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**Title: Teenagers' identity formulation through social media influence in relation to
Erikson's psychosocial theory**

MASTER THESIS

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Introduction

Erik Erikson's theory on psychosocial development studies how, "personality develops in a predetermined order through eight stages of psychosocial development, from infancy to adulthood." (McLeod, 2018) Through the stages, the fifth stage specifically, "occurs during adolescence, from about 12-18 years. According to Shamdasani, "As we learn from this meticulously researched and richly documented study, Erik Erikson was born to Karla

Abrahamsen, who was Jewish and Danish. He never knew who his father was, and uncovering the secret of his paternity became a lifelong quest." (Shamdasani, 2000) Erikson never acknowledges who his father was and was left in the unknown.

The fact that Erikson never learnt about his biological father and was left with questions could be trace as the cause behind this theory and curiosity. Moreover, the secret and mystery behind his biological father prompt the rise of questions and desire to uncover ideas behind identity and how a person develops. Especially, the fifth stage deals with identity against role confusion which influences the researcher. As the person grows and develops, forming an identity and the continue development in life the essence of values, ideas forms.

In the fifth stage of Erikson's theory, the person forms an understanding and idea of oneself.

Since childhood, Erikson begun thinking and looking for an understanding as to how the person develops the self and identity. Through own experiences, Erikson tries to form an understanding to explain his own questions. The mystery and unknown of his father's

identity provided a major role in sparking his interest in developing the theory of psychosocial development.

During this stage, adolescents search for a sense of self and personal identity, through an intense exploration of personal values, beliefs, and goals.’’ Children transform from childhood to adolescence and develop their unique understanding of who they are and what they want to achieve. Furthermore, at this stage teenagers grow independent and move away from their parents, in search of an identity and role in their society.

In the last couple years, teenagers choose to interact on platforms such as; Facebook, Twitter and Instagram due to easy access and an opportunity to create groups of friend, meet people and exchange opinions on different matters.

The aim of the case study is to collect and understand the influence behind the practice, in which teenagers form their identity through social media interaction.

Through qualitative measures, there will be a collection of characteristics and an analysis of factors which influence teenagers in forming their identity through social media interaction. More specifically, through interviews teenagers will share their opinions on social media influence in their daily lives, as well as, how such interaction might shape their identity. More specifically, the study will collect data from secondary and high school students and will focus on the ages of 15 and 18 across Cyprus, as it signals the end of an academic circle and the start of another. Furthermore, the aforementioned ages cover the fifth stage of Erikson’s theory, in which teenagers create the self and their personal identity. The range of participants, the sample is expected to be from 64 middle schools and 38 high schools, around 40,400 students overall.

Using Clarke, Victoria & Braun, Virginia thematic analysis the results will be demonstrated in a table using Microsoft Excel with color code separating thematic units and demographics. After the analysis, there will be an outcome of comments regarding the findings of the research.

In terms of ambition, the research will result in a better understanding of how social media shape and form new social identities for teenagers in a deeper level. Moreover, the research will provide a complete inside as to how to analyze and interact with teenagers in order to provide and improve a better social, as well as, family environment for their growth.

Furthermore, teenagers will be able to express themselves into an open dialogue and interact more dynamic. They will have the opportunity to really express and directly address their thoughts on identity and interaction through the digital age.

There will be expression on how online interaction makes people feel and think. Young adults will be able to explain how their ideas and thoughts interchange with those of peers and friends. Additionally, they will express and talk about how emotions work and shape their self in the digital world.

Literature Review:

How teenagers shape their identity through social media influence in relation to Erikson's psychosocial theory and the conflict with their parents

As Valerie Barker research explains, "Social identity stems from that part of the individual "which derives from their knowledge of their membership of a social group (or groups) together with the value and emotional significance of that membership." (Barker, 2009, p.209) The researcher goes on to separate personal and social identity, as the first one deals with atomic structure, individual characteristics, while the second with group characteristics and where someone belongs. Moreover, "Apart from passing time, entertainment, and information seeking, interpersonal/interactive goals are consistently identified." Adolescents through social media usage and interaction form behaviors and identify with specific groups, as well as, ideas. Through the study of funding's, the researcher explains that individuals with low self-esteem find social media platforms as a way to escape from their groups and find themselves. Also, when there is no identification with a group, individual attempt to distance apart. From the sample, there were a high number of responders, as well as, different ethnic groups. In terms of hypotheses, the research examined social network sites as a mean of escape and seeking companion, when unable to identify within a group. The results, suggest that positive self-esteem connects to communication through peer interaction instead of social network sites. The research correlates negative self-esteem with usage of social network sites for

escape, as well as, detachment from the group, while also ascribing boys as more likely to behave in that manner.

Furthermore, in another research social media was thought as to how it might impact lives in a positive way for adolescents with the formation of social groups and relationships. Some questions rise like, “How does social media affect young people’s social connectedness?” (Allen, Ryan, Gray, McInerney & Waters, 2014, p. 19)

As the part of belonging through social media and technological interaction, adolescences create bonds and develop a sense of unity in groups. Many studies as reviewed their findings, show that even if no physical presence exist, the sense of connectedness. Adolescents express that connection exists.

On the one hand it easy to identify, but on the other adolescences risk the exposure of private information. In conclusion, a variety of researches indicate the impacts and effects of social media use during adolescence. Nonetheless, the degree of usage was not studied in depth..

The research by Xianhui Wang and Wanli Xing studies the parental involvement and how they affect their children online safety and behaviour. Furthermore, the study attempts to related socioeconomic status with access to online media, as well as, safety that parents provide for their children. Through parents can play a crucial role as they are a primary source of influence on the creation of identity for children, for that reason they hold responsibility for ethical education and behaviour. In their reviews of literature, researches understand that obstacles in online access and media provide fewer opportunities for development of skills and interactions.

A 2009 study which deals with Adolescent's personal needs and desires in family environment found that young adults were willing to sacrifice personal needs for the fulfilment of others' needs. The study attempted to test and further research the relationship dynamic through stories and scenarios, where adolescents would have to decide between personal desire or interpersonal. Furthermore, the scenarios were divided into low state situations and higher state. Through thirty minutes of interview there were stories where adults needed help and vice versa, in order to see who would sacrifice personal desires to help the other. Results showed that both groups were expecting the help of opposite when high demand was present, while adolescents find it their duty to help parents in every level of situation. As the graph shows, older adolescents were more willing to sacrifice personal needs in order to help their parents.

Through research by Grace H. Chung and Lisa Flook on relationships and conflict between parents and adolescents in the latter's daily life, there was the technique of using a diary ,in which adolescents checked and reported events of conflict by the end of each day, for a period of two weeks. In days where there was conflict among parents, adolescents were easier to argue with parents. Moreover, the mood and emotional situation of adolescents played a role in the conflict with parents, events that connect with school and other activities. Also, the study tried to see how daily arguments shape adolescents interactions throughout the day. In terms of gender, the study indicates that girls tend to show greater emotional distress than boys in conflict with peers. Moreover, ethnicity plays a role as Asians were more likely to show greater value to family and not express ideas that could lead to conflict, as well as, in Korea and Mexico, where adolescents were ready to compromise to avoid conflict.

The aim of the current research is to provide an understanding and new perspective as to how social media influence and create an identity for adolescents, as well as, the conflict with parents in search of the identity. Moreover, the extent of usage indicates an area which needs consideration and the allowance of parents or control over the time adolescents spend on platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Furthermore, my research aims at observing the influence of social media over time and how perhaps the more exposure teenagers' experience, the more influential social media interaction can be. As teenagers spend more and more time online interacting and chatting about common interests and issues that might have questions for, the more impactful such interactions can be.

In the online community, anonymity and easy access may provide a quick and impactful interchange of identity.

Through the convenience of online interaction, a teenager can easily exchange information and come to contact with people of similar age creating circumstances of interaction. Moreover, such environments might create the safe zone for a teenager to open up and express thoughts and ideas freely without boundaries. In such time of technology advancement and easy communication, it gets more and more complicated to understand the construction of the self and how young adults shape their identity.

The focus on social media as the new medium for interaction possesses insides as to how new generations of people contact each other and shape their understandings of the self. Through the research, teenagers will express and open up about online contact, exchange of opinions and the ways with which constructing their identity progresses. As a medium

of communication, social media have a unique nature which cannot be fully comprehensible.

The research using questions that explore such complex means of communication aims at exploring and understanding the issue further. Moreover, using questions to prompt teenagers into a detailed description and comprehension of online interaction and identity formulation seems interesting. Using such questions, where teenagers open up and elaborate can produce quality answers and further enforce the nature of online influence on identity formation.

Methodology:

Through qualitative measures, there will be a collection of characteristics and an analysis of factors which influence teenagers in forming their identity through social media interaction. More specifically, through interviews teenagers will share their opinions on social media influence in their daily lives, as well as, how such interaction might shape their identity. More specifically, the study will collect data from secondary and high school students and will focus on the ages of 15 and 18 across Cyprus, as it signals the end of an academic circle and the start of another. Furthermore, the aforementioned ages cover the fifth stage of Erikson's theory, in which teenagers create the self and their personal identity.

The sample will cover schools from Paphos, Larnaca, Limassol and Nicosia as to provide an overall picture of the topic in detail.

Furthermore, after the submissions there will be an analysis of data, to see the picture in the Cypriot community. Moreover, each participant's opinions will be kept anonymous.

The dependent variable is the degree of social media interaction and the conflict which causes trouble in family relationships. Also, based on time spend on social media there will be a measure as to how great the influence of identity appears to be.

Using Clarke, Victoria & Braun, Virginia Thematic analysis from the Journal of Positive Psychology there will be an analysis of data using Microsoft Excel to create a table of content separating thematic units into colorful depictions. The code will show the emotions, degree and outcome of identity formation through the interaction and based on time spent on social media.

There will be a table created in Excel differentiating each participant and showing their response, time spend and emotions on social media interaction. Each color will respond to a specific measure. Moreover, there will be correlation between popularity of the platform, amount of time the user dedicates and emotions created.

Following the coding, there will be a connection and outcome of comments and ideas based the time spent on the platform and how great the change and effect appears to be. There will be a correlation between the amount of time people spend online and the impact on their identity and ways of thinking. In this way, a pattern will be drawn as to the time spend and how important of a change or not happens on the self and identity formation.

Moreover, the thematic analysis will deal with platforms of preference, how they are used, time per day, emotions and change in identity of the individual. Using a colour

code there will be analysis on time, emotions and change and these factors will be connected and commented upon.

The primary endpoint of the protocol is the significance connection and correlation between teenagers' identity formulation through social media influence in relation to Erikson's fifth stage of psychosocial theory. Basically, how online interaction through social media with peers effect young adults development and formation of the self.

As individuals adapt and grow their sense of self and belonging swiftly and is being constructed as it happens in the fifth stage of Erikson's theory. Young adults look to construct an identity and understand who they are. The research will connect and examine the various extent and degree as to how the interaction online contributes to the change.

Identity and the self is constructed on the fifth level of Erikson's theory which intertwines with a second level of analysis regarding the conflict among family.

On a second level, the research aims at observing conflict and instances of disagreement in the family environment. As individuals form and shape their identity, they could come to conflict and disagreement with family members. Various degrees and situations of conflict arise for individuals to find solutions and reshape their perspectives and understandings.

Interviews:**SUBJECT A:**

The participant in this case was using Instagram and TikTok over Facebook, as the latter explained by the person is mostly used by older people. The reasons for choosing Instagram and TikTok were for a speedy update on news and various topics around the world, as well as, easy to chat with friends and teachers. Moreover, the caricatures depiction of various social issues could produce happier feelings and thoughts even briefly. As a result, the participant would feel a bit relief and relax for a moment. Additionally, people can see what their friends are up to and meet other people, form new friendships, and develop new skills on subjects of interest. Furthermore, people can reach out to friends no matter the distance and in a faster way; a person's social skills can develop into a spirit of friendliness.

The participants admitted to spend four to six hours on social media platforms per day. Moreover, the participant said to be an active member of the groups belonging to, sharing opinions and expressing disagreements or positivity over something. Furthermore, the interaction was characterized as positive and very communicative as the participant would share opinions and discuss openly ideas about a topic, commenting and expressing thoughts. Also, the participant was very interested in expressing ideas through images, such as photographic nature content. On the nature of groups, the participant expressed interest in groups related to school or institution based material correlated with subjects of study and interest. As a result, the groups contributed in creating a community for

educational reasons. Consequently, being a part of the groups, the participant was full of happy emotions, joy more positive energy and could be more productive.

In conclusion, the participant was pro-social media use, but also aware of the many dangers and scams around. A final thought was that people must always be careful when navigating through social media, knowing the pros and cons.

SUBJECT B:

The participant .in this case was using Instagram and TikTok over Facebook, as the latter explained by the person is easier and better to use. Also, the participant referred to the convenience and no need of mobile numbers, related to social media contact. Additionally, the participant's usage of social media was at one hour per day. The reasons for choosing Instagram and TikTok were for a speedy update on news and various topics around the world, as well as, easy to chat with friends and teachers. In this case, the person was mostly interested in seeing and reading information. Moreover, the person in this case indicated at the worldwide capabilities of social media to stay connected and up to date with world news and topics. Furthermore, the participant mentioned that through the mass input of news and information, there is new perspective and formation of ideas.

With regards to the purpose and characterization of groups, the person mentioned that school information and tutoring was mostly considered, as well as, passing information to one another. Furthermore, something that one missed to see, someone else could bring it up and others would be alert to consider looking further. In terms of the bonding and density, the person talked of relations and stronger bonding between group members.

Though, on a negative note, the person expressed concern about the time consumption and focus deduction of social media usage.

SUBJECT C:

The person mentioned owning a profile on Instagram, Facebook, Twitch and Discord. On these specific platforms, the participant mentioned abundance of possibilities and options, while having a fun time exploring possibilities. On the usage aspect, the participant mentioned not to be as active as a user, but rather to see, observe and discuss information. More specifically, the participant was more interested in discussing information and views with friends, chatting and seeing their perspective.

On the aspect of influence, the participant mentioned that reading ideas, opinions and different perspectives online may partially change some views but not completely. As a result, there could be an understanding but not full change of an opinion, an idea. Furthermore, the participant had a better bonding and stronger relations with friends while chatting online, especially with ones interacting on a daily basis. Moreover, there was a feeling of pleasure and happiness related to the interactions and bonding.

SUBJECT D:

The person mentioned owning a profile on Instagram, Youtube and TikTok. On these specific platforms, the participant mentioned abundance of entertainment possibilities and options, while communicating with friends.

On the time spend on the platforms, the person mentioned between five to six hours per day. Moreover, the person described themselves as an active user and the purpose of the platforms as medium for exchanging information with fellow classmates, friends and organizing an event or something. Also, the person said to post more and be an active user in order to update friends on activities and news throughout the day.

On the characteristics of the groups, the person described them as more friendly to meet and chat with friends, but also some had a more formal character for school related matters. Additionally, the person mentioned to describe feelings and thoughts in order to better find solutions in troublesome situations. Also, on the contribution and the role, the person mention having a more team effect on the groups, providing opinions and suggestions on the group as a whole, a more team dynamic approach.

On a final note, the person mentioned a beneficial role, which the social media and groups provided in the sense of hearing other people opinions and thoughts on a subject. Furthermore, in the groups, they did provide a secure environment to express an idea, an opinion without someone left alone in fear.

SUBJECT E:

The person mentioned owning a profile on Instagram. On the specific platform, the participant mentioned that lots of people use it and a lot of time is dedicated there. Moreover, the person describe to be a socializer and to use the platform for sharing information and gossip. Also, the person would be an active user with creating posts, comments and likes.

Regarding the nature of groups, the participant mentioned groups with friend, as well as, groups to organize night out and such events. Furthermore, the user mentioned voice notes and texts as means of interaction and that through the interaction there is excitement and happiness.

Overall, the participant described social media with positives and negatives. On the projection of a body image, the participant mentioned a feeling of insecurity after seeing lots of beautiful girls appearing at every corner of the platform. On the other hand, through the platform the person connected and discovered new friends, though the amount of time spent on does cause conflict and concern from parents.

SUBJECT F:

The person mentioned owning a profile on Snapchat. On the specific platform, the participant mentioned that most of people that share moments and friendship with them use that platform. Moreover, the people describe to be a socializer and spent plenty of time on the platform. Furthermore, on the use of the platform, sharing information and gossip were firstly mentioned. Also, the person would be an active user with posting and on the nature of the groups the idea would be to hang out and have fun.

On the type of interaction, the person would mention voice notes, videos and texts. Additionally, the role and character of that person would be the life of the group or a more funny character. Furthermore, on the bonding with other members the person discuss about forgetting for a bit negative thoughts and having a motivation to hang out more.

Overall, the participant described a more negative aspect of social media on the creation of fake news, a made up society with rules and behaviors that do not apply in reality. Moreover, as elaborating further social media make people behave in a way that they are not comfortable with by projecting what beautiful means, while use a lot of fake material such as Photoshop. Lastly, the person mentioned a chaotic world created by social media.

SUBJECT G:

The person mentioned owning a profile on Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat. On the specific platforms, the participant mentioned that most of fiends share moments in the use of the platforms and communicate between one another. Furthermore, TikTok was mentioned in relation to entertainment. With regards to Instagram, the person mentioned easy usage, popularity and the best way to communicate with others. On the time spent, the person mentioned only in free time for a certain amount of time

Moreover, the people describe to be a regular user, and being active on daily basis. Furthermore, on the type of interaction the person talked about news, socialize and gossip with friends. Also, the person described to be an active user with posts and comments on various friends' accounts. On the means of communication, the user mentioned text messages and calls.

On the bonding of the members, the person described a close bonding between all and feelings of excitement, acceptance and thrill being part of the groups.

Overall, social media seem to have a positive impact for the user. The aspect of bringing people closer from around the world, communication and views on different subjects

were cited as positive aspects. Though, a limit to daily use must be in mind as the person expressed.

SUBJECT H:

The person mentioned owning a profile on Instagram. On the specific platform, the participant mentioned that it can be used for posting and texting. Also, on the amount of time spending on the platform, the user mentioned 1-2 hours daily. On the type of user, the person spoke of being passive with rarely posting and on the means of interaction there was mention of text messages.

On the time, the user elaborated on half spent on texting and what's left on watching reels and other type of content. Moreover, on the character of the groups the user talked about friendly groups up to 30 people, related to sports activities or simply communicating. Regarding the sports groups, the conversation focuses around planning of games and events, while on the friendly chats they share funny videos and discuss when to go out. On the role in the groups, there wasn't something specific as the person talked about everyone being equal.

Overall, the person didn't think of social media as a major change in an identity. Moreover, social media in this case was primarily used for entertainment videos regarding sports and chatting with friends and family.

SUBJECT I:

The person mentioned owning a profile on Instagram. On the specific platform, the participant mentioned that it can be used for posting and texting. Also, on the amount of

time spending on the platform, the user mentioned 1-2 hours daily. On the type of user, the person spoke of being passive with rarely posting and on the means of interaction there was mention of text messages.

SUBJECT J:

The person mentioned owning a profile on Instagram. On the specific platform, the participant mentioned that it can be used for watching other posts. Also, on the amount of time spending on the platform, the user mentioned less than 2 hours daily. On the type of user, the person spoke of being passive with rarely posting while preferring to watch more what other people create.

On the type of interaction, on friendly chats the person mentioned to be passive not talking a lot, but mostly sharing funny content and so on. Furthermore, on the character of the chats, the user talked about sports team groups, friendly and to organize going out with friends. On the role, in the groups, the person mentioned being the one keeping things in check, especially when in a conflicting situation. Moreover, the person talked about a deep bond and conversations when texting to others, as it helps to get to know everyone better.

Overall, the person described social media as entertainment related, but also time consuming. Moreover, misinformation is a topic with great attention, and while searching and asking questions the person bonds better with family members, and understands information.

SUBJECT K:

The person mentioned owning a profile on Instagram and Snapchat. On the specific platforms, the participant mentioned primary use of communication with friends and family. Moreover, on the amount of time spent, the person mentioned 2 to 3 hours daily and on the type of user there was a description of a typical user, uploading posts and chatting with friends. Furthermore, on the type of interaction there was description of interesting, chaotic and gossip or things that happened at school. On the platforms, the user was actively participating with comments and posts, while on the character of the groups mostly it was friendly.

On the type of communication, the person talked about sending texts and voice notes and on a role there was not something specific since all members were friends. On the bonding there was a close one with most being friends with each other.

Overall, the user described social media as a wild place with not everyone being kind, some people being dangerous and tricky, though a supportive network of friends and family members can help a lot. Moreover, some nice comments from carrying people may help to reduce negativity and block people with no good intentions. In conclusion, social media can be a great place to be more social as the person expressed.

SUBJECT L:

The participant talked about owning a profile on TikTok, Youtube, Pinterest and WhatsApp. On the reason of selecting the specific platforms, the user said about friends that interact there. Moreover, on the amount of time spending daily, the person talked for 1.5 on TikTok and 30 minutes on Pinterest.

On the type of user, the person talked of being passive user and interacting with sending stuff to others, tagging them in posts and simply chatting. As a passive user, the person mentioned that rarely writes comments on posts. Furthermore, on the character of the groups, the user spoke of groups that represent places like summer camp. More elaborating on the interaction, the person said of looking at posts and sometimes reacting. On a specific role assign, the user spoke of nothing specific and on the bonding there was a positive attribute since lots of friends are part of it.

Overall, the person spoke of an impactful influence by social media on small things such as music, style taste and products interested to purchase, but not in a complete way. Furthermore, some ideas and ideals of the world come into play, but the user is staying true to beliefs and always considers everything when reading online. Moreover, the family members show understanding and talk in a calm way when discussing important issues.

SUBJECT M:

The participant mentioned owning a profile on TikTok and WhatsApp and talked about being able to keep in touch with lots of people from contacts, being interesting and also learning news around the world. Moreover, on the amount of time spent, the person talked about 2 and a half hour on TikTok and 2 hours on WhatsApp. While on the type of user, the person described to be passive with not all the time being on the phone.

On the communication, the person talked about communicating with friends on private chats or group and on TikTok usually commenting on videos to ask some questions. On the other hand, the user expressed a preference on watching videos rather than posting.

More on the type of groups and character, the person talked about friendly groups and on groups related to shows or comics of interest.

More on the type of interaction, the user spoke of vocal, voice messages as a preference rather than texting. Also, on the interaction with other members the user talked of being passive, not participating lots and the bonding created had most positive influence.

Overall, the user talked of parents being conservative due to age and that could potentially lead to more racist or sexist views as expressed. On the other hand, social media bring to light such incidents and help society positively. While the person said not to discuss regularly such topics due to not having the authority. Finally, the person talked of social media as a place of learning and building character, but kids should be careful when navigating into.

SUBJECT N:

The participant mentioned owning a profile on Instagram and talked about friends using the specific platform. Moreover, on the amount of time spent, the person talked about more than 3 hours daily. On the type of interaction, the user talked about texting or calling friends, while on the way of participation there was sharing of posting. Also, the user wasn't part of groups rather than private chatting.

Overall, the user attributed a positive influence from social media as it allows for us to become aware of others' opinions, views and helps form beliefs. Though, the user talked

about not spending too much time on social media, as it produce a negative impact on mental health. Furthermore, the parents don't like it when the user is spending too much time on social media, so there must be a balance.

SUBJECT O:

The participant talked of using WhatsApp, as lots of people use it as well that is useful. On the amount of time spent daily, the user mentioned 2 hours. Moreover, as a user there was a description as careful and on the type of interaction the person mentioned talking about well-being and updating one another on what's happening. Also, on active participation, the person talked about sharing reels most of the time.

More on the group character, the user talked about small introvert groups rather than big groups. Moreover, the user spoke of been vocal only on one group that feels comfortable and on the participation, the user spoke of initiating conversations. Moreover, on the bonding of the members the user spoke of positive feelings.

Overall, the user spoke of watching reels about makeup tutorials, memes and relationship advices. As a consequence, the advices helped the person improve behaviour and on the relationship with parents. Finally, after watching advices and chatting with family members, the person spoke of a better understanding in other opinions and points of view.

SUBJECT P:

The participant talked of using Youtube and VK. On choosing Youtube, the user spoke of a variety in content both educational and entertaining. On the other hand, VK is used for

contacting people. Moreover, on the amount of time spent daily, the user mentioned 30 minutes on VK and approximately 2 hours on Youtube. Also, as a user the person mentioned being an explorer, while on the type of interaction there was mentioned of discussion based on the subjects of videos and posts. Furthermore, the person mentioned commenting and replying actively.

On the type of groups, the participants spoke of interests in video games, cooking, medicine and books/movies. On the specific groups, the user observes members discuss ideas, theories and tips. Furthermore, there are some education based groups where they discuss and share resources for studies and opinions on universities. Moreover, on the interaction the user talked about writing messages rather than talking online with voice messages or calls.

As a part of specific groups, the user spoke of being active on discussions and lots of times guiding others and supporting them. On the bonding, when not feeling at best, the user talked about asking for advice from members of the groups. As a consequence, the people experience a variety of advices and perspectives.

Overall, the person spoke of people with different opinions across social media, split into positive and negative categories, also hurtful for teenagers. Furthermore, the person spoke of the variety and flow of information and how people should be cautious not to get everything inside their heads. As a victim of social media, it takes years to ignore people and choose what you take in and how someone shapes ideas and opinions. Also, as a victim of such online readings, the person would constantly get into fights with family about who is right or wrong. As a result, people online and such sources can be

bad influence and cause conflict in a person's relationships with relatives or friends. Finally, the user spoke of the thinking process that people must take into consideration when navigating online.

SUBJECT Q:

The participant talked of having a profile on Instagram and the reason was that most friends were using the specific platform. On the time spent on the platform, the person mentioned 3 hours daily and on the type of user nothing specific. Furthermore, on the type of interaction there was mention of uploading stories and text messages.

On the active participation, the person mentioned to be quite active and on the character of the groups a friendly tone. On the bonding with other members the person talked about a positive impact while as a person there was the characterization of an annoying one.

Overall, the impact of social media appears to be a positive one, as the person spoke of making sense in life through social media and people and mostly on chatting with friends provides a positive impact.

SUBJECT R:

The participant talked of having a profile on Instagram and the reason was that most people use the specific platform. On the daily use, the person mentioned five to six hours. On the type of interaction, the person spoke of friendly chats and overall communication with other members of different groups.

On the nature of being active, the person spoke of active participation and the groups having a sports character mostly about football. Furthermore, as part of the group the person feels good and shares live games to watch with friends all together. On the bonding, the person talked about being able to chat with lots of people.

Overall a positive attribute on social media influence and interaction.

SUBJECT S:

The participant talked of having a profile on Instagram and the reason was that the person felt more acquaintance with the specific platform. On the daily use, the person mentioned five to six hours. Moreover, as a user the participant mentioned posting stories, and on the interaction chatting with friends.

As a user, the person mentioned to be quite active in friend groups. Additionally, on the type of interaction, the person spoke of text and voice messages, videos and pictures. Furthermore, as part of the group the person felt like a leader and the bonding attach positive influence.

Overall, the user mentioned that social media and online views do affect critical thinking and the way of perceiving things. Moreover, the person mentioned that through social media people can stay updated with everything happening around them, and that it does not affect the relationship with parents.

SUBJECT T:

The participant talked of having a profile on Instagram and TikTok and the reason was to communicate with friends. On the daily use, the person mentioned four to five hours, but

mostly during the weekend. Moreover, the type of interaction, the person spoke of friendly chats and sharing stories and pictures with friends. Also, the people mention sharing more comedic pictures (memes) in groups.

On being active, the person mentioned a positive attribute in most group chats. Furthermore, on the nature of communication, the person spoke of text and voice messages, and video calls. As a role the person mentions being the leader of the group. Regarding the bonding brings positive energy.

Overall, the person spoke positively on social media, as it broadens knowledge through the accessibility in articles and worldwide news, helping people to stay updated. Moreover, the person mentioned that the views online may help a person grow and that this affects positively the relationship with parents.

SUBJECT U:

The participant talked of having a profile on Instagram and the reason was that most friends use the specific platform and to stay updated with latest news and gossips. Moreover, on the daily use the person mention 3 hours per day. On the type of user, the person mention speaking with friends and posting about experiences and daily life stuff. More on the interaction, the user talk about following each other and tagging friends on various videos.

On the level of participation, the person mention participating actively when posting stories and on the variety of the groups, there was mention of study groups, party groups and friend groups. Furthermore, on the type of interaction, the person spoke of playing games, calling each other and helping to study. Also, on a specific role in the groups, the

person spoke of being the comedian who makes other laugh and to enjoy that part a lot. On the bonding level, all members feel a particularly strong bond between each other. Additionally, they send text and funny videos to each other, which can be a cause of distraction.

Overall, the person explain that social media possesses both positive and negative aspects. Moreover, with the help of social media people can stay update with everything happening all around them, important topics of interest and learn about themselves. Also, in exploring videos, quiz and so on more knowledge can be acquire and people learning more about themselves. On the other hand, teenagers spending too much time on social media may lead to conflict with parents as too much time on the phone creates problem and conflicts.

SUBJECT V:

The participant talked about owning a profile on Instagram. On the reason of selecting the specific platform was that it's easy to use, more popular and most of friends use this platform. Moreover, on the amount of time spending daily, the person talked for 10 hours describing themselves to be addicted.

On the type of interaction, the person spoke about discussing anything with friends or classmates. Also, common interests and things all enjoy. Furthermore, the person spoke of participating actively in groups with friends, classmates and family.

SUBJECT W:

The participant talked about owning a profile on Instagram. The reason was that the communication with friends was easy to manage. Moreover, the daily use was at 3 hours and the user mention to be active quite a lot. On the type of interaction, the person mentions sharing moments with friends and communicating through texts.

On the interaction, the person added more vocal choice and that actually the groups was creation on the behalf of themselves. Furthermore, bonding creates happy emotions and appears crucial, as all of them are friends and share something really special and a strong relationship.

Overall, the person talked about being affected by “beauty standards” people online express. Furthermore, the “ideal” beauty is being described as being tall, skinny and a beautiful face according to the individual. Consequently, girls try to change their image and look more like the projected ideal image we see online. As a result, the person adds that conflict ensures with, people around and the parents.

SUBJECT X:

The participant talked about owning a profile on Instagram. On the reason of selecting the specific platform was that it's easy to use, more popular and most of friends use this platform. Moreover, on the type of interaction, the person spoke about not being quite active like 50-50 situation depending on the moment and the group chat. On belonging to groups, the person spoke of feeling wonderful as treated with respect and kindness. Furthermore, on the bonding, the person mentions an everyday like routine and affection to a great degree, even though serious issues are dealt face to face and not share on the groups.

Overall, the person spoke of not being greatly affected by social media interaction. On the other hand, the person spoke of people who are greatly affected by what they see online. Even though not much affected as a self, the user told that social media contribute to keep people inform of everything that happens all around the world and promote acts of good like celebrities charity work. As a result, the informative side was praise rather than just all the negative aspects. Also, on family conflict, the person said it does not affect at all.

Data Analysis:

	Platform	Usage (how)	Time	emotions	identity effect
Sub A	Instagram and	speedy updates on news	4-6 hours	happier	Joy

	TikTok		daily		
		easy chat with friends and teachers			positive energy
		meet other people			Productive
		form new friendships and skills			community for educational purposes
		reach out to friends no matter distance			
		sharing opinions			
		expressing disagreements			
		photographic content			
Sub B	Instagram and TikTok	updates on news/topics	1 hour daily		bonding between group members
		easy to chat with friends and teachers			concern about time consumption and focus deduction
		and reading information			
		worldwide connection			
		mass input of news/ new ideas			
		school and tutoring			
Sub C	Instagram, Facebook, Twitch and TikTok	abundance of possibilities for fun and explore	/	Pleasure	opinions partially shift
		discussing views and information/see others' perspective		happiness	not complete change
					better understanding
					better bonding and strong relations with friends while chatting daily
Sub D	Instagram, Youtube and TikTok	abundance of entertainment possibilities	5-6 hours daily	beneficial	secure environment to express ideas, opinions without fear
		communication with friends		pro-social media	
		exchange information with classmates			
		organize events			
		post to update friends on			

		activities and news throughout the day		
		describe feelings and thoughts to find solutions in difficult situations		
		hearing other people's opinions		
		secure environment to express ideas, opinions without fear		
Sub E	Instagram	socialize and use for sharing info and gossip	excitement	both positive and negative aspects of social media
		creates posts, comments and likes	happiness	body image/insecurity after projection of beautiful girls
		organize events and nights out		connection/discovery of new friends
Sub F	Snapchat	communication with friends through voice notes and texts		conflict with parents on time spent online
		share moments of friendship		bonding with members
		share of information and gossip		forgetting negative thoughts
		Posting		negative aspect of social media the creation of fake news
		groups to hang out and have fun		made up society with values and behaviors that do not apply in reality
Sub G	Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat	communication through voice notes and texts		make people behave in a not comfortable way by projection of beauty
				chaotic world
		share moments with friends and communicate	excitement	close bonding between all
		TikTok as a medium for entertainment	acceptance	positive impact of social media/bringing people closer
		Instagram easy use, popularity and best way to communicate with others	thrill	communication and views on different subjects
		news, socialize and gossip with friends		limit to daily use
		active user with posts and comments on friend's		

		accounts			
		communication through text messages and calls			
Sub H	Instagram	posting and texting	1-2 hours daily	/	no major change in identity
		communication with text messages			
		half hour on texting and then watching reels and other content			
		friendly group chats up to 30 people related to sports activities or communication			
		planning of games and events			
		friendly group chats share funny videos and discuss where to go out			
		primary use for entertainment videos, regarding sports and chatting with friends and family			
Sub I	Instagram	posting and texting	1-2 hours daily	/	/
		interaction through text messages			
Sub J	Insstagram	watching posts	less than 2 hours daily	/	misinformation needs great attention
		watching what others create			ask questions to bond with family and understand things
		sharing funny content			
		groups of sports team, friends and to organize going out			
		role to keep things in check in conflict situations			
		bonding through text messages getting to know one another			
		social media for			

		entertainment and consumption				
Sub K	Instagram and Snapchat	communication with friends and family	2-3 hours daily	close bonding		social media as a wild place/not everyone being kind
		uploading posts and chatting with friends				some people are dangerous and tricky
		interaction interesting, chaotic and gossip or things related to school				help through a supportive network of friends
		participation with comments and posts				nice comments from carrying people may help reduce negativity
		communication through texts and voice notes				block people with no good intentions
						Social media help people become sociable
Sub L	TikTok, Youtube, Pinterest and WhatsApp	interaction with friends		positive attribute since lots of them are friends		impactful influence on small things like music, style taste and products to purchase
		sending stuff, tagging people or simply chatting				different ideas and ideals, but the person stays true to beliefs and reads before consideration
		summer camp type groups				family members show understanding and talk calmly under discussing important issues
		looking and reading at posts				
Sub M	TikTok, WhatsApp	keep in touch with friends and contacts, interesting	4 and a half hours	positive bonding		conservative parents, racist or sexist views / bring to light such incidents to help society
		learn news around the world				no regular discussion due to authority
		communication on private chats or groups				social media as a of learning and building character
		TikTok commenting on videos to ask questions				
		preference to watch videos than post				
		friendly groups related to shows or comics				
	vocal interaction, voice messages instead of					

		texting			
Sub N	Instagram	talked to friends	more than 3 hours daily	positives	positive influence of social media as it allows to be aware of others' opinions, views and form beliefs
		texting and calling			not too much time on social media due to negative impact on mental health
		sharing posts			balance on time spend according to parents
		private chatting			
Sub O	WhatsApp	popularity and useful	2 hours daily use	positive feelings of bonding	helped to improve behavior and relationship with parents
		talking about well-being and updating one another on what's happening			better understanding after chat with family
		sharing reels			
		part of small introvert groups			
		vocal participation where feeling comfort			
		initiating conversations			
		reels on makeup tutorials, memes and relationship advices			
Sub P	Youtube and VK	Youtube as educational and entertaining	2 and a half hour	when not feeling at best, the user asks for advices	experience with a variety of advices and perspectives
		Vk to contact people			positive and negative opinions on social media harmful for teenagers
		explore to discover things			flow of information and what to believe
		discussions based on subjects of videos and posts			as a victim of social media it takes years to ignore people and chose what to believe
		commenting and replying actively			how to shape ideas
		group related to video games, cooking, medicine and book/movies			after reading online they get into fights as who is right or wrong

		observes members discuss ideas, theories and tips				as a result, people online can be a source of bad influence and cause of conflict between relatives and friends
		educational groups to discuss and share resources for studies, opinions and universities				great importance of the thinking process
		prefers writing messages				
Sub Q	Instagram	uploading stories and writing texts	3 hours daily	positive impact		Bonding
		friendly group chats				positive impact-trying to make sense of life and people through social media
						positive chatting with friends
Sub R	Instagram	friendly chats and overall communication	5-6 hours daily	feeling good		positive attribute on social media
		active participation on sports/football related chats				
		sharing live games to watch with friends				
		bonding and chatting with lots of people				
Sub S	Instagram	posting stories	5-6 hours daily	positive bonding		social media and online views affect critical thinking
		chatting with friends				does not affect the relationship with parents
		text and voice messages, videos and pictures				
		up to date with everything happening around				
Sub T	Instagram and TikTok	communication with friends	4-5 hours during the weekend	bonding with positive energy		positive attribute in most group chats
		sharing stories and pics with friends				positive on social media as it broadens knowledge through accessibility in articles and worldwide news to stay up to date
		sharing memes				online views help a person to grow and could affect

					positively the relationship with parents
		communication through text and voice messages and video calls			
Sub U	Instagram	stay updated with latest news and gossips	3 hours daily	strong bond between all members	social with both positives and negatives
		speaking with friends and posting about experiences and daily life			updated with everything happening around, topics of interest and learn more about themselves
		following and tagging friends on videos			exploring videos and quiz to learn and gain knowledge
		study groups, party groups and friendly groups			too much time online creates conflict with parents and problems
		playing games, calling each other and helping to study			
		acts as a comedian who makes others laugh and enjoy			
Sub V	Instagram	discussing anything with friends or classmates	10 hours-addicted		
		discussing about common interests and things all enjoy			
Sub W	Instagram	easy communication with friends	3 hours daily	happy emotions	all of them as friends share something really special and a strong bond is created
		sharing moments with friends and communication through texts			affected by "beauty standards" people express online
		vocal interaction as the group is created on behalf of themselves			'ideal beauty" as being tall, skinny and having a beautiful face
					girls try to change their image and look more like the projected ideal image we see online
					conflict ensues with, people around and the parents.

Sub X	Instagram	easy to use, more popular and most of friends use this platform	wonderful	person spoke of not being greatly affected by social media interaction
		every day like routine and affection to a great degree, even though serious issues are dealt face to face and not share on the groups	treated with respect and kindness	On the other hand, the person spoke of people who are greatly affected by what they see online
				social media contribute to keep people inform of everything that happens all around the world and promote acts of good like celebrities charity work
				informative side was praise
				On family conflict, the person said it does not affect at all.

Comments:

Using the colour coding pattern above, there was a correlation between emotions and identity effect. Participants who mentioned positive emotions had an impactful and positive identity change even partially. Users mentioned a better understanding of someone's opinion, an idea and how relationships work. Moreover, more positive emotions were connected to problem solving, bonding with peers and family.

The platform which has the most users appears to be Instagram, followed by TikTok. Lots of users mentioned easy to use and quick communication with friends. Moreover, users talked of sharing moments, communicating and socialising through the platforms. Instagram appears to be particularly famous and popular as most users preferred it.

Afterwards, TikTok was the second most mentioned and on most occasions users had a profile on both platforms. Both Instagram and TikTok resonated with users for their simple use and endless possibilities. Using both platforms seems to offer a variety in entertainment possibilities and communication.

Users were thrilled in the use of reels, videos and communication with vocal messages. Through using Instagram and TikTok young adults were communicating in an extreme fast way and achieve fun interaction.

According with the time spend on social media platforms, users can be separate into two categories. Furthermore, as we see from further analysis young adults were responding according to emotions produce by the interaction. As the analysis on the variety of time shows further down, the outcome of emotions and change was relevant to the amount of interaction.

Most users reported using social media between 1 and 3 hours, while other between 4 and 6 hours and on one occasion the user described to be an addict mentioned 10 hours of daily use. The users that were active between 1-3 hours mentioned being passive and not engaging a lot in conversations and exchange of ideas. On the other hand, users spending 4-6 hours expressed a positive attitude, positive interaction and having an active role in groups. Additionally, these types of users mentioned a more dynamic feeling and benefiting from hearing other peoples' views and opinions.

On the issue of identity formation, the more time spend online the greater the impact on identity change and formation. As hours spend online increases, users seem more interested in communicating online and expressing themselves. Users feel more the need

and desire to open up and discuss problems, struggles and ideas. Furthermore, as a dialogue opens up and more people join the conversation young adults express themselves more freely and loud. The more impactful change and formation seems to be as time increases.

The feeling of closeness lets and drives users to embrace their ideas and share them with the world. Users feel the need and desire to open up and express them in an environment that makes them feel comfortable. Also, as time progresses and people communicate with each other and get along their bond develops. Their closeness and feeling of comfort enables young adults to embrace further development in their identity. As this family type of bond develops, users become more vocal and participate actively in conversations. Through conversations and bonding, users attach ideas and reform beliefs in their mindset. Consequently, their thought process develops and changes.

The more vocal and expressive users intend to be as interaction increases. Also, the more desire seems to appear when users interact more and express themselves. While expressing and discussing issues online with friends, young adults develop a need and will to further talk and develop an idea. As they chat and discuss issues with one another, their voices become louder and attract the need to do so. Young adults bond and become family as time increases online and trust one another more.

On one occasion, the user mentioned to spend 10 hours daily on social media. The user preferred Instagram as it is easier to use and the most popular among peers. Moreover, the user described themselves as an addict who discusses anything with friends and

classmates. The discussion is based on common interests and things they enjoy. As an active user but with lots of time spend on social media, the person acknowledge an addiction on the time spend online. On the other hand, this addiction offers the user the chance and opportunity to discuss anything and find common interests among friends.

Even on an addictive level of use, users develop expressiveness and communicate for ideas and common interests.

Surrounding by a safe and secure environment, young adults were able to express themselves and communicate ideas and thoughts without fear. The environment was much important in order to feel ideal so young adults could talk of ideas and exchange thoughts.

There was a sense of a secure environment for a person to express an idea without fear. In the world of social media, the more time users spend online the more familiar and expressive they become. Furthermore, the more active users become the more freedom feel and comfort in expressing themselves. The comfort and expressiveness opens up and develops their communication skills and trust. As time passes on and users communicate they build trust and closeness. The sense of security develops and prompts the need for expression.

The more exposure on social media, the more positive attributes and feelings users gain. Furthermore, as users get to experience online interaction and create a community, they feel a need to interact more and share interests and ideas. The act of sharing evolves their identity and reforms their thoughts.

On plenty of interviews, teenagers spoke of been greatly affected by social media in many ways. On a first level, teenagers acknowledge the impact and change of social media between people and connections that can be created. Also, the easy communication with any relative or friend seems as a major benefit. The way information moves around the world, opinions and ideas transmit to one another seems incredible. Moreover, teenagers enjoy and prioritise sharing their daily activities and hobbies with their friends through any media platform. The act of sharing and communicating brings joy and excitement into their lives.

Sharing and being more active on social media enforce a feeling of growth and bonding. The more time users spend online the more open up in dialogue and exchange of ideas with friends and colleagues. They can discuss a subject, an issue and problem to figure out and hear opinions and suggestions. Moreover, the more active and expose young adults get to social media, they open up and want to discuss, grow and understand new ways of thinking.

The act of bonding and sharing moments shapes their self and image of the world. With each discussion and as communication grows, young adults become more and more aware of the world around.

On another level, teenagers explore the archetype beauty projection through social media. As an example, teenagers express that through Instagram people often see an ideal beauty image being projected and absorb the information. Additionally, social media bombards people with information and guides on ideal beauty. As a result, teenagers adopt wrong

impressions and feel anxious as to how they must look and represent themselves. Social media create a false, ideal and demanding image of beauty. Consequently, lots of pressure seems to be on young adults' shoulders in order to match expectations and be something else rather than themselves. Thus, most teenagers agree on a fake ideal beauty which social media produces and promotes. As a result, there is an enormous pressure to appear otherwise and alienated from their true identity.

Another aspect of social media usage by young adults appears to be entertainment and information purposes. As young adults, people take advantage of social media in order to amuse and entertain themselves in various ways and activities. Lots of interviewers suggested that through social media there is an abundance of options and capabilities for amusement and enjoyment. The variety and easy access through which someone may find enjoyable content to entertain them seems easily accessible and convenient. As a result, young adults commit on the idea of social media as entertainment. Furthermore, they can relax and immerse themselves to keep themselves away from negative thoughts.

On the information and news aspect, young adults seem confident and in favour of a quick coverage of worldwide news, breaking stories and information. Furthermore, the new generation sees social media as an opportunity for a better and faster transmission of news, information and topics. Additionally, the connectedness and access of information in a grasp makes it worth to support social media in a broader sense. Moreover, the connection and access to wide variety of news and breaking stories helps young adults to stay in course, updated with everything that happens around. Consequently, the connection might create a feeling of belonging and togetherness. As a result, young adults feel a part of everything happening around them.

Parents being conservative due to age could potentially lead to more racist or sexist views as expressed. On the other hand, social media bring to light such incidents and help society positively. While the person said not to discuss regularly such topics due to not having the authority, social media acts as a medium through which more conservative people see things in a wide visual space. Also, social media bring to the picture sensitive topics which might be a taboo still today and provide access for observation and discussion. Furthermore, people with more traditional views gain access to a wide range of sources for information such as: articles, videos, podcasts and more.

Due to the vast majority of information input and coverage, parents can reconsider and think with a new open mind. Moreover, through the diversity in topics and social issues parents may find aspiration and inspiration in further discussion. Through the different sources of information, people adjust their interests and look further. In exactly the variety of sources and finding of information lies an overwhelming input, where people may research based on their topic of interest. Consequently, this open access space of social media allows for in-depth coverage of social issues, topics of conflict and debates which people can grasp knowledge and open new horizons of thinking.

On the aspect of prejudices, people can immerse themselves in the area of interest and examine different views and opinions. Through a research and analyse of data and views online, people can understand better another culture or social issues through the perspective of someone else. Moreover, in this case pre-supported arguments and opinions may be deconstructed through further discussion with an opposing side and both ideas may be supported. Furthermore, people open their eyes and minds in new ways,

original ideas that may have never heard before. As a consequence, themes and issues of prejudice can be uplifted.

When people manage to abolish and reshape these old prejudices and stereotypes, perspectives shift and new ideas arise. So social media can function as a medium through which people join together into new and innovating ways of thinking and crafting their thoughts. Also, in this era of social media and the abundance of information, people must take advantage and use this medium to extravagate and shape a new reality. As a consequence, outdate ideals and past thoughts may change and reshape into something new and positive. Furthermore, these new ideas and ideals will change perspectives, close a gap on stereotypes and create more meaningful thoughts.

In the process of creating new ideas and innovative ways of thinking, people discover with the help of social media nowadays better ways to look into things. In the environment of social media, people contact each other easy and in a quick way for exchange of ideas, information, opinions and arguments. Since, the environment of social media can be easily accessible then everyone emerge themselves in a vast source of information, discussion and conversation. In that regard, people open up more easily and discuss topics of interest and contradiction. As a result, a bond is shaped and everyone expresses opinions more freely and safer in a worldwide community.

Social media plays a pivotal role in the communication and exchange of new and refreshing ideas and ideals. Since, people transmit their ideas in such a quick and approachable fashion, plenty may open a wide discussion. Consequently, such conversation and discussion may result in bringing people closer and creating a bridge

among cultural differences. The dialogue may create the bridge, which will unite people on difficult and taboo like social issues in order to start a conversation. With the progression of conversation, people start to explain, open up and communicate their thought process so everyone gets a change to explain and understand. Moreover, as the conversation goes on people connect and get an understanding of others' views and opinions.

The sort of access into limitless information to read, comprehend and analyse for better understanding of one another's side appears of crucial importance. As social media, the offer for access and possibilities of discussion with others broadens people minds. Also, everyone may study and learn about prohibit or socially difficult issues to discuss. Furthermore, as the search and discussion goes on people of older generations understands such topics in a better degree. Additionally, as sources of information open up people discuss about their disagreements, understand viewpoints better and re-evaluating situations and opinions.

Another aspect of social media and their effect on society appears to be the aspect of bringing people closer from around the world. As many people connect and contact each other, a public discussion and approach to the community creates a unity. Through the togetherness, new and innovative views appear and can be form to shade the spirit of indifference between cultures. Therefore, indifferences and areas of debate might get deconstruct in order to give way into something revolutionary. Consequently, the broader the conversation evolves, the greater the impact on people's mind and opinions.

As time moves on, difficult social issues and stereotypes become deconstructed and reinvented. Furthermore, social media and their resources open access to any kind of information for further research and analysis. In this essence, teenagers can provide guidance as being better suited with social media and forms of interaction. Also, since young adults interact often and understand the nature of social media they can provide input in relation to how information might be gained.

In a safer way, young adults could guide and prompt people to apprehend a general idea of social media and the way to acquire trusted information. Since, the new generations grow up in the world of social media they come in contact every day with new discoveries and abilities. As a result, they know and discover their full potential every day through navigation and experience. The new generation understands and knows how social media work better and more efficient than other people, as its part of their growth process.

The growing environment allows young adults to experience and open themselves into ideas and different viewpoints. Alongside the journey young adults and older people may navigate together into something new and transformative. As older people do not definitely possess the necessary knowledge and interaction around the area of social media, young adults could make it easier for them to navigate and explore. Additionally, young adults seem ideal to explain and showcase how to use social media in a beneficial way for people of older generations, as to avoid dangers and tricky situations.

Regarding the navigation through social media, younger people should pave the way to make another generation feel welcome and not get lost in the abundance of information.

The older generation will need assistance as social media was not a part of their growth. Also, older people must be aware of scams and frauds. For this reason, young adults should provide support and adjust the needs of an older generation into the new world of social media. Young adults with their knowledge and expertise on social media should explain and demonstrate the use in a proper way.

As the new generation, young adults should demonstrate how to understand and gather information from social media. Ways to navigate safely and explore benefits from the usage rather than dangers. As the degree of impact and influence in daily life and use grows, people need guidance and rules to explore with safety all the endless possibilities. As young adults teach and showcase how to use social media, older people could learn to maximize the source and cultivate skills and abilities. With that in mind, people develop their abilities and thinking to a new level, more advance than before. The progress opens new horizons of thinking and people can understand how social media work better.

When young adults provide guidance and try to implement some of the practices they learnt to other people on how to use social media and their benefits, everyone can become better. Teenagers could showcase and provide tools to demonstrate the ways to separate and understand fake news and truth. Through such separation and understanding, people will develop an understanding as to how social media can manipulate news and shape reality into a purpose suited for particular needs. Moreover, while learning to understand and develop critical thinking people judge and improve their ability to comprehend information in a more complete manner.

Further on the information aspect, critical thinking in the era of social media seems quite mandatory but difficult as well. The idea of separating and knowing the truth out of all we see online seems difficult. The development of critical thinking must be mandatory for people in order to filter what they see and read online. People should learn to read carefully and judge in a step by step strategy. Moreover, slowly and after thinking should they process and judge the bits of information for the authenticity of the news.

In the mass of information and sources, people must try and locate the essence and truth. Everyone should be aware of false information and spread of mistrust sources, who deliver ideas and information on behalf of others. The sinister purpose of lies we see online and observe should be an ability, which everyone develops. People must be able to read throughout and decide which source to trust and believe. In order to discover the truth and collect the essence of reality, people must be aware of false traits. Misinformation and trust develop with a rapid speed in the era of social media. In today's modern era, false information and evidence can be manipulated into truth in the hands of malevolent people. As a result, people that are not in line with social media and their practices should learn their way around.

Cooperation between the younger generation and older people should happen to expose misinformation and fake news in the social media era. As a result young people and older generation can learn together and adapt. Since young adults know and are exposed daily to social media, then they understand the way they work. In the way which social media evolve, so does the younger generation. In reality, an intertwined relationship revolves around social media and young generation move on by time.

As cultural boundaries and technology evolves, people of all ages must become open to receiving new information and ideas. The younger generation and young adults should work together and help people understand and perceive the positives of social media era. New discoveries and inventions always have an unknown quality to them, and at first sight people are cautious. As time moves on, people learn and adapt to new ideas and benefits and drawbacks. Moreover, people learn and discover capabilities every day of how to benefit from new means of communication.

As social media and technology evolves, so does the need to broaden horizons and bring new ideas into the world. With social media, people are exposing daily to lots of information and bits of entertainment, which captivate the mind. The influence on our daily lives sometimes seems incomprehensible. People's ears get bombarded with information that seems difficult to separate and comprehend. When collaborating the new and older generation, there is hope for better understanding and unity.

In conclusion, adolescence identity formulation through social media influence Erikson's psychosocial theory appears to be greatly influence by what young people do and see between each other. Their contact with peers and friends affects and develops their thinking process and formulation of identity. Even as passive users, people were feeling a great bond among members of groups and friends, helping each other and entertaining themselves. Furthermore, through discussion with peers and friends, taboo issues might be resolve and new ideas arise. Furthermore, new perspectives and opinions, solutions can be found. Also, social media acts as a wild place where not everyone being kind appears as an issue. People might be deceive and trick into the online reality where

different people assume an identity, with the purpose of hurting others. As a result, users must be careful who to trust and share information with.

On the other hand, participants talked with excitement, acceptance and thrill about being part of the groups. Belonging to a group could give the feeling of a family, being part of a group and attaching an identity, a part of someone. As people get attached and bond, their personal beliefs and identity gets shape and develops. The bond and feeling of being part of a group excites them and each one wants to learn, develop and exchange ideas with friends and peers.

Moreover, conflict and struggle with parents seems unavoidable and when it happens tension appears and conflict. In the era of social media, new ideas intertwine with older so consequently a new point of view emerges. When the mixture of new and older ideas happens, it shapes and makes the younger generation to struggle. Though the younger generation struggles, eventually a bridge and connection crafts with the two sides able to communicate in a new way.

Family conflict and tension gets resolved and gives space into something new to arise and develop. A new and authentic thinking process develops alongside the self to make the individual more protective and ready for what's to follow.

Additionally, social media provides ways in which, family members show understanding and talk in a calm way when discussing important issues. Through social media platforms, social and taboo issues arise in the form of abundance information, which gives the opportunity for families to talk about it.

When resolving family issues and conflict with parents, the individual learns and adapts into difficult situations. Social media can provide resources for both sides of an argument to better understand and resolve to a common solution.

As Sharee Nicole Allen describes, “Adolescent use of social media is a complex web of identity formation, complete with quantifiable validation in the form of “likes.” (Sharee, 2015), young adults through social media form and shape their thought process. Through interaction and communication with peers, young adults develop the self and gain ideas. This multidimensional process forms, develops and shapes young individuals into their complete self.

Through the study and research of Brandtzaeg, P. B., & Chaparro-Domínguez and using the self-presentation goals of DeVito et al. (2018), authentic presentation and Goal-neutral presentation can be allocate as active and passive user. As we observe above, the authentic presentation aims at someone who expresses themselves as they feel and then when taking into account what others are saying they reshape their idea. In this case, young adults express their honest opinion and then change according to what their peers are suggesting. On the other hand, Goal-neutral or passive users don't pursue any goals they just spend time online observing, interacting and collecting information.

Active users expressed more and more willingness to interact and share while passive users where gathering and receiving information. Furthermore, positive emotions like joy and happiness were link with boding and sharing. On the other hand, passive talked about not sharing a lot but receiving and understanding information.

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Appendices

Written

Consent

PSY 630: CONTEMPORARY THEORIES OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Teenagers' identity formulation through social media influence in relation to Erikson's psychosocial theory

I am asking you to participate in a research study titled ‘**Teenagers' identity formulation through social media influence in relation to Erikson's psychosocial theory**’. I will describe this study to you and answer any of your questions. This study is being led by Rafael Nikolaou, Department of Psychology at University of Cyprus. The **Faculty Advisor for this study is Dr. PSALTIS CHARIS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, Department of Psychology at University of Cyprus.**

What the study is about

The purpose of this research is to examine and understand how social media influence the creation of Identity in adolescents relating to Erikson's psychosocial theory, as well as, the creation of conflict with parents due to personality characteristics.

What we will ask you to do

I will ask you to answer and provide opinions upon the influence of social media in the creation of your identity and describe how some aspects of your personality contributed to a possible conflict with parents. The questionnaire will take about an hour to complete.

Risks and discomforts

- Some slight feeling of anxiety or emotional sadness

Benefits

Through the expression of opinions, participants might feel better in a therapeutic way as they will express some feelings and relax themselves. Also, they might understand themselves and their relationship with parents in a better way.

The information by this research will indicate and explain in a better way how adolescents create their identity through social media interaction, as well as, the conflict that the phenomenon creates with parents. Society will benefit as it plays an integral part

in the nurture of children from a very young age. Moreover, the results will provide a clearer perspective and help society understand the dynamic of all the above elements and their connection to one another.

Compensation for participation

Participants will not receive any compensation

Audio/Video Recording

Audio device will be used for recording, since there will be transcription later on and everything the participant says is important. Upon the completion of the research, the material will be use for transcription and archived afterwards.

ONLY IF USING A SIGNED CONSENT, provide a separate signature line for the participant to be audio/video recorded, if the recording is optional for participation. For example:

Please sign below if you are willing to have this interview recorded (*specify audio or video*). You may still participate in this study if you are not willing to have the interview recorded.

- I do not want to have this interview recorded.
 I am willing to have this interview recorded:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

If you will take photographs or make audio, video, or other recordings that you want to use for activities beyond research analysis (publications, presentations, other promotional purposes), include a section that:

- *Informs the participant that you are making a [type(s) of media used] recording in which the person's name, likeness, image, and/or voice will be included;*
- *Asks the participant to grant you the right to make, use and publish recordings in whole or in part in media forms now known (such as film, slides, and digital audio) or developed in the future. This includes the right to edit or duplicate any images/recordings;*
- *Explains the limitations on reproduction, distribution, performance, or display of images/recordings;*
- *Explains that the participant does not have rights to inspect or approve the finished product or printed/published matter that uses the images/recordings or versions of the images/recordings; and*
- *Explains that the participant will not receive any financial compensation for commercial and/or non-commercial (as appropriate) uses of the images/recordings.*

The same signature line above may be used for this performance release information.

Privacy/Confidentiality/Data Security

Explain briefly, and in lay terms, how you will protect the participant's privacy and/or confidentiality.

Participants will not provide names or contact details, only their age.

If using Qualtrics, include the following statement:

We anticipate that your participation in this survey presents no greater risk than everyday use of the Internet.

If using another survey vendor to administer online surveys, include the following statement:

Please note that the survey(s) [is/are] being conducted with the help of [company name], a company not affiliated with Cornell and with its own privacy and security policies that you can find at its website. We anticipate that your participation in this survey presents no greater risk than everyday use of the Internet.

When the research involves e-mail communication, include the following statement:

Please note that email communication is neither private nor secure. Though I am taking precautions to protect your privacy, you should be aware that information sent through e-mail could be read by a third party.

For sensitive research data with identifiers, stored in the cloud or on servers, or transmitted via the internet, consider including the following statement:

Your confidentiality will be kept to the degree permitted by the technology being used. We cannot guarantee against interception of data sent via the internet by third parties.

Sharing De-identified Data Collected in this Research

(If you may share data without identifiers: We strongly recommend that you include this section in your consent, to inform participants that you may share de-identified data you collect from them. Certain sponsors now require researchers to make available their de-identified data to the research community, as do a growing number of journals. If you choose not to include the following language and later wish to share de-identified data, you may not be able to do so without re-contacting participants to obtain consent.)

De-identified data from this study may be shared with the research community at large to advance science and health. We will remove or code any personal information that could identify you before files are shared with other researchers to ensure that, by current scientific standards and known methods, no one will be able to identify you from the information we share. Despite these measures, we cannot guarantee anonymity of your personal data.

Future use of Identifiable Data or Specimens Collected in this Research

In addition to the recommended data sharing language, above, if you are collecting identifiable data or identifiable biospecimens, you must include one of the following:

Your information or biospecimens will not be used or distributed for future research studies.

Information about use of your biospecimens

If you are collecting biospecimens, you must include the following:

Specimens collected from you for this study or information derived from your specimens will not be used to generate commercial profit. You will not share in any commercial value or other compensation from products developed using these specimens.

Clinical Trial

If the IRB informs you that the study is a “clinical trial,” you must include language such as the following, identifying the study as a clinical trial and stating that the study will be listed on ClinicalTrials.gov. For NIH-funded trials this is required; for all others this is strongly suggested: This study is classified as a clinical trial and will be registered online at <http://www.ClinicalTrials.gov>. The website will not include any information that can identify you, but will include a summary of results once the research is completed. You can search this publicly-available website at any time.

Taking part is voluntary

Explain that the participant's involvement is voluntary, the participant may refuse to participate before the study begins, discontinue at any time, or skip any questions/procedures that may make him/her feel uncomfortable, with no penalty to him/her, and no effect on the compensation earned before withdrawing, or their academic standing, record, or relationship with the university or other organization or service that may be involved with the research.

If completing all research materials (e.g., answering all survey or interview questions; meeting a minimal requirement of entries in a weekly/monthly log) is required for participation, you must make this condition clear to them here. State that people can choose not to participate if they are uncomfortable with these conditions.

Follow up studies (Include this section if you will or might approach participants for a follow up study)

We may contact you again to request your participation in a follow up study. As always, your participation will be voluntary and we will ask for your explicit consent to participate in any of the follow up studies.

Explicit consent may not be necessary. Here is suggested language if you choose to ask for specific consent:

May we contact you again to request your participation in a follow up study? Yes/No

If you have questions

Explain how the participant can contact you with questions or concerns. A standard statement follows:

The main researcher conducting this study is Rafael Nikolaou, a graduate student at University of Cyprus. Please ask any questions you have now. If you have questions later, you may contact Rafael Nikolaou at rafaelnikolaou@hotmail.com or at 99750699. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your rights as a subject in this study, you may contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for Human Participants at 607-255-5138 or access their website at <http://www.irb.cornell.edu>. You may also report your concerns or complaints anonymously through Ethicspoint online at www.hotline.cornell.edu or by calling toll free at 1-866-293-3077. Ethicspoint is an independent organization that serves as a liaison between the University and the person bringing the complaint so that anonymity can be ensured.

Participants will receive a copy of this form to complete

Statement of Consent *(Include only if you are using signed, written consent. **Signed consent is not necessary for most minimal risk social and behavioral research, and cannot be used if you tell participants that your study is anonymous. For online studies, asking participants to click on an "I approve" box is usually sufficient.**)*

I have read the above information, and have received answers to any questions I asked. I consent to take part in the study.

Your Signature _____ Date__

Your Name (printed) _____

Signature of person obtaining consent _____ Date

Printed name of person obtaining consent _____

This consent form will be kept by the researcher for five years beyond the end of the study.

There will also be consent receive from the Cyprus National Bioethics Committee, in which I will require and express the aims and methodology for my research in details. In the form that I will provide there will also be the consent required for parental approval, for the participants to participate in the research.

PSY 630 Questions for Interview of fifteen year old secondary school students:

- 1) In which social media platform or platforms would you say you are more active?
- 2) Why do you prefer the specific platform over other ones?
- 3) How much time would you say you spend on the specific platform?
- 4) What type of user would you consider yourself to be?
- 5) Can you tell more about the type of interaction you have in the platform, with friends or members?

- 6) Do you participate actively on the platform with posts, comments or other ways?
- 7) What type of group or groups do you participate in?
- 8) What type of interaction, more vocal or not do you express in such groups?
- 9) How do you feel as part of this specific group? What's your role do you think?
- 10) How does the bonding with the group members affect you?

PSY 630 Questions for Interview of eighteen year old high school students:

- 1) In which social media platform or platforms would you say you are more active?

- 2) Why do you prefer the specific platform over other ones?

- 3) How much time would you say you spend on the specific platform?

- 4) What type of user would you consider yourself to be?

- 11) Can you tell more about the type of interaction you have in the platform, with friends or members?

- 12) Do you participate actively on the platform with posts, comments or other ways?

- 13) What type of group or groups do you participate in?

- 14) What type of interaction, more vocal or not do you express in such groups?

- 15) How do you feel as part of this specific group? What's your role do you think?

16) How does the bonding with the group members affect you?

Describe in a paragraph up to ten sentences, the way in which social media and views you read online shape your understanding of reality and who you are. Also, describe how such views might impact your relationship with parents and cause conflict:

Rafael Nikolaidis