

## A STUDY OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION

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### ABSTRACT

Now a day's Social media is the most important role in our life and famous medium for interaction and share some Information to other people. There are some examples of social media like Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Wikipedia, LinkedIn, Reddit, Pinterest. When we talk about democracy it is directly connected to freedom of speech and expression. At present time social media is the very famous platform for sharing information. So social media is directly connected to freedom of speech and expression for sharing thoughts and views. In this paper I highlight the effect of social media and scenario of article 19(1)(a) of Constitution of India.

Key Words: Social media, article 19(1) (a), Constitution.

### INTRODUCTION:

Now a day's Social media is the most important role in our life and famous medium for interaction and share some Information to other people. There are some example of social media like Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Wikipedia, LinkedIn, Reddit, Pinterest. When we talk about democracy opinion on social media directly connected to freedom of speech and expression

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. Considering the current trend of usage of social media the main objective is to check the cause and effects of increase use of social media.
2. To explore the impact of social media especially on Education, Business and Society.

### METHODOLOGY:

Research Cell: An International Journal of Education (IJoE)

Issue June 2021, Vol. 14

ISSN: 2347-4343 (Online)

Article Received: 1 January 2021 Revised: 25 March 2021 Accepted: 29 May 2021



The present study is based on both primary and secondary data like reports, journals, books, internet, survey, questionnaire etc.

### **Meaning of Social media:**

Social media is computer-based technology that facilitates the sharing of ideas, thoughts and information through the building of virtual networks and communities. Social media is gives users quick electronic communication of content. Content includes personal information, documents, video and photos. Users engage with social media via computer, tablets or smartphone for massaging.

Social media is the collective of online communications channels dedicated to community based input, interaction, content-sharing and collaboration. Websites and applications dedicated to forums, microblogging, social networking, social bookmarking, social curation and wikis are among the different types of social media.

Social media refers to websites and applications that are designed to allow people to share content quickly, efficiently, and in real-time. Many people define social media as apps on their smartphone or tablet, but the truth is, this communication tool started with computers. This misconception stems from the fact that most social media users access their tools via apps.

The ability to share photos, opinions, events, etc. in real-time has transformed the way we live and, also, the way we do business. Retailers who use social media as an integral part of their marketing strategy usually see measurable results. But the key to successful social media is to not treat it as an extra appendage but to treat it with the same care, respect, and attention you do all of your marketing efforts.

Social media basically means any human communication or sharing information on internet that occurs through the medium of computer, tablet or mobile. There are numerous websites and apps that make it possible. Social media is now becoming one of the largest means of communication



and is gaining popularity rapidly. Social media enables you to share ideas, content, information and news etc. at a much faster speed.

In last few years social media has grown tremendously at an unexpectedly fast rate and has captured millions of users around the world. Here are essays on social media of varying word lengths to help you with the same in your exam. You can select any social media essay as per your need:

We live in a time and age where information is just a button press away. We are swayed by information all around us. We millennial want to know, read, understand and then speak our minds about it. That is where social media comes into play. Social media is one of the biggest elements that we live with and cannot ignore it.

Social media is collection of websites, applications and other platforms that enable us to share or create content and also helps us to participate in social networking. Social media is not limited to blogging and sharing pictures, there are lot of strong tools also that social media provides. That is because that the impact of social media is very high and far reaching. It can make or break images.

But social media is a topic of controversy today, many feel it's a boon but there is a majority who feels that it is a curse. Mostly people feel that social media has destroyed human interaction with a rapid rate and has modified modern human relationships. But there are others who feel that it is a blessing that has connected us to every part of the world, we can meet our loved ones that are far, we can spread awareness through it, we can send security warnings etc. There is a lot that social media can do. But it is an unarguable fact the presence of social media has made our lives convenient, easier and much faster.

### **HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF SOCIAL MEDIA:**



**Facebook** : Facebook is a popular free social networking website that allows registered users to create profiles, upload photos and video, send messages and keep in touch with friends, family and colleagues.

**Twitter**: Twitter is free microblogging service that allows registered members to broadcast short posts called tweets. Twitter members can broadcast tweets and follow other users' tweets by using multiple platforms and devices.

**Google+** : Google + was Google's social networking project, designed to replicate the way people interact offline more closely than is the case in other social networking services. This website is no longer offered to new users and plans to shut down remaining accounts in 2019.

**Wikipedia**: Wikipedia is a free, open content online encyclopedia created through the collaborative effort of a community of users known as Wikipedians. Anyone registered on the site can create an article for publication, however registration is not required to edit articles. Wikipedia was founded in January of 2001.

**LinkedIn**: LinkedIn is social networking site designed specifically for the business community. The goal of the site is to allow registered members to establish and document networks of people they know and trust professionally.

**Reddit**: Reddit is a social news website and forum where stories are socially curated and promoted by site members. The site is composed of hundreds of sub communities, known as "subreddits." Each subreddit has a specific topic such as technology, politics of music. Reddit site members also known as "redditors" submit content which is then voted upon by other members. The goal is to send well-regarded stories to the top of the site's main thread page.

Social media plays a big role in our lives today. We have the access to any kind of information at just a button push away. Anything that is so vastly expanded has both positives and negatives related to it. The power of social media is very high and has its effects on each individual. It is difficult to imagine our lives with social media today and we do pay a price for excessive use.



There is a lot of debate about the effects of social media on the society as a whole. Some feel that it's a boon whereas other feels that it is a curse.

### **IMPORTANT OF SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Social media is the best platforms help its users to connect, share and give information and content to millions of others. The important of social media cannot be ignored since it plays a very important role in our lives today.

1. Building a brand: Quality content, products and services are easily accessible online today. You can market your product online and build a brand.
2. Customer support: Before buying and product or service customers can read the reviews and feedback and hence make a smart choice.
3. Social media is a great education tool.
4. Through the use of social media platforms you can connect with your target audience.
5. It is also a great way to access quality information.
6. Social media can help you to get the news and happenings in just a click.
7. Social media also helps you connect with friends, relatives and helps you make new friends as well.

### **ADVANTAGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Social media comes with a lot of advantages in fact we can owe a substantial part of our society's growth to social media. We have witnessed a blast of information and content in last few years and cannot deny the power of social media in our lives.

Social media is widely used to create awareness for causes that are important for the society. Social media can also help many noble causes run by NGOs and other social welfare societies. Social media can also aid government in other agencies in spreading awareness and also fight crime. For many businesses social media is strong tool for business promotion and marketing.



Many communities are built through social media platforms which are essential for our society's growth.

### **DISADVANTAGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Social media is considered as one of the most harmful elements that we have in our lives these days. These are many disadvantages of social media like:

1. Cyberbullying: many children have become the victim of cyberbullying that has caused them a lot of harm.
2. Hacking: The loss of personal data that can lead to security issues. There are crimes like identity theft and bank details theft that can harm any individual.
3. Addiction: Prolonged use of social media can lead to addiction in youth. Addiction causes to lose focus of other important things like studying etc. People get so absorbed that they get cut off from the society and harm their personal lives.
4. Scams: Many predators are looking for vulnerable users that they can scam and make profit off.
5. Relationship frauds: Honey traps and MMS porn are the most caused frauds online. People are lured in to relationships and love schemes and then they are cheated on.
6. Health issues: The excess use of social media can affect your physical and mental health in a big way. People often complaint of becoming lazy, fat, itchy eyes, loss of vision and stress issues after excessive use.
7. Loss of social and family life: Everyone busy on phone is one of the most common sites in as family gathering nowadays.

### **Meaning of freedom of speech and Expression:**

The freedom of speech and expression provided under article 19(1) (a), means the right to speak and to express one's opinions by words of mouth, writing, printing, pictures or in any other manner. It is to express one's convictions and opinions or ideas freely, through any



communicable medium or visible representation, such as, gesture, signs and the like. It means to freely propagate, communicate or circulate one's opinion or views. Liberty to express opinions and ideas without hindrance and especially without fear of punishment plays significant role in the development of that particular society and ultimately for that state.

Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India guarantees to all its citizens the right to freedom of speech and expression. The law states that "all citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression". Under Article 19(2) "reasonable restrictions can be imposed on the exercise of this right for certain purposes.

The essence of free speech is the ability to think and speak freely and to obtain information from others through publication and public discourse without fear of retribution, restriction or repression by the government. It is through free speech people could come together to achieve political influence to strengthen their morality and to help others to become moral and enlightened citizen.

Freedom of speech is guaranteed not only by the constitution or statutes of various states but also by various international conventions like Universal Declaration of Human Rights, European convention on Human Right and fundamental freedoms, international Covenant on Civil and Political Right etc. These declarations expressly talk about protection of freedom of speech and expression.

Social media through people can reply or answer the criticism against One's views so social media is include Article 19(1)(a) Freedom of speech and expression and people can use their right and give some opinion through social media. In also included the freedom of communication and the right to propagate or publish opinion. But this right is subject to reasonable restrictions being imposed under Article 19(2). Free expression cannot be equated of confused with a license to make unfounded and irresponsible allegations against the judiciary.

### **Contain of the freedom speech and expression:**



8. Right to know and to obtain information.
9. Right of the Citizens to Know the Antecedents of the Candidates at Election.
10. Right to Reply or Answer the Criticism against One's Views.
11. Right of Silence – Right not to speak
12. Right Against Sound pollution
13. Freedom of press.

Social media has become a vital communications tool through which individuals can exercise their right of freedom of expression and exchange information and ideas. In the past year a growing movement of people around the world has been witnessed who are advocating for change, justice, equality, accountability of the powerful and respect for human rights. In such movement's Social media has often played a key role by enabling people to connect and exchange information instantly and by creating a sense of solidarity. The UN Human Rights Committee has also tried to give practical application to freedom of opinion and expression in the radically altered media landscape, the centre stage of which is occupied by the internet and mobile communication. Describing new media as a global network to exchange ideas and opinions that does not necessarily rely on the traditional mass media, the Committee stated that the states should take all necessary steps to foster the independence of these new media and also ensure access to them. Moreover, Article 19 of the UDHR and Article 19 (2) of the ICCPR also provides for freedom of speech and expression even in case of Social media. Thus it is seen that freedom of speech and expression is recognized as a fundamental right in whatever medium it is exercised under the Constitution of India and other international documents. And in the light of the growing use of social media as a medium of exercising this right, access to this medium has also been recognized as a fundamental human right.

## **IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON VARIOUS FIELDS:**

### **1. IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON EDUCATION**





At the present time 90% of college students use social networks. Technology has shown a rapid development by introducing communication devices and we can use these communication devices for innovative way. Students should be taught to use this tool in a better way in the educational classes. Media just being used for massaging or texting rather than they should learn to figure out how to use these media for good. Social media has increased the quality and rate of collaboration for students. With the help of social media students can easily communicate or share information quickly with each through various social site like Facebook, Orkut and Instagram etc. It is also important for students to do some practical work instead of doing paper work.

#### **POSITIVE EFFECT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON EDUCATION:**

1. Social media gives a way to the students to effectively reach each other in regards to class ventures, bunch assignment or for help on homework assignment.
2. Many of the students who do not take an interest consistently in class might feel that they can express their thoughts easily on social media.
3. Teachers may post on social media about class activities, school events, homework assignments which is very useful to them.
4. Social media marketing has been emerging in career option. Social media marketing prepares young workers to become successful marketers.
5. The access of social media provides the opportunity for educators to teach good digital citizenship.

#### **NEGATIVE EFFECT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON EDUCATION:**

1. The negative effect of social media is the kind of distraction to the students present in the class. As teachers were not able to recognize who is paying attention in the classroom.
2. Social media in education is the privacy issues like posting personal information on online sites.



3. There were many information posted which may lead the students to the wrong side.
4. Because of social media students lose their ability to engage themselves for face to face communication.
5. Many of the people posts wrong information on social sites which leads the education system to failure.

## **2. IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON BUSINESS**

Social media is the new buzz area in marketing that includes business, organizations and brands which helps to create news, make friends, make connections and make followers. Business use social media to enhance on organization's performance in various ways such as to accomplish business objectives, increasing annual sales of the organization. Social media provides the benefit as a communication platform that facilitates two way communications between a company and their stock holders. Business can be promoted through various social networking sites. Some organization promotes their business by giving advertisement on the social media in order to attract maximum users of customers. Customers can connect and interact with business on a more personal level by using social media. Social media may help the organization to develop the existing brand and give the business a voice. With the help of social media organization can make their strategy to promote their organization.

### **POSITIVE EFFECT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON BUSINESS:**

1. Social media helps to better understand their customer by their likes and dislikes.
2. It helps the business for promotional activities.
3. Social networking sites helps to make new customers by providing useful facilities.
4. With the help of social media to increase awareness among brands and make their independent business strategy.

### **NEGATIVE EFFECT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON BUSINESS:**

1. In the business field social media is not entirely risk free because many of the people are free to post their opinion on a particular organization. It's a very bad effect on business.



2. Many of the organization have fallen victim to the hackers.
3. In business many organization can post famous brand items and there is chance for duplication and cheating.
4. Social media is very time consuming and costly. An organization assigns a person to always bolster your pages and profile with significant substance.
5. Many businesses have difficulty to measuring the result of social media advertising.

### **3. IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON SOCIETY:**

We all are aware of social media that has very wide impact on our society. Many of the social media sites are most famous on the web. Some social media sites have transformed the way where people communicate on the web. Social networking sites render the opportunity for people to reconnect with their old friends, colleagues and mates. It also helps people to make new friends, share comments, pictures, audios, videos amongst them. Social media also changes the life style of society very fast.

#### **POSITICE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON SOCIETY:**

1. Social media helps to meet people they may not have met outside the people.
2. It also helps to share ideas, views and their thoughts beyond the all over the world.
3. It provides oppportunity for all writers and bloggers to connect with their clients.
4. Social networking sites is it unite people on a good platform for the achievement of their specific goals. This brings positive change in the society.
5. Social media provides awareness among society and the helps of social media the society to be up to date with the current information and issued.

#### **NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON SOCIETY:**

1. The main negative effect of social media is that it make people physically and mentally depended to another.



2. People spend their valuable time in social networking sites which can divert the concentration and focus from the particular work.
3. Social media can easily effect the kids, the reason is sometimes people shares photos, videos on media that contain violence and negative things which can affect the behavior of kids or teenagers.
4. It also misuse the society by interfere on people's privacy.
5. Social life like family ones also weakens as people spend more time connecting to new people.

### **CONCLUSION:**

At the present time is technology time. Technology growing day to day and therefore the technology is growing the social media has become the routine for each and every person. With various field social media impact is different on people. Social media has various merits but is also has some demerits which affect people negatively. So use of social media is beneficial but should be used in a limited way without depends on another. There are no doubt both positive and negative aspects but users should use their own discretion on the usage of social networking. As a student you must balance everything like studies, sports and social media properly to live a fuller life.

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