

### **In the world of social media, 'social' is fading**

Social media has been a major component in our daily lives. It steadily affects our society. Indubitably, there are indeed positive impacts of social media on our culture. Notwithstanding, there will be negative impacts into the bargain. Assuredly, we can never deny the fact that social media has reinforced our connections between people and produced an environment in which people can stay in touch virtually on the net. Social media solidifies our cultured awareness as we interact and share our daily lives with people in online communities. It is also crucial for our studies since utilizing and taking advantage of social medias' copious amount of information make our lives easier. In contrast, the infinite access and flexibility also give rise to our excessive reliance of social media, indirectly causing a profusion of drawbacks which are deemed to be the main principle of modern teenagers' problematic internet usage. In this essay, I will reflect on how social media cause downsides in our society.

To start with, social medias cause users to feel strongly stressed and that your life is lacking something. It is pivotal to remind yourself that what you see, what you find and what you approach on social media is simply another person's highlight in life. However, many fail to do so and hence cause them to constantly compare themselves with others. Social media has over-heightened the spirit of comparison to a level that has never been seen before. While some may argue that only a competitive environment can better us, excessive and unfair comparison will only bruise your already fragile ego and eventually it will cause low self-esteem, guilt and poor relationships with others. People have to realize that it is utterly unnecessary to compare our lives to others'. It will not cause any perks for our daily social. Instead, it will make you feel stressed due to obsession over their online profiles. What's more, people waste money as they frequently modify their appearance to make them look better. It convinces them to spend unnecessary money and worsens their relationships with others, for example, they become less willing to meet with people. People should start going out and enjoying their lives, yet there is no evident signs of them doing so.

Furthermore, social media affects social skills by replacing people's direct contact with others with online conversations. When people primarily connect with others virtually instead of physically, they tend to forget how to appropriately interact with people. Face-to-Face communication has become difficult as we've forgotten how to make eye contact. Under some

circumstances, we don't even have to interact verbally. They only have to text each other. It causes their lack of confidence when they face each other, as well as the lack of face expression or gestures. They reckon conversation as texting online instead of talking. As they pile up the lack of confidence, they will become less and less eager to open their mouth and turns themselves into an introvert. They cannot talk straight forwardly anymore, and they slowly lose the ability to talk effectively. It makes their life dull, tiresome and monotonous. They are only a good speaker online, and since then, social media is of paramount importance in their daily lives as they reply more and more on it. It is also worth noting that since people start to love talking online more, social media will also start to distract them from their daily lives. They become a social media fanatic, and use their cellphone to access social media, even when they gather in a place physically to meet.

Last but not least, social media makes their language skills poor. Thanks to social media, more and more of them use improper grammar and informal speech. They use abbreviations such 'LOL', 'HBD', 'IDK' to talk more conveniently. Although these acronyms help them communicate more easily, they gradually dominate how they speak and how we interact with people. They also deform words when they use incorrect grammar. They also demonstrate thoughts with pictures and stickers instead of words. They don't use correct language structure to talk anymore as it is slow-paced. Another phenomenon is that they mistyped a lot and is not conscious about spellings thanks to the 'autocorrect' function in our devices. They often fail to memorize and retain the correct spelling of words, even the most common ones. People need to make a choice to use slangs and abbreviations or talk properly. This habit is steadily changing the way we talk, and maybe the language English itself.

Taking everything into account, while social media is a great way for people to keep in touch and stay connected on the day-to-day happening of others. Over-replying on it can also put you in a great disadvantage. Real-life interactions is necessary for a fulfilling life. We have to protect our language and change the course of how we use social medias. As people love to say, 'focus on how to be social, not how to social.'