities in experience of real life.²⁵ National survey on drug use and health in 2014 reported that 1 in 10 Americans waged 12 or older had disorders of substances use.^{26,27} In the recent years, mass media sites like Facebook, Myspace, and YouTube have grown rapidly to share information to larger population.

IMPACT OF MEDIA ON MATERNITY CARE

Childbirth is an anxiety-producing situation for many women and represents the most painful event in women's lifetime.²⁸ Some pregnancy required extra monitoring because it is considered high-risk pregnancy.²⁹ Pregnant women receive a great value on the data and provision from sharing using online apps and query. Some of the apps deliver information on how to monitor infants' sleeping, growth, development, and feeding. Health apps and social media are increasingly used in pregnancy care. Social media and apps have the latent to be broadly used in improving maternal well-being during the prenatal and postnatal stages.²⁹

MEDIA IMPACT AND RISK OF EARLY SEXUAL INITIATION AND SEXUAL PROMISCUITY

Television showed sexual material more than 50.1%, prime time shows with sexual content 66.0%, and 9% of the shows to any reference to responsibility, risk or safer sex, and contraception. Dangerous sexual behavior include early unsafe sex, and sexual debut with multiple sexual partners is paid more attention globally for its remote negative influence many health problems such as HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and many diseases such as use of substance and teenage pregnancy.³⁰ Risky sexual behavior in adults is influenced by more essential domains of life such as peers, parents, relatives, and individual factors, for example, factor regarding parents or family, i.e., low control by parents or family, low impulsive control, negative emotions, and early maltreatment.³¹

It is also stated that a large number of adolescences are identified having unprotected sex which has maximum influence on youth.³² Sexual activities at early stage of life among youth is due to exposure to sexually explicit content in mass media. In media, there is increased and explicit portrayal of sexual material.^{33,34}

A study showed that media had negative influence on the sexual wellness of many adolescent users as adolescents could easily fall to online effect of disinhibiting. It indicates that private information and personal details are more released into domains of public than they would be face-to-face interaction due to dissociative anonymity that social networking sites provide. So, adolescents are riskier group for contracting sexually transmitted infection, and approximately 3 million are infected yearly.³⁵ Media also provides information regarding contraception and protective medication.

MEDIA AND OBESITY

According to the World Health Organization in 2016, around 170 million children below the age of 18 years are suffering from obesity.^{36,37} In Western population, media is a reason for increase in obesity. In 1985, a first study suggested a relation between media and obesity and summarized the increased prevalence of obesity of 2.01% in age of 12–17 years for extra hour of television watched. Media mostly motivates a sedentary lifestyle, and advertisement mainly encourages unhealthy foods.³⁸

According to survey of CDC of US, more than half residents watched TV twice per week responded that TV presents accurate information. So it is also good news that media have to promote health and discourage prejudice.³⁹ The main reason of consumption of unhealthy food is advertisement. Most research state that during advertising children and youth use additional food such as snacks (mainly salty and sweet snacks) and frequently use of low-nutrient drinks, i.e., fizzy drinks, coffee, tea, and alcohol.³⁷ It is also proved that media may increase awareness related to health issues, but it is less evidenced that mass media may stimulate change in behavior³⁸ because mass media is mainly responsible for creating a good platform for a variety of recipes that influence health.

CONCLUSION

Social media has influenced human kind in the various fields in both positive and negative directions. In the education field, current research shows students obtain new skills and get the education quality but at the same time may get distracted and use social media too much. The social networking websites have developed important requisite today; therefore, it could not be encouraged at all. The media pleased, frequently overstated, and grow into something smart or smooth reasonable to actual effects that may progress "exact media attentive belongs to moral and cognitive belief and lastly to the inactive consumerism outlook of sightless mock.

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