A STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF THE INTERNET ON THE SOCIALIZATION OF TEENAGERS IN URBAN AREAS

Pankaj Raman

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Department of Sociology, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, India.

E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This thesis will explore the influence of urbanisation and modernity on the structure of families in the city of Muscat. Muscat is the capital of the Sultanate of Oman, and this thesis will focus on the city. Both Meadows and Danesh note out that urbanisation and industrialization have contributed, at least in part, to changes in Oman's family structures and the functions that members play within those structures. It is projected that the patterns of family structure would reflect more "modern" features than the norms and goals of family life will. This is because of the following: This is what should be expected. The following are the top three most significant concerns: to determine family size (fertility), and child care patterns, especially with mothers working to meet modern economic needs; and to determine the upcoming question of the elderly: is it still the responsibility of the children to provide care, or is it the responsibility of the government, or is it both? Even as late as 20 years ago, Oman was still classified as a "Third World" nation. Oman is a contemporary nation that just recently embarked on its modernization journey, both in terms of its economic and social development. Many people believe that during the course of the last 20 years, Oman has been one of the nations that has been increasing at one of the rates that is among the fastest. The new contemporary government of Oman, which is led by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin

Said, had to start with institutions that were built on historical practices while having very little resources to deal with. This is one of the reasons why this is the case. Since then, the expansion that has taken place in a number of different economic sectors, most notably the oil industry, has made it possible for the government of Oman to develop its historic cities and capital, in addition to constructing new modern communities. This is the case even though oil production has remained relatively stable. Infrastructural projects have also been given a high priority, and this includes the development of highways, ports (both sea and air), modern hospitals, and schools.

KEYWORDS: modern communities, contemporary government, modernization journey,

INTRODUCTION

The government institutions started off quite modest in terms of the number of buildings and employees, but over time they have grown significantly. The early history of Oman is described by historians of the nation's development using the example of how the country initially only had a few kilometres of roads, three schools, and two hospitals when it first got started. In a nation that has a total area of 300,000 square kilometres, there are currently over 47 hospitals, 772 schools with a combined total of over 400,000 male and female students, including one university and a large number of other technical schools and colleges, over 4,000 kilometres of asphalt roads, and over 18,000 kilometres of graded roads. Additionally, there are over 4,000 kilometres of roads that have been graded, and there are over 18,000 kilometres of roads that have been asphalted. Because of the growth of the government sector, a significant number of Omani nationals left their hometowns and villages in pursuit of work in the many government agencies that are situated in Muscat, the nation's capital city. Muscat is also the location of the majority of these agencies. Some of the individuals who moved to Oman had never left their home country before, while others had previously resided in one of the neighbouring Gulf nations and had some familiarity with the urban environment before making the move. Still others were originally from East Africa but had since found their way back to their homeland. These recently arriving immigrants, together with those who had already made Muscat their home, have contributed to the formation of a society that is extraordinarily diversified.

People from the preceding generation, including sociologists, saw with apprehension the changes in the family that seemed to accompany the industrialization of society. These

2/18 | **Pankaj Raman *,** *Department of Sociology, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, India.*
E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

individuals were of the opinion that these shifts were brought on by the increasing industrialization of society. The fundamental tenet of this pessimistic perspective was that it was possible to foresee the disintegration of the nuclear family as a direct result of the weakening of its capacity to perform its traditional societal roles. This fundamental tenet was based on the idea that it was possible to foresee the disintegration of the nuclear family as a direct result of the weakening of its the concept that the family was transforming from an institution into a companionship was a significant piece of information that was necessary to have in order to understand this occurrence. It was vital for the individual's life to revolve around their agricultural family since the family was a productive unit that was organised by a division of labour to operate a farm.

MEANING OF SOCIAL WORK TO A MAN IN THE STREET

The everyday person on the street has a very simple comprehension of the duties and responsibilities involved in social work. It would seem that participating in any activity that is to the advantage of other people might be considered to be a kind of social work. In this regard, the "man on the street" makes an effort to differentiate between a "ordinary man," who participates in community activities voluntarily and without receiving any payment, and a "welfare worker," who is hired by a welfare agency to perform welfare work in the community and is compensated for his services. An "ordinary man" is someone who participates in community activities voluntarily and without receiving any payment. The "average guy" takes part in activities that benefit the society without expecting or getting reward. His explanation of social work is one of a kind since it is based on his own experiences as well as the knowledge he has obtained about people of the community who are disadvantaged. According to him, providing social welfare as paid agents and doing good and volunteer work as an average person are more or less the same thing; however, in the case of the former, there is greater warmth of emotion towards the people who are receiving the assistance; in the latter case, there is less of an emotional connection.

MEANING OF SOCIAL WORK TO A SEMI-PROFESSIONAL

Those individuals who do not have a formal education in the field of social work but who do work in some capacity for a charity or nonprofit organisation are the ones that supply this interpretation of social work. They get the erroneous notion from the fact that they participate in welfare activities because they believe that this automatically gives them the right to be

3/18 | **Pankaj Raman ***, *Department of Sociology, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, India.*
E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

called social workers. According to this school of thought, a person who works for a welfare organisation and participates in activities related to welfare is automatically qualified to be a social worker, and such activities qualify as social work practises. Additionally, a person who engages in welfare-related activities is considered to be performing social work practises. Nevertheless, Professor Clarke points out two problems with their understanding of the social worker and social work. To begin, it seems that they are oblivious of the fact that not everyone who works in large-scale companies related to welfare is a social worker. It's possible that some of these people have advanced degrees in fields like housing, leisure, social insurance, nursing, accountancy, or any number of other topics. Second, they do not take into consideration the characteristics that are required of a social worker in their line of work.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Edwin Shorter (2000), members of the traditional family have the perception that they have more in common with their various peer groups than they do with other members of their own family. This is in contrast to the non-traditional family, in which members have the perception that they have more in common with other members of their own family. To put it another way, the traditional family functioned more as a unit that was accountable for the creation as well as the reproduction of offspring. He was of the opinion that the development of modern technology had greatly affected the condition of life by giving people the opportunity to seek their own personal fulfilment, which he believed had been made possible as a result of this change. He was of the view that the advent of industrialisation emancipated people from the need to depend on inheritance for their means of existence. He said this because of his belief that industrialization liberated people from the necessity to rely on inheritance.

Morris Zelditch (2005) made the observation that even in regions where there is no history of industrialization, there may be a significant reduction in the size of the extended family. He made the argument that it is feasible for any sort of non-subsistence rising economic or even political developments to bring down the authoritative structure that the family and descend group relies on. This assertion was stated in the context of the family and the descend group. He outlined four primary conditions that, when brought together, had the potential to lead to such a catastrophe. According to the views of Morris Zelditch, the fall in activities

4/18 | **Pankaj Raman *,** *Department of Sociology, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, India.*
E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

traditionally associated with families was not the result of industrialization on its own; rather, it was the result of other causes. He was of the belief that the breakdown of the traditional nuclear family would take place regardless of whether or not industrialization took place as a result of the fact that there were other factors at play. According to him, changes in the institution of the family may be brought about as a result of economic growth and economic development, as well as a rise in the complexity of political institutions. Additionally, he believes that these changes may be brought about as a result of a combination of these three factors.

Young and Willmott (2010), the basis for the sociability and cohesion of communities is significantly contributed to by familial networks. The relocation of a significant number of working-class families to new towns or overflow estates presented an opportunity to investigate the effects that geographical mobility has on established patterns of kinship behaviour. Mobility did indeed herald a reduction in interaction with him. Women seemed to experience particularly keenly the relative isolation from their mothers and sisters, although some husbands could manage visits to kinfolk on their way to or from work. Nevertheless, women seemed to experience particularly keenly the relative isolation from their mothers and sisters. Because individuals relocated as nuclear family groups, leaving most of their relatives behind, Young and Willmott arrived at the conclusion that geographical mobility reduces kinship bonds. Their was the finding that led them to this conclusion. They arrived to this conclusion as a result of the fact that individuals were transported as individual members of their nuclear families, leaving the majority of their other relatives behind. They saw a decline in family connection and function as a consequence of geographical mobility and migration, which was a viewpoint that differed from that of other academics, such as Young and Willmott, who saw the decline in family structure from a different perspective.

According to Perlmam (2008), industrialization has changed the sexual regulating duties of the family, which has led to the decline of the institution of the family. This has played a role in the death of the institution of the family. He came up with the theory that the custom of marrying while one is still a virgin was becoming more rare and will almost completely disappear in the not too distant future. If this is what Skolnik (2000) means when they talk about a "sexual revolution," or if it is merely another of the numerous historical swings that have occurred between permissiveness and restrictiveness (Shorter,2007).

5/18 | **Pankaj Raman *,** *Department of Sociology, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, India.*
E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

There is a substantial body of data to demonstrate that equal power distribution within a marriage is connected with both partners' emotional well-being. According to Mirowsky (2000), in contemporary America, education and paid work boost women's negotiating power both before to and throughout the process of marriage. In addition, she said that all of these aspects contribute to women having more negotiating power. He was of the belief that the need for a literate population for new sorts of vocational training as well as higher degrees of education contributed to the establishment of a mass educational system that was apart from the institution of the family. He was of the opinion that the development of modern technology had made it possible for families to become more egalitarian, or to have equal rights in the context of decision-making within the family. He said this in reference to the fact that technology had made it possible for families to have access to the internet.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Quantitative and qualitative research are the two primary approaches that are used in the field of social sciences. The operational uniqueness of ideas, hypotheses, and techniques of observation are the three factors that Mouton and Marais (1990) use to differentiate between qualitative and quantitative research. However, it is essential to keep in mind that the aforementioned research methods do not, in and of themselves, constitute mutually distinguishable components of a typology. Consider them instead as relative points on a scale, since this will help you understand them better. Even if the findings of a qualitative study may only be speculative, they might serve as a foundation for the findings of subsequent quantitative research (Leedy, 1993).

The qualitative analysis will strive to provide a comprehensive and thorough description in the form of words, images, or objects, while the quantitative analysis will seek to explain what is seen by classifying traits, counting them, and constructing statistical models (Price, 2001; Hurley et al., 2007; Ton et al., 2008). Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used in this investigation; nevertheless, the qualitative approach was favoured more than the quantitative one.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The planning, organisation, collection, and analysis of data are the four stages of the research design process. These stages are carried out in order to answer questions such as "what

Pankaj Raman *, *Department of Sociology, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, India.*
E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

methods will be employed to obtain data?" What methods and technologies will be used to do the sampling? In addition, how will the limitations of time and money be addressed? (Leedy, 1993). The researcher intends to collect data about the influence of social media on behaviour change, attitude change, and perception change among young people by using the descriptive survey methodology. The purpose of a descriptive survey is to establish the facts by providing a description of the manner in which a phenomena is dispersed throughout a population (percentages and frequencies). The use of descriptive surveys in policy planning, monitoring, and evaluation, as stated by Saunders et al. (2003), has a wide range of applications. According to Price (2001), each researcher who uses a descriptive research design tries to provide data that is holistic, contextual, descriptive in depth, and rich in detail. This is the goal of the descriptive research design.

SAMPLING SIZE AND TECHNIQUES

A representative subset of a population is referred to as a sample, and it is used in research to draw inferences about the whole population. Its goal is to make educated guesses about aspects of the population that are not understood. Therefore, sampling refers to the methodical process of picking a number of people for an investigation such that those people may accurately reflect the wider population from which they were drawn (Gay, 2011). The method of sampling takes a number of factors into consideration and its specifics will vary depending on the kind of organisation, its goal, its level of complexity, the amount of time that is available, and any prior study conducted in the field. Researchers use both probability and nonprobability sampling methods in their work. These are the two categories of sampling procedures. People are chosen to serve as the sample with the expectation that they would be representative of a cross-section of the population that is being investigated. This is what "probability sampling" refers to, as the name indicates.

DATA ANALYSIS

In the context of research, the term "response rate" as defined by Fowler (2004) refers to the degree to which the gathered collection of data contains all of the sample members of the targeted population. It is determined by dividing the total number of persons in the sample by the number of questionnaires or interviews that are gathered from individuals in the sample. In the course of this research, information was gathered from four different institutions in Kenya, three of which were public and one of which was private. A total of 80 questionnaires

 Pankaj Raman *, *Department of Sociology, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, India.*
E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

were handed out, of which 73 were filled out and submitted. This equated to a response rate of 91.25 percent. According to Babbie (2002), an appropriate response rate for analysis is one that is more than fifty percent; hence, a response rate of ninety one point two five percent was seen as being very excellent for analysis.

RESPONDENTS AND UNIVERSITY PROFILE

In order to determine whether or not the data was collected from relevant groups, it was necessary to do an analysis of the respondents as well as the profiles of the organizations that they represented before giving an analysis of the results.

LEVEL OF STUDY OF THE RESPONDENTS

It was hypothesized that the respondents' level of education would have some bearing on how well they were able to react to the questions that were posed, thus the researchers wanted to find out how much schooling the people who participated in the study had had. According to the replies, the majority of respondents (31.5%) were students in their third year, while 30.1% were students in their first year, 26% were students in their second year, and 12.3% were students in their fourth year. This distribution is represented in Figure 4.3 below. When you take into account that the respondents were from all four levels of study, it demonstrates that the information gathered included ideas and opinions that were sufficiently diverse to be representative of each level.

COURSE RESPONDENTS WERE TAKING IN THE UNIVERSITY

It was asked of the respondents what classes they were currently enrolled in at the university. The results have been compiled and may be seen in Table 4.1. 4.1% of students were enrolled in Bachelor of Environmental Science programmes, 8.2% of students were enrolled in Psychology programmes, 6.8% of students were enrolled in MSc Procurement and Logistics programmes, 4.1% of students were enrolled in BBIT programmes, 2.7% of students were enrolled in Procurement and Supplies Management programmes, 1.4% of students were enrolled in BSc Actuarial Science programmes, 2.7% of students were enrolled in MSc Project Management programmes, 1.4% of students were enrolled in BSc In the population that was sampled, each of the following bachelor's degree programmes had a representation of 1.4%: pharmacy, fashion design and marketing, economics and finance, bachelor of commerce, and food and health, nutrition and dietetics.

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E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

AGE BRACKET OF THE RESPONDENTS

The researchers were interested in determining the ages of those who participated in the study. The majority of the respondents, 58.9%, were within the age range of proper attendance at university in Kenya, which is between the ages of 18 and 22. 30.1% of the respondents were between the ages of 22 and 26, 6.9% were between the ages of 30-35 years, and 4.11% were between the ages of 26 and 30. The researchers were able to recruit participants whose ages fell into a variety of age ranges; as a result, the participants are likely to be in a variety of phases of their own personal development and socialisation. Given that the results would reflect the views and opinions of many groups of respondents, these representations could make the research stronger.

HOURS SPENT ON THE COMPUTER BY THE RESPONDENTS

The respondents were questioned on the length of time that they spend working on the computer on a daily basis. The results have been summarised and can be seen in figure 4.6 below. 17.8 percent of respondents said they only spend an hour using the computer, compared to 60.3 percent who said they spend between 2 and 5 hours a day on the device, 20.5 percent who said they spend between 5 and 10 hours, and 1.4 percent who said they spend more than 10 hours. According to Ofcom (2008), the research that is now available shows that the majority of internet users probably use social network sites everyday or at least every other day. Young people are at the forefront of this trend.

THE MOST COMMON ACTIVITY WHEN THE RESPONDENTS IS USING A COMPUTER

When the respondents logged onto a computer, we asked them what the most prevalent activity was that they were participating in at that time. Their replies are shown in Table 4.2. 8.2% of respondents said that they spent most of their time playing games on the computer, 39.7% of respondents said that they used their computers to browse the internet, 11% of respondents said that they used it for word processing, 27.4% of respondents said that they used it for research, 6.8% of respondents said that they were on e-mails most of the time, and another 6.8% of respondents said that they used their computers for chat rooms.

Most common activity when the respondents is using a computer

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E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

Responses	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Games	6	8.2	8.2
Surfing the internet	29	39.7	47.9
Word processing	8	11.0	58.9
Research	20	27.4	86.3
E-mail	5	6.8	93.2
Chat rooms	5	6.8	100.0
Total	73	100	100.0

THE RESPONDENT MOST COMMON SOCIAL MEDIA

The respondents were questioned on the social networking website that they frequented the most often. The results corresponded with a report that appeared in the New York Times in July of 2010 and suggested that Facebook has soared from 200 million to over 500 million members in the prior 15 months. The research said that the majority (43.8% of respondents) claimed they were on Facebook. According to table 4.3, 13.7% of respondents said they were active on Twitter, 9.6% of respondents said they were active on YouTube, 17.8% of respondents said they were active on Whatsapp, only 1.4% of respondents said they are active on LinkedIn, 6.8% of respondents said they were active on Instagram, and another 6.8% of respondents said they were active on Skype.

Most common activity when the respondents are using a computer

Pankaj Raman *, *Department of Sociology, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, India.*
E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Facebook	32	43.8	**43.8**
Twitter	10	13.7	**57.5**
YouTube	7	9.6	**67.1**
Whatsapp	13	17.8	**84.9**
LinkedIn	1	1.4	**86.3**
Instagram	5	6.8	**93.2**
Skype	5	6.8	**100.0**
Total	**73**	**100.0**	**100.0**

PLACE THE RESPONDENTS HAD COMPUTER ACCESS

The question of where the respondents may use computers was posed to them. According to the data presented in figure 4.7 below, 32.7% of respondents said they accessed the internet through their mobile phones, 28.8% said they used their computers at school, 26% said they used computers at home, 9.6% said they accessed the internet through cybercafés, and only 2.7% said they used their workplaces.

RELIABILITY ANALYSIS ON THE FIRST OBJECTIVE, HOW THE YOUTH IN KENYA USE SOCIAL MEDIA IN THEIR DAILY LIVES

As was covered in chapter three, dependability refers to the amount to which a measuring instrument has variable errors that change each time the same instrument is used to measure a

Pankaj Raman *, *Department of Sociology, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, India.*
E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

certain unit. According to Bramble and Mason (1997), the collection of data may be performed using devices that have a reliability value of 0.5 or above. In addition, Brown (2006) asserts that every research instrument must have a dependability index that is at least 0.6 in order to be considered acceptable. According to Sekeran (2003), a sufficient level of Cronbach's alpha kind of dependability co-efficient is anything with a value of 0.7 or above.

Cronbach's alpha coefficient was calculated and found to be.706 based on the results of the analysis of the degree of reliability of the measurement indicator on the objective one (which is presented in Table 4.4). It is believed that this value is enough for conducting a successful analysis (Sekearan, 2003).

STATEMENTS EXPRESSING OPINIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA

It was requested of the responders to indicate the degree to which each of the assertions above applied to them. The results are shown in Table 4.4. 47.9% of respondents either completely disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that "I adore viewing videos anytime I am connected to the internet." The majority of respondents, 79.4%, disagreed with the statement that online games are addictive and said that they play them whenever they have the chance.

Social media and how the respondents have used it

	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
I love watching videos whenever am connected to the internet.	22	30.1	13	17.8	21	28.8	7	9.6	10	13.7	**100.0**
Online games are addictive and I play them whenever I have an opportunity.	42	57.5	16	21.9	6	8.2	7	9.6	2	2.7	**100.0**

 Pankaj Raman *, *Department of Sociology, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, India. E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com*

I download music videos and movies from the internet a lot.	10	13.7	16	21.9	6	8.2	7	9.6	2	2.7	**100.0**
I frequently upload and share videos and photographs in social networks such as, in Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp etc.	12	16.4	15	20.5	20	27.4	9	12.3	17	23.3	**100.0**
I always enjoy browsing/surfing the internet.	1	1.4	3	4.1	10	13.7	15	20.5	44	60.3	**100.0**
I love visiting social networks because I get to meet new people	9	12.3	14	19.2	24	32.9	14	19.2	12	16.4	**100.0**
Social networks enables me to remain connected with my family and friends.	5	6.8	21	28.8	14	19.2	14	19.2	19	26	**100.0**
Am always on the phone/computer chatting with online friends.	11	15.1	18	24.7	21	28.8	16	21.9	7	9.6	**100.0**
My friends and I have forums/groups where we post messages to each other or the whole group.	15	20.5	14	19.2	20	27.4	12	16.4	12	16.4	**100.0**

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E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

I use my mobile phone for texting and Itext a lot.	1	1.4	11	15.1	16	21.9	19	26	26	35.6	**100.0**
Social networks make it easy for me to talk to someone I have never met before.	7	9.6	12	16.4	22	30.1	12	16.4	20	27.4	**100.0**
I use the internet for doing my assignments and enriching class notes.	1	1.4	12	16.4	7	9.6	21	28.8	32	43.8	**100.0**
I feel am always looped because I get to know almost everything that happens and almost instantly, thanks totechnology.	3	4.1	2	2.7	15	20.5	23	31.5	30	41.1	**100.0**
Social media have made access to class notes and other relevant information	0	0	3	4.1	9	12.3	23	31.5	38	52.1	**100.0**
easier because of tools like Dropbox and Google Drive.											
Skype and other video conferencing tools enable me to have discussion with my lecturers and group members from anywhere in the world	23	31.5	11	15.1	13	17.8	8	11	18	24.7	**100.0**

RELIABILITY TEST ON OBJECTIVE TWO OF THE STUDY

 Pankaj Raman *, *Department of Sociology, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, India.*
E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

The reliability study on the second goal was completed, and the results are shown in table 4.7 below. According to Brown (2006), a reliability index of at least 0.6 is considered to be satisfactory for any research instrument; consequently, Cronbach's alpha coefficient of.618 was thought to be sufficient enough for a good analysis. Brown (2006) also argues that a minimum reliability index of 0.6 is satisfactory for any research instrument.

ENEFITS OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Table 4.5 demonstrates that 86.3% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that sending an e-mail is a lot quicker than writing a letter, 61.7% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they prefer social media because their message is received in real time, and another respondent stated that they prefer social media because their message is received in real time. 86.3% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that in contrast to more conventional techniques, a response is obtained nearly instantly when using social media. 87.7% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that people may check to see whether their communications have been received by the intended receiver via the use of social media. 35.6% of respondents strongly disagreed that using social media requires a lot of effort and time. However, 78% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that using social media is handy since people are constantly connected owing to mobile phones. 68.5% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the cost of using social media is lower than using older, more conventional approaches. 31.5% of respondents who were indifferent on social media are uncertain about its security in comparison to older, more conventional techniques. 43.8% of respondents strongly agreed that they feel autonomous while using social media since they don't require an adult to oversee them when they are using something like their mobile phone. Since they had many followers on both Facebook and Twitter, 35.6% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that social media elevates their social status and earns them respect among their peers.

These findings were confirmed by Livingstone (2009), who emphasises that "at the heart of the explosion in online communication is the desire to construct valued representations of oneself which affirm and are affirmed by one's peers." 38.4% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that social media helps them reduce stress because when they publish something stressful, their friends and family respond with reassuring remarks.

Benefits of social media

15/18   **Pankaj Raman *,** *Department of Sociology, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, India.*
E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

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Benefits	Strongly agree		Agree		Undecided		Agree		Strongly agree		Total %
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
I prefer social media because my message is received in real time.	1	1.4	12	16.4	11	15.1	25	34.2	24	32.9	100.0
Sending an e-mail is a lot fasterthan writing a letter.	1	1.4	0	0	9	12.3	10	13.7	53	72.6	100.0
In social media a reply is received almost immediately as opposed to old traditional methods.	0	0	7	9.6	3	4.1	16	21.9	47	64.4	100.0
Social media enables individuals to know if their messages have reached their recipient or not.	1	1.4	3	4.1	5	6.8	30	41.1	34	46.6	100.0
Social media are difficult and timeconsuming.	26	35.6	19	26	19	26	7	9.6	2	2.7	100.0
Social media are convenient since individuals are always connected thanks to mobile phones.	4	5.5	9	12.3	3	4.1	25	34.2	32	43.8	100.0
Social media are less expensive as opposed to old traditional methods.	11	15.1	4	5.5	8	11	30	41.1	20	27.4	100.0
Social media are	14	19.2	7	9.6	23	31.5	15	20.5	14	19.2	100.0

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E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

insecure as											

CONCLUSION

They may either post messages on each other's Facebook walls or use Whatsapp to send direct messages to cell phones. Both options are available to them. However, the findings showed that it made the young people lazy, and the majority of them admitted to wasting time that they could have spent doing other, more productive things, such as reading (as shown in table 4.7). This was a result of the fact that the youth were exposed to the influence of the media. The preceding overview made it abundantly clear that the use of social media had a significant part in the respondents' subsequent shifts in behaviour. The majority of the young people's time spent on social media was spent talking with their relatives and friends. Most of them believed that they were helpless without social media due to the fact that it is ingrained in them and the fact that they were born in this period of rapidly developing technology. They were reliant on it for a variety of beneficial activities, such as doing research and maintaining touch with old acquaintances, as well as being abreast of what was going on either in their circles, regionally, or worldwide.

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17/18 | **Pankaj Raman *,** *Department of Sociology, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, India.*
E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com

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18/18 | **Pankaj Raman *,** *Department of Sociology, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, India.*
E-mail: pankajraman26@gmail.com