

THE IMPACT OF USING SOCIAL MEDIA ON THE PHENOMENON OF DIVORCE IN ALGERIAN SOCIETY

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Abstract: *This study aims to explore the impact of social media on the phenomenon of divorce within Algerian society. The study's sample, consisting of 89 individuals, comprised social media users. The researcher employed a descriptive analytical methodology and used questionnaires as the primary tool for data collection. To address the research questions, the researcher utilized simple frequency tables, compound frequency tables, graphical representations, reliability coefficients, one-way ANOVA, T-tests, chi-square tests, and concordance coefficients. The findings revealed that social media significantly influences the phenomenon of divorce. Among the key recommendations of the study were: the instillation of virtuous values within the community; encouraging the productive use of free time in developing talents and engaging in sports; and raising family awareness about the dangers and negative impacts of continuous use of modern communication methods, which could lead to family breakdown and divorce.*

Keywords: Social media, divorce, Algerian Society, media literacy, family relationships.

1. Introduction

In recent times, social media has experienced a substantial spread, emerging as the predominant medium that commands influence across all societies. Its users have burgeoned into the billions, marking its substantial impact, particularly within societies and Arab families, in profound and alarming ways. This is attributed to its countless engaging tactics, appealing to a wide spectrum of followers from various professions and walks of life. This dual nature serves to enhance individual culture and promote positive values while, conversely, facilitating the spread of detrimental behaviors. These negative influences have led to increased violence, crime, and the disintegration of numerous Arab families, significantly altering the perspectives of Arab youth. (Sami, 2000: 35) Social media has enabled global connectivity through diverse technological platforms. Particularly notable is the advent of social media platforms that have revolutionized communication from physical to virtual realms, rendering individuals as simultaneously producers, transmitters, and recipients. These platforms have created an electronic network ecosystem allowing users to engage, share images, videos, etc. Among these users are couples who utilize these platforms for communication among themselves, friends, and family, sharing daily updates. Consequently, social media has a pronounced effect on marital relationships within society. While some use it for constructive dialogue and engagement, others exploit it for creating inappropriate relationships that can lead to familial discord and disintegration. The dynamics of family relationships stand as a crucial element influenced by societal changes. The nature of these relationships has evolved, differing significantly from past eras due to contemporary challenges and the pressure to conform, impacting the family unit deeply.

In our examination of the widespread use of social media, it's clear that these platforms have become inseparable from our societal lives. In fact, the engagement with these sites often escalates to a point that could be described as addictive. Unquestionably, social media holds a significant, dual-edged role in influencing both the positive and negative aspects of families, peoples, and entire nations. The influence of platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram is vast, affecting all areas of modern societal life, reaching into the core of family units, which are fundamental to societal structure. These platforms have been instrumental in shaping individuals' perceptions, cultural understandings, and value systems, including those values

related to social behavior and family relations. However, there's been a noticeable decline in these traditional roles, with the internet now facilitating family communication patterns, dominating the once warm familial atmosphere. Social media sites effectively "steal" conversations from family members, as everyone is engrossed in their screens, incessantly messaging and forming new relationships outside the familial sphere. This dynamic has significantly widened the gap between parents and children, as well as between spouses. To understand the effects of these platforms on marital relationships, to the extent of contributing to divorce, the primary question arises: How significantly does the use of social media contribute to the proliferation of divorce within Algerian society?

1.1. Research questions

The study seeks to explore:

- What drives individuals to engage with social media platforms?
- What effects do social media platforms have on family dynamics?
- How significantly does social media use influence marital relationships, specifically divorce?
- What recommendations could mitigate the divorce rates attributed to social media usage?

1.2. Research hypotheses

- A statistically significant correlation exists at the $\alpha = 0.05$ level of significance between individuals' motivations and their social media usage .
- A statistically significant relationship is present at the $\alpha = 0.05$ level of significance between social media use and family relationships.
- There is a statistically significant association at the $\alpha = 0.05$ level of significance between social media usage and marital relationships (divorce).
- Statistically significant differences are observed at the $\alpha = 0.05$ significance level in the surveyed individuals' perceptions of social media's impact on divorce within the Algerian society, based on variables such as age, gender, monthly income, education level, and marital status.

1.3. Variable definitions

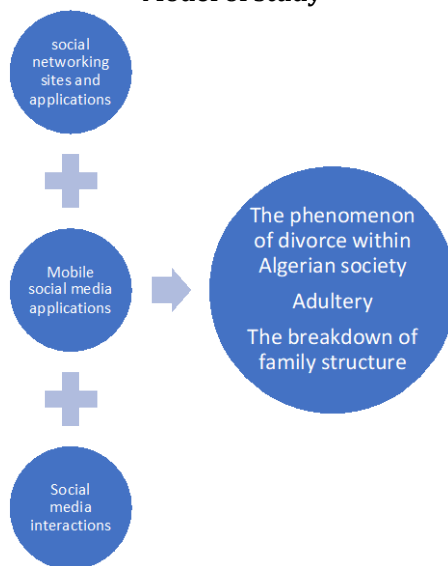
1.3.1. Independent variable: Social media platforms.

- Internet-based social networking sites and applications, including: "Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, chat rooms, email, blogs", and TikTok.
- Mobile social media applications like: "WhatsApp, Viber, IMO".
- Social media interactions facilitated by TV and radio programs that enable phone interactions, enhancing the understanding of social networking.

1.3.2. Dependent variable: The phenomenon of divorce within Algerian society.

- Family dynamics
- Marital relations
- Adultery
- The breakdown of family structure

Model of study



Source: Developed by the researcher

2. Exploring theoretical frameworks underlying the study

2.1. Impacts of social media platforms

Social media platforms wield a significant array of impacts, both adverse and beneficial. Here's an outline of some of their key positive and negative influences:

2.1.1. Positive influences

Narrowing Global Distances: Social media platforms have marked a technological breakthrough, enabling not only the visual connection with distant family members but also facilitating remote business meetings and the completion of tasks that previously seemed challenging.

Acquiring Knowledge and Building Friendships: These platforms offer extensive resources and tools for gaining knowledge from around the globe. They also foster the ability to create friendships worldwide, broadening individuals' social networks.

Rekindling Old Friendships: For those who believed their connections with past friends were lost, social media provides a powerful means to reestablish these relationships. It offers a pathway to reconnect with long-lost friends, proving that some bonds withstand the test of time.

2.1.2. Adverse impacts of social media platforms

The influence of social media on family dynamics and individual behavior encompasses various detrimental aspects, highlighted below:

- **Erosion of family bonds:** The structure of the Arab family has experienced a decline, with a shift towards individualism among members and diminished familial interactions. This has exacerbated relations within the family unit, including between spouses and among parents and children, partially attributed to prolonged engagement with television and computer games, alongside exposure to harmful content that adversely affects individual behavior within the family context.

- **Communication gap between spouses:** A noticeable trend among couples within Arab families is the preoccupation with personal devices, whether mobile phones or computers,

leading to a significant communication gap. This focus on personal digital worlds detracts from the time available for discussing family issues and children's needs, contributing to family disintegration and a lack of awareness about potential threats to the family due to insufficient dialogue and problem-solving efforts. (Gabriel et al., 2002: 43-44)

- **Rise of consumer culture among families:** The widespread use of modern communication technologies has fostered a consumer culture, particularly evident among the youth, who aspire to possess beyond their families' financial means. The desire to continually upgrade mobile devices to newer models with advanced features, largely to maintain social media engagement, is encouraged by major mobile companies releasing new, technologically superior devices periodically. This pursuit places a significant strain on the financial resources of Arab families, potentially leading to economic difficulties that could threaten the family's stability as a whole.

2.2. The Impact of social media on spousal relationships

The family serves as the core of reciprocal social interactions, with each member fulfilling specific roles and responsibilities aimed at addressing the collective social, psychological, and economic needs. Social media and smart devices can sometimes become substitutes for fulfilling needs unmet by one partner in the relationship. This dynamic can lead to increased emotional distance, escalating conflicts, and adversely affecting the family environment. Such a scenario undermines children's feelings of stability and psychological safety. The irrational use of smart devices within the household poses a threat to the integrity of close family ties, particularly when a family member excessively engages with the internet. This overuse can breed suspicion between spouses, especially in light of accessible social vices and unethical websites, potentially leading to acts of marital infidelity. Furthermore, this situation might provoke one spouse to monitor the other's online activities, driven by feelings of mistrust, disregard, neglect, or the overall cooling of mutual affection. (Jafar, 2017: 159-176).

3. Research methodology

This segment outlines the methodological framework of the research, detailing the chosen research approach, the statistical techniques applied for data processing, the identification of the research population and sample, the development of the research instruments, and the validation and reliability verification processes, organized as follows:

3.1. Study approach and classification

This section is divided into two key areas: the research methodology and the research variables. Here is an explanation of each:

3.1.1. Type of study

The study is descriptive, aiming to delineate the properties of either a community or a sample, or the interrelations among observed phenomena, situations, and events as noted by the researcher. The goal is to deepen understanding and gauge how variables inherently contribute to outcomes, offering insights about a sample or community that elucidate key relationships to broaden our understanding and address the questions posited at the research's onset (Bruce, 2010: 120) through responses derived from the study tool. Moreover, analytical statistics were employed to deduce outcomes related to differences in the average responses of the study sample participants based on the study's variables.

3.1.2. **Research approach:** This study adopted a survey methodology with the objective of examining the degree of social media's influence on the divorce rate among the Algerian populace.

3.2. Study population and its sample

- The study's population targets the general public within the People's Democratic Republic.
- The sample was chosen through a random selection method due to the lack of an established framework for the study's population, comprising 89 social media users aged 18 years and older.

3.3. Procedures for conducting the research

This section encompasses the following key procedures:

3.3.1. **Data collection instrument:** The researcher utilized an electronic survey as the primary tool for data gathering from respondents. The survey comprised several questions designed to thoroughly explore the different themes of the research.

3.3.2. **Collection of field data:** The researcher undertook the task of field data collection over the months of September and November 2022. This involved distributing an electronic questionnaire among the study participants via various social media channels, with Facebook and Instagram being particularly chosen due to their high prevalence among the Algerian population segments.

3.4. Determining the reliability coefficient of the research instrument

The reliability coefficient of the study tool was calculated using the split-half method, and the overall reliability of the study tool was found to be (0.750). This coefficient is considered acceptable and suitable for the purposes of the study. (Gavard et. al., 2012: 153).

4. Results

4.1. Questions testing results

Table 1: Illustrates the motivations for individual engagement with social media platforms

Traditional Media Usage (TV, radio, newspapers)							
	Very Little	Little	Moderate	A lot	Very Much	Total	Mean
Frequency	12	21	43	8	5	89	2,697
Rate	13,3	23,3	47,8	8,9	5,6	100,0	
(Social Media Usage (Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, Facebook)							
Frequency	2	1	18	33	35	89	4,101
Rate	2,2	1,1	20,0	36,7	38,9	100,0	
Hours Spent on social media							
Frequency	2	2	34	27	24	89	3,775
Rate	2,2	2,2	37,8	30,0	26,7	100,0	
Influence by social media							
Frequency	7	14	37	22	9	89	3,135
Rate	7,8	15,6	41,1	24,4	10,0	100,0	

Source : Developed by the researcher

From the previous table, we can observe that:

The statement "Use of social media platforms (Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, Facebook)" ranks first with an average approval rating of 4.101.

The statement "Extent of hours spent using social media platforms" ranks second with an average approval rating of 3.775.

The statement "I am influenced by social media platforms" is in the third position with an average approval rating of 3.135.

The statement "Use of traditional media (TV, radio, newspapers)" ranks fourth with an average approval rating of 2.697

Table 2: Showing who uses social media more

	Men	Women	Do Not Know	Total	Mean
Frequency	17	41	31	89	2,157
Rate	18,9	45,6	34,4	100,0	

Source: Developed by the researcher

From the data in the previous table, it's apparent that women have a higher rate of using social media for obtaining information about issues and events, with 45.6% of the study sample agreeing that women use social media more. Meanwhile, 34.4% of the study sample are uncertain who uses these sites more, and the smallest percentage belongs to men, who are perceived to rely on them at a rate of 18.9% according to the study sample's opinion.

Table 3: The Purpose of using social media sites

For entertainment and to pass the time					
	Yes	No	Total	Mean	Level
Frequency	65	24	89	1,270	Very low
Rate	72,2	26,7	100,0		
To keep up with news					
Frequency	61	28	89	1,315	Very low
Rate	67,8	31,1	100,0		
To meet new people					
Frequency	9	80	89	1,899	Low
Rate	10,0	88,9	100,0		
To communicate with family and friends					
Frequency	39	50	89	1,562	Very low
Rate	43,3	55,6	100,0		
To express my opinions more freely than in reality					
Frequency	22	67	89	1,753	Very low
Rate	24,4	74,4	100,0		
To establish romantic relationships					
Frequency	2	87	89	1,978	Low
Rate	2,2	96,7	100,0		

Source: Developed by the researcher

The data from the table indicate that the calculated mean scores for the purposes of using social media ranged from 1.270 to 1.978, with the goal associated with establishing romantic relationships receiving the highest mean score, albeit considered low, at 1.978. Following this was the objective of meeting new people, which held the second position with a low mean score of 1.899. Expressing one's opinion more freely than in real life was third with a very low mean score of 1.753. The goals associated with communicating with family and friends, and staying updated with news, had very low mean scores as well, ranking fourth and fifth, respectively. The purpose of entertainment and leisure time utilization was at the bottom, with a mean score of 1.270.

These results are consistent with the findings of Khadija Laour and Kenza Bouhenni (2018-2019) on the impact of social media use on marital relationships, as concluded from a field study on a sample of newly married couples in Jijel province, which showed that most couples use social media primarily to keep up with the latest news.

Additionally, these findings align with the research conducted by Sakina Mahmoud Al-Tahami (2022), which examined the influence of these platforms on family relationships. According to the study, 34.1% of participants used these sites to learn about and follow current

events worldwide, while 22.7% used them for social interaction, and 20.5% for entertainment and leisure purposes.

Table 4: Types of topics that capture your interest on social media sites

	Frequency	% Rate	Mean	Rank	Level
Social Issues	38	42,2	3,831	1	High
Sports-Related	15	16,7		2	
Entertainment-Related	13	14,4		3	
Religious Topics	12	13,3		4	
Science-Related	7	7,8		5	
Political Topics	3	3,3		6	
Economic Topics	1	1,1		7	
Emotional Topics	0	0		8	
Total	89	100,0		-	

Source: Developed by the researcher

The data from Table (4) shows that the frequency of topics of interest on social media ranged from 38 to 0. The social topics were the most popular, achieving a high percentage of 42.2%. Sports topics were next, with a percentage of 16.7%, placing second. Entertainment topics were in third place with 14.4%, which is close to the percentage for religious topics at 13.3%. Scientific, political, and economic topics had similar percentages, ranking fifth, sixth, and seventh respectively. Emotional topics were at the bottom, with a percentage of 0%. All these percentages resulted in a high mean score of 3.831.

Table 5: The effect of social media usage on family relationships average magnitude

The use of social media leads to the neglect of social relationships with family and friends								
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Level
Frequency	1	6	11	35	36	89	4,112	Very high
Rate	1,1	6,7	12,2	38,9	40,0	100,0		
Social media has a negative influence on the thoughts and behavior of individuals								
Frequency	2	5	17	44	21	89	3,865	High
Rate	2,2	5,6	18,9	48,9	23,3	100,0		
Social media addiction leads to alienation from actual reality								
Frequency	1	2	5	38	43	89	4,348	Very high
Rate	1,1	2,2	5,6	42,2	47,8	100,0		
Social media negatively affects family cohesion								
Frequency	1	4	11	42	31	89	4,101	Very high
Rate	1,1	4,4	12,2	46,7	34,4	100,0		
Social media influenced the family responsibilities of spouses								
Frequency		11	14	38	26	89	3,888	High
Rate		12,2	15,6	42,2	28,9	100,0		
Social media had a more negative effect on couples								
Frequency	1	6	13	40	29	89	4,011	Very high
Rate	1,1	6,7	14,4	44,4	32,2	100,0		
The lives of couples have become subject to comparison with others on social media, such as celebrities, friends, and through advertisements								
Frequency		4	15	31	39	89	4,180	Very high
Rate		4,4	16,7	34,4	43,3	100,0		
Social media sites have become the primary effective means of communication between individuals, replacing face-to-face interactions								
Frequency	2	2	6	43	36	89	4,225	Very high
Rate	2,2	2,2	6,7	47,8	40,0	100,0		

Source: Developed by the researcher

From the previous table, we can observe the following:

- The statement "Addiction to social media leads to a detachment from actual reality" holds the highest average agreement score at 4.348, placing it in the first rank.
- The statement "Social media sites have become the effective medium for communication among individuals, replacing actual face-to-face interactions" is in the second rank with an average agreement score of 4.225.
- The statement "Couples' lives have become subject to comparison with others on social media, including celebrities, friends, and ads" is in the third rank with an average agreement score of 4.180.
- The statement "Social media negatively affects family bonds" is in the fourth rank with an average agreement score of 4.101.
- The statement "Use of social media causes neglect of social relations with family and friends" is in the fifth rank with an average agreement score of 4.112.
- The statement "Social media has had a more negative impact on the relationships of couples and friends" is in the sixth rank with an average agreement score of 4.011.
- The statement "Social media has impacted the familial responsibilities of spouses" is in the seventh rank with an average agreement score of 3.888.
- The statement "Social media negatively influences the thoughts and behaviors of individuals" is in the eighth rank with an average agreement score of 3.865.

These findings are in line with the study by Khadija Laouer, Kenza Bouhenni (2018-2019), which explored the impact of social media use on marital relations and found negative consequences on marital relationships. Moreover, these findings correspond with the study by Nie and Erbing (2009), titled "Social Media Sites and Society," which indicated that increased use of social media decreases a person's ability to engage in social interactions with family and friends.

Additionally, the results concur with the research conducted by Mustafa Sahari and Kheireddine Bouhada (2021), which investigated the impact of social media on family relations and found that social media adversely affects family ties. This is exemplified by the shift away from family discussions and exchange of ideas towards social media platforms, particularly Facebook, which has become the prevalent space for such exchanges, thereby diminishing the family's role in providing guidance and advice.

Table 6: The reason for one spouse's frequent use of social media sites

	Frequency	Rate	Mean	Level
Seeking emotional connection due to failure of the marital relationship	19	21,1	1,787	Very Low
Pressures of work and home	49	54,4	1,449	Very Low
Due to loneliness and the partners being (occupied (emotional gap	42	46,7	1,528	Very Low
Being influenced by the content on social media (celebrities, actors, ads)	38	42,2	1,573	Very Low
Because of the work environment	18	20,0	1,798	Low
Curiosity	4	4,4	1,955	Low

Source : Developed by the researcher

The data from Table (6) shows that the average scores for the reasons behind one spouse's frequent use of social media ranged from 1.955 to 1.449. The highest reason was curiosity, which had a low average score of 1.955. Following that was the reason associated with the work environment, ranking second with a low average score of 1.899. The search for emotional connections due to a failed marital relationship ranked third with a very low average score of 1.787. The reasons for being influenced by social media content (celebrities, actors, advertisements...), and due to the loneliness and busy schedules of the spouses (emotional

void), came in with very low, closely ranked average scores, placing fourth and fifth. The reason of work and home pressures came last with an average score of 1.449.

These findings are consistent with Abir Hassan's (2016) study titled "The New Dimensions in Online Marital Infidelity and Its Potential Risks to the Egyptian Family, and a Proposed Role to Mitigate It from the Group Work Method Perspective". The study's findings indicated that 100% of the surveyed subjects believe that the global spread of immorality through the promotion of the "adultery project" amongst populations and the globalization of prostitution on the internet, along with a wife's neglect of her husband and her preoccupation with home and parenting duties, and the deceit by pornographic sites propagated by the enemies of the state to covertly undermine values and morals, disintegrate the family structure, create moral chaos, cause boredom with the wife and emotional detachment, leading to a decline in marital satisfaction, weakening of the religious moral compass, and consequently a diminished fear of God, are among the most significant reasons for a husband's infidelity on the internet.

Table 7: The effect of social media use on the marital relationship

Social media plays an effective role in increasing the rates of divorce								
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Level
Frequency	1	5	20	42	21	89	3,865	High
Rate	1,1	5,6	22,2	46,7	23,3	100,0		
Social media has contributed to the proliferation of lying and infidelity among spouses								
Frequency	1	6	15	37	30	89	4,000	High
Rate	1,1	6,7	16,7	41,1	33,3	100,0		
Social media has led to a lack of real communication between spouses								
Frequency	2	8	16	35	28	89	3,888	High
Rate	2,2	8,9	17,8	38,9	31,1	100,0		
Social media has played a role in decreasing the cultural level of the community								
Frequency	4	15	31	20	19	89	3,393	Medium
Rate	4,4	16,7	34,4	22,2	21,1	100,0		
Spouses around you are influenced by social media								
Frequency	2	7	36	29	15	89	3,539	High
Rate	2,2	7,8	40,0	32,2	16,7	100,0		
Addiction to social media and traditional media may be a cause of divorce								
Frequency	1	6	29	37	16	89	3,685	High
Rate	1,1	6,7	32,2	41,1	17,8	100,0		
Social media is linked to an increase in divorce and family issues at the present time								
Frequency	2	5	16	43	23	89	3,899	High
Rate	2,2	5,6	17,8	47,8	25,6	100,0		
Traditional media is linked to an increase in the phenomenon of divorce and family issues at the present time								
Frequency	6	27	26	19	11	89	3,022	Medium
Rate	6,7	30,0	28,9	21,1	12,2	100,0		

Source : Developed by the researcher

"Social media websites have facilitated the spread of lying and betrayal among spouses" ranks first, with an average agreement level of 4.000.

"The prevalence of social media is closely related to the current increase in divorce rates and family conflicts" follows closely behind, with an average agreement level of 3.899.

"The popularity of social media leads to a reduction in real interactions between spouses" ranks third, with an average agreement level of 3.888.

"Social media plays a significant role in increasing divorce rates" is in fourth place, with an average agreement level of 3.865.

"Dependence on social media and traditional media could be a key factor leading to divorce" is fifth, with an average agreement level of 3.685.

"Respondents indicate that their partners are negatively impacted by social media" ranks sixth, with an average agreement level of 3.539.

"Social media plays a role in lowering societal cultural literacy" ranks seventh, with an average agreement level of 3.393.

"Traditional media is related to the increase in divorce rates and family problems today," ranks eighth, with an average agreement level of 3.022.

These conclusions align with the research of Sekina Mahmoud Tahami (2022), which focused on the impact of these platforms and networks on family relations. It was found that 28.4% of respondents believed that using these platforms led to distancing from family members, and 14.8% of participants stated they did not spend time sitting down to listen to personal issues of family members.

These findings are also supported by the study of Mustafa Sahari and Kher Eldin Bouhadda (2021), which investigated the impact of social media on family relations—based on a field study of a family sample in the Medea province of Algeria from January to June 2021. The study revealed the substantial negative impact of social media on family interactions, primarily manifested in the reduction of family conversations, which was once a prominent feature in Medea families, and an increase in family conflicts in Algeria, especially the significant rise in divorce rates. According to the 2018 report by the Algerian Ministry of Solidarity and Family, there was a significant increase in divorce cases in 2017, reaching 8,000 cases, many of which were rooted in the use of social media, particularly Facebook.

Table 8: Predominance in initiating divorce

	Frequency	Rate	Mean	Level
Male	30	33,3	1,944	Low
Female	34	37,8		
Undecided	25	27,8		
Total	89	100,0		

Source : Developed by the researcher

The preceding table's data reveals that women exhibit a higher propensity to initiate divorce, with 37.8% of the study's respondents concurring with this finding, closely followed by men, who constitute 33.3% of the sample. The category 'Undecided' garnered the least percentage, at 27.8%, based on the viewpoints of the study's participants.

This data corroborates the study conducted by Tony Docan-Morgan & Carol A. Docan in (2007), which delved into the ramifications of infidelity, deemed among the most severe repercussions associated with Internet use. According to their findings, the severity attributed to women engaged in/targeted by online infidelity surpasses that associated with men.

Table 9: Mechanisms most negatively influencing divorce

	Frequency	Rate	Mean	Level
Social Networking Sites (Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok...)	82	91,1	1,157	Very Low
Conventional Media (Television, Radio...)	0	0		
Uncertain	7	7,8		
Total	89	100,0		

Source: Developed by the researcher

According to the data from the table above, the influence of social media (Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok...) on divorce is significantly high, with 91.1% of study participants

agreeing, while traditional media (TV, radio...) had zero impact. The remainder of the sample indicated 'Don't Know,' accounting for 7.8% of the study participants' perspectives.

These findings correlate with Helmy Sari's study (2005), titled "Internet Culture and its Role in Social Communication." The study concluded that the intense engagement with social media platforms is the leading cause of psychological and social isolation, which, in turn, is significantly associated with symptoms of enduring anxiety, frustration, and stress.

Table 10: Recommended Measures to Diminish Divorce Rates Attributable to Social Media

	Frequency	Rate	Mean	Level
Fostering Intellectual Consciousness	61	67,8	1,315	Very high
Embracing Etiquettes of Social Discourse	28	31,1	1,685	Very Low
Optimizing Social Media Engagement	38	42,2	1,573	Very Low
Elevating the Sanctity of Matrimony	38	42,2	1,573	Very Low
Pursuing Hobbies and the Arts	7	7,8	1,921	Low
Augmenting Religious Convictions	13	14,4	1,854	Low

Source : Developed by the researcher

From the data presented in the table 10, the following observations can be made:

- "Participation in Hobbies and the Arts" leads the rankings, achieving an average agreement score of 1.921.
- "Reinforcing Religious Foundations" holds the second position, with an average agreement score of 1.854.
- "Observing Etiquette in Social Conversations" stands in the third place, with an average agreement score of 1.685.
- "Elevating the Sacredness of Marriage" is placed fourth, sharing an average agreement score of 1.573 with the next statement.
- "Mindful Usage of Social Media Platforms" also occupies the fourth rank, with an average agreement score of 1.573.
- "Cultivating Intellectual Enlightenment" is in the fifth slot, marked by an average agreement score of 1.315.

These outcomes correspond with the findings of Ahlam Matalqa and Raeqa Ali Al Omari's (2018) research, which sought to understand social media's impact on family relations as perceived by students at Yarmouk University, through various lenses. Consequently, the researchers suggested setting up educational workshops and seminars for collegiate youth to underscore the constructive use of social media, guiding students in choosing content congruent with the principles of our Islamic faith, its moral values, and the cultural norms of our Muslim communities, while also highlighting the platforms' adverse consequences.

4.2. Hypotheses Testing Results

Primary Hypothesis: *There exists a statistically significant link, at an $\alpha= 0.05$ level of significance, between the motivations of individuals and their social media usage.*

Table 11: showcases the relationship between individuals' motivations and their social media usage.

		Social Media Utilization (Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, Facebook)
Motives behind individuals' engagement with social media Pearson	Pearson correlation	,506**
	sig	,000
	Contingency Coefficient	
	Value	1,135
	sig	,000

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source : Developed by the researcher

From the analysis, a clear positive link is observed between the motives driving individuals towards social media platforms and their active usage, with the Pearson correlation coefficient registering at (0.506**) and the Contingency coefficient at (1.135), both at a significance level of (.000). This indicates that an increase in individuals' motives for engaging with social media platforms leads to a heightened usage of these networks (Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, Facebook).

Based on these insights, the primary hypothesis that posits a relationship exists between individuals' motives and their social media usage stands validated.

Second Hypothesis: *A notable statistical link exists at the $\alpha= 0.05$ level, highlighting the connection between social media usage and its negative repercussions on marital relations.*

Table 12: Investigating the connection between social media usage and its negative repercussions on marital relations.

		Adverse Effects of Social Media on Couples
Axis Two: The role of social media usage on familial dynamics	Pearson correlation	,707**
	sig	,000
	Contingency Coefficient	
	Value	1,337
	sig	,000

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source : Developed by the researcher

It becomes apparent from table () that there exists a statistically significant positive correlation between social media usage and its negative implications on marital dynamics (.707**), with a contingency coefficient figure of (1.337) at a significance level of (.000). This suggests that the more social media is utilized, the greater its negative effects on marital connections are observed.

Reflecting on these outcomes, it is plausible to affirm the second hypothesis which posits a linkage between social media usage and its adverse implications on marital connections.

Third Hypothesis: *A meaningful statistical relationship is observed at the $\alpha= 0.05$ level of significance between engaging with social media platforms and the incidence of divorce.*

Table 13: explores the linkage between engagement on social media platforms and the prevalence of divorce.

		Social media is a critical factor in the escalation of divorce occurrences
Effect of social media utilization on the marital connection	Pearson correlation	,735**
	sig	,000
	Contingency Coefficient	
	Value	1,539
	sig	,000

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source : Developed by the researcher

According to Table (13), there exists a statistically significant and robust positive correlation between social media engagement and the occurrence of divorces (.735**), with the contingency coefficient standing at (1,337) at a significance level of (.000). This signifies that an uptick in social media usage correlates with an increased rate of divorces.

Reflecting on these outcomes, the third hypothesis, which suggests a correlation between social media engagement and the divorce phenomenon, is corroborated.

Fourth Hypothesis: *There are significant statistical discrepancies at the $\alpha= 0.05$ level concerning the participants' perceived impact of social media usage on divorce rates in Algerian society, based on variables such as age, gender, monthly income, educational attainment, and social status.*

Table 14: T-test for Independent Samples on the Gender Variable's Effect Gender

Gender	Frequency	Mean	Std. Deviation	T-value	Degrees of Freedom	Sig
Male	30	45,8667	5,88823	,225	87	,822
Female	59	45,5932	5,16326			

Source : Developed by the researcher

The analysis reveals no statistically significant correlation between gender and the influence of social media use on the incidence of divorce, as the significance level (.822) surpasses the threshold of ($\alpha=0.05$), indicating a lack of association between these factors.

Table 15: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) for the Impact of Variables (Age, Monthly Income, Educational Attainment, Marital Status)

		Frequency	Mean	Std. Deviation	F-value	Sig
Age	18to 28 years	35	45,5429	4,76101	1,152	,319
	29to 39 years	39	45,9744	5,61711		
	40to 50 years	13	45,0769	5,42312		
	Over 50 years	2	46,5000	14,84924		
	Total	89	45,6854	5,38642		
monthly income	Below 18000	34	45,8824	4,40911	,859	,648
	19000-29000	8	52,2500	2,86606		
	30000-40000	17	46,6471	5,51068		
	41000-51000	12	42,0000	5,76825		
	Above 52000	18	43,9444	4,98789		
	Total	89	45,6854	5,38642		
	Primary	1	57,0000	.	1,677	,054

educational level	Middle School	2	47,5000	,70711		
	High Schoo	2	50,0000	5,65685		
	College	47	45,4043	5,49173		
	Postgraduate	37	45,4054	5,15029		
	Total	89	45,6854	5,38642		
marital status	Single	55	45,5818	5,15569	1,378	,157
	Married	32	46,1250	5,65543		
	Divorced	2	41,5000	9,19239		
	Total	89	45,6854	5,38642		

Source : Developed by the researcher

The analysis reveals that:

There are no statistically significant individual differences relating to age and the influence of social media on divorce rates.

There are no discernible individual differences linked to monthly income levels and the effect of social media on occurrences of divorce.

No significant individual differences are noted with regard to educational attainment and the impact of social media on divorce rates.

There are no significant individual variations associated with marital status and the effect of social media on the incidence of divorce.

Reflecting on this data, the fourth hypothesis, which argues for significant statistical differences at the $\alpha = 0.05$ level in the responses regarding the effect of social media usage on divorce rates in the Algerian community across variables such as age, gender, income level, education, and marital status, must be rejected.

5. Discussion of Results

The study yielded several key findings:

- The diversity of social media platforms (Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, Facebook) has catered to varying tastes, making social media one of the most significant influencers in attracting audiences and shaping their directions.

- There's a growing reliance and dependence on various social media platforms for communication, news following, or e-commerce, highlighting their importance in our daily lives.

- Social media significantly impacts many aspects of our lives, changing people's lifestyle patterns as this progression continues. With the increasing dependence on the internet, the use of social media platforms has become an essential part of daily communication and information reception for many around the world.

- The reliance on traditional media (television, radio, newspapers) has decreased due to its alignment with contemporary trends. It's predicted that print journalism may become extinct in the coming years, especially with the advancement of new generations and the domination of new media.

- Women's usage rate of social media platforms (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram) is notably high, with a relative variance in the extent of use for each site.

- The primary objectives of using social media include establishing romantic relationships, which ranked first, followed by meeting new people. Other goals such as expressing opinions more freely than in reality, connecting with family and friends, staying informed with news, entertainment, and spending leisure time, indicate the significant role of social media as new, impactful, and widely spread communication means.

- Social topics dominate the types of content that interest individuals on social media, ranking first, followed by sports topics in second place, and entertainment topics in third. Religious topics came next, with scientific, political, and economic topics ranking before last, and emotional topics in the last position.

• The most significant negative impacts of social media on family relationships include:

- Addiction to social media leading to detachment from reality.
- Social media becoming the main form of communication between individuals, replacing real-life interactions.
- Couples comparing their lives to those of others on social media, including celebrities, friends, and advertisements.
- Social media negatively affecting family bonds.
- Social media use leading to neglect of social relationships with family and friends.
- Social media affecting the family duties of spouses.
- Social media having a negative impact on individuals' thoughts and behaviors.

• The main reasons one of the spouses turns to social media extensively include curiosity, work environment, seeking romantic relationships due to marital relationship failure, being influenced by the content on social media (celebrities, actors, advertisements), the emotional void due to the spouses being busy, and work and home pressures.

• The most significant negative impacts of social media use on marital relationships are:

- Social media contributing to the spread of lying and infidelity among spouses.
 - Social media being linked to an increase in divorce and family problems currently.
 - Social media causing a lack of real communication between spouses.
 - Social media playing an effective role in increasing divorce rates.
 - Couples being influenced by what is displayed on social media.
 - Social media contributing to lowering the cultural level of society.
- Women are more likely to initiate divorce, surpassing men in their capacity to make the decision to separate.

• Social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok) have created a rift in the relationship between spouses, leading to family disintegration and divorce. The internet has created new virtual families, providing each spouse with their real world at home and a virtual world outside.

• The study suggests a set of proposals to address the phenomenon of divorce caused by social media, notably including:

- Practicing social dialogue etiquette, reducing social media usage, and opening personal communication channels between spouses.

- Encouraging real-life communication over online interactions and striving to understand each other beyond virtual representations. Women, in particular, are advised not to focus solely on the idealized lives depicted in Instagram stories, which often represent a fantasy rather than reality. This is especially crucial as many influencers, including married ones, go through difficult phases of depression and divorce, negatively impacting their image among followers.

- Rational use of social media, selecting only content that is beneficial for personal growth and development, such as acquiring new skills or languages, and avoiding unethical content that could negatively affect future behaviors. Social media should be approached as a tool for improvement, with users having control over what they consume, rather than being dominated by it.

- Implementing monitoring on social media accounts, especially requiring documentation for account creation, to encourage responsible behavior.

- Engaging in hobbies and crafts to divert attention from potential controversies and occupy time productively through activities like reading, theater, cinema, sculpting, drawing, etc.

- Using social media to spread marital culture, awareness, and religious teachings to enhance dialogue and understanding between spouses, steering clear of extremism and trivial content.
- Building shared personal convictions between spouses to avoid harmful comparisons and foster a solid foundation for the relationship.
- Allocating sufficient time for family, avoiding filling emotional voids with phone use, which can lead to emotional detachment, infidelity, and disloyalty in the relationship.
- Reinforcing traditional roles within the family, with men taking full responsibility and women embracing their roles, maintaining balance and mutual respect.
- Turning to religion and strong faith as the foundation for a lasting marital relationship, avoiding dubious social media practices.
- Emphasizing pre-marital education and possibly raising the legal age for marriage to address the issue of immature unions.
- Ensuring careful selection of partners and fostering mutual understanding and honesty between spouses, with consideration for each other's feelings.
- Reducing time spent on social media and avoiding groups and sites aimed at making new acquaintances, focusing instead on meaningful connections.
- Maintaining strong faith and selecting partners who share similar values to ensure the durability of the marital relationship.
- Improving living standards for individuals and families by increasing wages, combating the high cost of living, and promoting religious awareness of the importance of family cohesion.

6. Recommendations

The research offers the following recommendations:

- Instill good values within society and try to incorporate various activities into their daily routine to distract their minds from the harm and dangers posed by social media.
- Utilize free time for developing talents and engaging in sports, which is a responsibility of the relevant authorities to provide individuals with opportunities to strengthen their talents.
- Educate families about the dangers of continuous use of modern communication tools and its negative effects that could lead to family destruction and divorce.
- Enhance the positive values brought by modern communication means and benefit from the positive aspects they offer, such as culture dissemination, transferring useful information, good programming, and developing intellect, thought, perceptions while avoiding anything that promotes negativity, lethargy, and violence.

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