

## THE IMPACT OF FACEBOOK ON SOCIAL, FAMILY RELATIONS: PALESTINIAN FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

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A B S T R A C T	K E Y W O R D S
<p>The study aimed to know the positive and negative effects of Facebook on the social and family relations of Palestinian youth by measuring a number of variables, by asking a number of questions in a questionnaire published on social networking sites. It reached a number of 200 Palestinian youth. The questionnaire as a tool for collecting data from the study sample, and this study belongs to the descriptive survey studies. The results of the study concluded that entertainment is the highest motive for a share of the motives for the study sample to use Facebook, and then to keep up with political events firsthand, in addition to that more than half of the sample prefer to follow Facebook in the evening period, finally, according to 66% of the respondents that Facebook contributes in family breakdown.</p>	

### Introduction

The means of communication have evolved with a series of developments, starting with the invention of the printer by Gutenberg, and then radio and television, leading to the invention of the computer during the past fifty years and the advent of the Internet and social media platforms, which made a major qualitative leap in many areas, including the impact on societies, leading to the naming of this The era of the information age. [1], [2]This technical revolution did not pass on the people without making changes that included all levels and fields, and among the radical changes brought about by the accelerating technological revolution was in the level of social and family relations, and the change of the form of classic relationships to virtual relationships, and the change in the form and how to build ties and the social fabric, as it created platforms Social communication is a new door in the framework of the formation of social relations, and it greatly affected them, whether from a positive or negative side.[3], [4] According to a [5] social media is a double-edged sword that has positive and negative effects on society and the family, and the Arab family may be negatively affected more than others because Arab societies are still not prepared to bear the consequences of technical development, and that there are dangers to social media on the role of the family, as it has become a partner in the process of socialization, and has an impact on dismantling family ties and changing patterns of social relations within the family and in society in general, and as a result of the effects of social media Positive and negative together, as the study [6] showed that the use of Facebook and Twitter did not have a negative

impact On the one hand, the respondents complain about the family's use of Facebook and Twitter by about 70% of the sample size. Social relations also occupy a wide space in the thinking of researchers and educators, as the social networking platforms that created relationships and a virtual space forced researchers to search for an answer to questions that are reflected in whether the spread of virtual relationships resulting from the use of the Internet negatively affects traditional social relations in the future. Or it may support and strengthen its links. [7] Thus, the current study examines the impact of interactive media on social and family relations to find out the positive and negative effects of Facebook on the social and family relations of the study sample, as social relations and ties are among the issues that receive great attention in societies. So this study seeks to reveal the role of interactive media in influencing social and family relations among Palestinian youth. Knowing the motives behind the Palestinian youth's use of interactive media, and knowing the positive and negative effects of interactive media on the social and family relations of Palestinian youth.

## **Significance of Studying:**

The importance of this study stems primarily from the existence of a desire and motivation to study the impact of interactive media on social and family relations in light of its wide spread in Palestine and the increase of its users on a daily basis, and to know the negative and positive effects left by interactive media platforms on social relations among Palestinian youth.[8] A modern topic that deserves study, in addition to the interest of research centers in these studies. In addition, this study is of practical and scientific importance, as it opens new horizons for researchers in this field, and gives them a number of ratios and results that facilitate the research process, and can be used as a previous study to answer new questions in this field.

## **Theoretical framework and previous studies.**

### **Symbolic interactionism theory.**

The origins of this theory go back to Herbert Plumer in 1937, who defines symbolic interaction as a distinctive feature of the interaction that occurs between individuals, and what makes this interaction distinctive is the response of individuals to each other with interpretation and interpretation and not being satisfied with an abstract response. The basic knowledge of symbolic interactionism is that people act on things based on what they mean to them, and these meanings are the products of social interaction in societies [8]–[12]-beliefs of individuals and others are considered one of the most important facts of daily social life, and they are built according to the meanings resulting from symbolic interaction. This theory is based on the definition that society is a system of meanings that are shared among people under what is called human activity, with the need to emphasize the fixed expectations and concepts produced by the theory. [13]–[17]The social and organic construction of facts takes place through symbolic interaction between people, whether they are individuals or groups.” In view of what came out of this theory, the researcher believes that the theory of symbolic interactionism can fall into the study, given that social media gives the individual new meanings, symbols and ideas, and explains to us The interaction that takes place between individuals through social media networks.[18].

## Thus we can assume:

- There are statistically significant differences, at the significance level  $\sigma < 0.05$ , between frequent use of Facebook and increased awareness among young people.
- There are statistically significant differences, at the significance level  $\sigma < 0.05$ , between the frequent use of Facebook and the strengthening of the bonds of relations with those who are far away.
- There are statistically significant differences at the significance level  $\sigma < 0.05$ , between frequent use of Facebook and escaping from family problems.

## Previous studies

Most studies and researchers confirm that social networking sites negatively affect family relationships and ties, and this is by canceling the role of the family in discussion and exchanging ideas and opinions and replacing it with another hypothetical domain represented in social networking sites, especially Facebook, which is now preoccupied with the exchange of ideas and opinions, as this has led This is to extract the role of the family in guidance and counseling. Accordingly, the study of Salloum *et al.*, (2017) entitled: "The Impact of Social Networking Sites on Family Relations - A Field Study on a Sample of Families in the Province of Medea", This study was conducted by Mustafa Sahari and Khairedine Bouhda in 2017, and was applied in Algeria on a sample of families in the province of Medea divided into 4 urban districts: Medea, Al-Barwakia, Bani Suleiman, and Al-Sawaqi, with 300 females from these areas, between the ages of 15 and 45 years. Tidal families, and the two researchers relied on the descriptive approach in the study, and used the questionnaire as a tool in data collection, and reached a number of results, the most important of which were: The most important negative effects of social networking sites from the point of view of the sample is that it leads to isolation from the family, as the percentage reached 38%, followed by feeling anxiety with a percentage of 34.6%, followed by addiction to the Internet with a percentage of 16.6%. In addition, addiction to social networking sites leads to a feeling of alienation, and this also leads to negative addiction to social networking sites, as this type of addiction is associated with a decrease in social interaction at home as well as a decrease in a better psychological presence, which increases depression, isolation and nervousness, which leads to It makes the individual separate from himself and from the real reality. The study of, Amin, Rezaei and Abolghasemi, (2014): "The use of social networking sites and its impact on family relations", was conducted in 2018. The study population consisted of 44 individuals. The study aimed to identify the habits and patterns of the university professor browsing social networking sites and to know the impact that social networking sites have on the university professor's communication with his family. The study relied on the analytical descriptive approach. The university professor browses social networking sites for long hours and at unspecified times. The university professor browses social networking sites to satisfy his social needs, which is to communicate with family and friends.[21] The university professor's use of social networking sites does not affect his relationships with his family members, but rather helps him communicate with them directly and indirectly. And references to the study of [22] entitled: "The use of social networking sites and its impact on social relations," "Facebook and Twitter as a model." And the motives that led to the female students' use of the Facebook and Twitter websites, as well as knowing the nature of this association and revealing its effects and ways to prevent its disadvantages. Social is used to express and express opinion on certain topics, to communicate with family and distant relatives, and to extend the bonds of friendship between friends.[23]–[25] From the foregoing, it was found that most of the previous

studies focused on studying the positive and negative effects of social media on social and family relations, and the motives behind the use of these means. Social media and its negative and positive effects have come to affect a large number of its users and the environment around them.[26], [27].

## **Social and family relationships**

Social and family relations are considered a form of social interaction between two or more parties, so that each of the parties has an image of the other, which affects the judgment of each of them on the other, whether positively or negatively.[8] Among the forms of these relations are family ties, fellowship, friends, And kinship, and acquaintances. Social relations are classified according to a number of criteria and their classifications differ from one thinker to another. Primary relations are also characterized by strength, cohesion and cooperation and prevail within small groups (primary groups) in which the focus is a grammar rather than an ego, which indicates the strength of belonging to the group, attachment to it and loyalty. she has.[28]–[30] Add to prevails within the secondary groups, which are those groups that are characterized by large size, weak direct personal relations, and the dominance of formal and contractual relations, such as the relations that govern institutions, associations, etc. Complex and heterogeneous, in which solidarity is called organic solidarity, while he sees that simple societies are dominated by mechanical solidarity and enjoy coherent, strong and homogeneous social relations.[25], [31].

## **Facebook with Family Relationships**

Facebook is the most popular and indispensable social network, which is preferred by many people, moreover, it can be used on many devices such as computers, tablets and mobile devices, all information about Facebook that has many features such as finding friends who have not Being seen for years, connecting with your surroundings at any time, Facebook is definitely a social networking site apart, because there is something for everyone in this one-stop-shop that caters to people of all ages, from all walks of life and from all educational backgrounds. Many people are actively using it through simple use and update. [29]As Facebook affects the interaction of the individual with others, by spending a long time on Facebook and decreasing his interaction with individuals who are in his real surroundings, and studies have shown that Facebook caused a lot of family problems that eventually reached the collapse of many relationships, as Facebook is considered one of Applications that pose a threat to the privacy of individuals, through the possibility of using images posted on individuals' pages or exploiting them for dangerous purposes, and the possibility of accessing the individual's personal information.[32], [33].

## **Research Approach**

The knowledge and study of phenomena and their characteristics is one of the topics that require a description of these phenomena and identification of their characteristics, and these phenomena are often studied through descriptive studies because it fits with the nature of these topics, including the study of situations, events and individuals and identifying the factors behind those events and situations, to reach for a better and more accurate understanding.[34], [35] Where the study followed the quantitative approach in reaching the objectives of the study, and the study sample consisted of Palestinian youth, represented by 200 individuals from different regions of the West Bank. While their age groups varied, the largest percentage was for the category between (18-23 years), at a rate of 82%,

i.e. more than two-thirds of the sample, followed by the category between (23-28 years), at a rate of 12.5%, while the category (more than 28 years) took The percentage is 4.5%, and the category with the lowest share is the category under 18 years of age at 1%. The sample of the study varied in its level of education, and the largest percentage was in favor of bachelor's students, who scored 82.5%, with 165 respondents, and in the second place were high school certificate holders with 9%, followed by diplomas with 5.5%, and postgraduate studies with 2%. and 1% answered otherwise. With regard to the place of residence, about half of the sample lived in cities, as the percentage of those living in the city reached 48.5% of the sample, followed by villages at 30.5%, then towns at 17.5%, and the least fortunate were camps at 3.5%.

### Discuss the Results

To find out the habits of following Facebook, a number of questions were asked, and frequencies and percentages were extracted to reach a conclusion about the habits of follow-up, in terms of measuring the impact of interactive media on social and family relations among Palestinian youth. This axis presents the results related to the second question of the study, which was as follows: **What are the motives behind the Palestinian youth's use of interactive media?**

**Table (1) most followed content for you**

Motivation	%	Repetition
Keep abreast of political events	%41.5	83
Formation of social relationships	%28	56
family communication	%40.5	81
economic goals	%8.5	17
entertainment	%69	138
otherwise	%26	52
total summation	%213.5	427

This table presents the results of the motives for the use of Facebook by the study sample, in which the sample members could choose more than one motive, and the largest share was for the entertainment motive by 69%, due to the nature of Facebook. The percentage of family members is 40.5%, and the formation of social relationships is 28%. This is due to the fact that Facebook is a social platform that provides its users with the ability to communicate, interact and form a network of social relationships, while the lowest share was for economic goals, as it did not exceed 10%, and about 26% of the sample. Their motives were different.

**The third axis: Measuring the negative and positive effects of Facebook on social and family relationships.**

**1: Negative Influences.**

**Table (2): shows the negative effects of Facebook on social and family relationships.**

Factor	%			R		
Do you feel that meetings with others began to decrease since the use of Facebook?	neutral	not agree	Strongly Agree	neutral	not agree	Strongly Agree
Use of Facebook reduced family visits	%15.5	%23	%23	31	46	46
Using Facebook leads to social isolation?	%13	%29	%19.5	26	58	39
I see that the social relationships that arise through Facebook are superficial relationships?	%13	%30.5	%20	26	61	40
Use of Facebook create a gap between family members?	%18	%21	%28.5	36	42	57
Using Facebook made me feel inner dissatisfaction with my father?	%14.5	%24.5	%23	29	49	46
Is the use of Facebook helps me to escape from family problems ?	%17.5	%59.5	%13.5	35	119	17
Facebook contributed to my disobedience to my parents and my lack of commitment to all my responsibilities towards them?	%15.5	%55	%9	31	110	18
Using Facebook leads to family disintegration?	%18	%64.5	%6.5	36	129	13
Using Facebook made me lose a number of my friends on the ground	%11	%23	%39	22	46	78

This table measures a number of negative effects of Facebook on the respondents and answers the main research question The role of interactive media in affecting social and family relations among Palestinian youth, and part of the third question, which is the negative effects of Facebook on social and family relations from the perspective of the study sample. We find through the table that more than half of the sample varies in their answers between agreeing and strongly agreeing A number of negative effects, as 66% of the respondents feel that Facebook leads to family disintegration, and 61.5% of the respondents believe that meetings with others decrease since their use of Facebook, and a close percentage also reached 61% who believe that the use of Facebook created a gap between individuals The same family, and at the same time the same percentage sees that Facebook relationships are superficial relationships, and this is due, according to the researcher's point of view,



to the fact that Facebook exists in a virtual reality that is unable to create trust between people as in relationships on the ground, and in the context of the negative effects of Facebook Also, 58% of the respondents believe that Facebook has reduced family visits, and the researcher justifies this by replacing family visits with communication via Facebook through voice and video calls or writing, while 56.5 see % of the sample that Facebook leads to social isolation and this may be due to the long time that individuals spend on social media platforms away from family meetings, while they declared their rejection of some negative influences by answering without agreeing with more than half of the sample as well, and among these effects the study sample rejects by 64.5% reported that Facebook contributed to their disobedience to their parents and their lack of commitment to all their responsibilities towards them, and in the context of talking about the effects related to parents as well, 59.5% of the respondents do not agree that the use of Facebook made them feel internal dissatisfaction with their parents towards them, and 55% of the respondents rejected Also, Facebook helps them escape from their family problems. As for relationships with friends, 57.5% of the respondents expressed their disagreement that Facebook has lost a number of their friends on the ground. This may be due to the possibility of continuing communication between them through social media platforms and organizing meetings on the ground. Thus, the study answered the question related to the role of interactive media in influencing the social and family relations of Palestinian youth, and part of the question Third, the negative effects of Facebook on social and family relationships.

## 2: positive effects

**Table (3) shows the positive effects of Facebook on social and family relationships.**

Factor	%			R		
	neutral	not agree	Strongly Agree	neutral	not agree	Strongly Agree
Facebook helped me to make new friends?						
Facebook a new type of social relations that can not be dispensed with?	%16.5	%23.5	%47	33	47	94
Using Facebook fulfilled my desire to communicate as a social necessity?	%23	%30.5	%40	46	61	80
Facebook shares in raising my awareness?	%20	%36	%38	40	72	76
Facebook helped me to strengthen bonds Relationship With my distant relatives?	%15.5	%9.5	%55.5	31	19	111
I learned a lot from other people's habits and useful culture on Facebook?	%18.5	%22	%49.5	37	44	99
Communication through Facebook is easier than face-to-face communication because it is not restricted to time and place	%16	%12	%57.5	32	24	115
Facebook contributes to accepting opinion and other opinion?	%12.5	%16.5	%52	25	33	104

Do you feel that Facebook is modern and keeping up with the times?	%25	%27.5	%38	50	55	76
Facebook offers models in successful family relationships?	%25	%21	%38	50	52	76

It is clear from the above table that a number of positive effects of Facebook were measured on the study sample, and thus we answer the part related to positive effects in the study questions. This is due to the huge pumping of data on Facebook, which contributes to raising awareness and forming attitudes and opinions. About half of the sample believes that Facebook has helped them accept opinions and other opinions. The researcher attributes this to the wide space that Facebook has granted to its users to express their opinions and the possibility of commenting and discussing. And interaction between individuals, while more than 70% of the respondents believe that Facebook contributed to their knowledge and learning of new knowledge and cultures from others, and in the context of the positive effects of Facebook, about 60% of the sample believes that Facebook helped them strengthen the bonds of relations with their relatives the distant ones, and the same percentage also sees that Facebook contributed to their formation of new friendships, and this is due to the nature of the space that Facebook granted to its users from the possibility of delving into virtual reality, so they Only 71% of the respondents agreed that communication through Facebook is not easier than face-to-face communication because it is not restricted to time and place, so Facebook gives its users the ability to communicate regardless of the spatial distance between them and at any time, and 49% of the respondents agree between agreeing They strongly agree that Facebook makes the family feel modern and up-to-date, while 21% of the respondents do not agree with that, and 33% of the respondents believe that Facebook presents successful family models, compared to 42% who deny this, and 44% of the respondents believe that Facebook satisfied their desire to communicate as a social necessity, compared to 36% who do not agree with that.

## Hypothesis Test

1. There is a statistically significant relationship between the number of hours spent on Facebook and increased awareness among young people, as Sig. = 0.025 and its value is less than 0.05, and the results showed that it is a direct relationship as the correlation coefficient = 0.159 (greater than zero).

Pearson Correlation	.159 <sup>*</sup>
Sig. (2-tailed)	.025
N	200

2. There is a statistically significant relationship between the number of hours that individuals spend on Facebook and the strengthening of the bonds of relationship with distant relatives, as Sig. = 0.078 and its value is less than 0.05, and the results showed that it is a direct relationship as the correlation coefficient = 0.142 (greater than zero).

Pearson Correlation	.142 <sup>*</sup>
Sig. (2-tailed)	.045
N	200



3. There is a statistically significant relationship between the number of hours spent on Facebook and escaping from family problems, as Sig. = 0.000 and its value is less than 0.05, and the results showed that it is a direct relationship as the correlation coefficient = 0.249 (greater than zero) .

Pearson Correlation	.249**
Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
N	200

## Results and Conclusion

The study aimed to identify the effects of Facebook on the social relations of Palestinian youth, as the results of the study showed that interactive media has a significant role in influencing social and family relations in various aspects, both positive and negative. Al-Asr, while about two-thirds of the study sample believe that Facebook has created a gap between members of the same family. Where entertainment is the highest motive, a share of the motives for the use of Facebook by the study sample, as it got 69% of the sample, and then in the next rank with 41.5% keeping pace with political events first, and in the third rank is family communication with 40.5% of the study sample. It was followed by the motive of forming social relationships at 28%, and at 26% for other motives, while the motive of using Facebook for economic goals was the lowest among the motives of the sample, with a rate of only 8.5%. Thus, more than half of the sample prefer to follow Facebook in the evening period. The study also found a number of results related to the positive effects of Facebook on social and family relationships, of which the highest share was in favor of raising awareness among individuals. Learning a lot from other people's habits and their useful culture on Facebook, as 72% of the respondents registered their agreement with that, while it ranked third with 71% of the respondents believing that one of the positive effects of Facebook is facilitating communication, as it is not restricted to a specific place and time, such as face-to-face communication. And in the fourth place was the formation of new friendships by 60%, and in a very close rank with 59.5% of the sample members agreeing to that, it was the share of strengthening the bonds of relations with distant relatives spatially, and in the fifth place by about half of the sample, the acceptance of opinion and the other opinion was by 47.5% of individuals. The sample agrees that Facebook contributed to their acceptance of the opinion and the other opinion. On the other hand, the results showed the negative effects of Facebook on social and family relations, so the researcher concluded that 66% of the respondents believe that Facebook contributes to family disintegration in the first place, and in the second place the negative effects of 61.5% of the respondents see that meetings with others decrease since Their use of Facebook, while its effect was to create a gap between members of the same family, and that the relationships that arise through Facebook are superficial relationships in the same rank with 61% of the respondents for each of them agreeing with that, and in the next rank more than half of the sample sees that Facebook reduced the number of family visits by 58%, while the aspect of social isolation came in fifth place, which recorded nearly 57% of respondents supporting that Facebook contributed to increasing social isolation.

## Recommendations

In view of the findings of the study about the positive and negative effects of Facebook on social and family relations, the following is considered to raise awareness of the negative dangers of Facebook, such as blackmail and cyberbullying, especially for the younger generations who are not properly

aware of the dangers of social media platforms, in addition to the need to exploit Facebook in positive aspects and create a generation Aware of the currents of the times and educating young people on the need for continuous family communication instead of isolation, for stakeholders to contribute to organizing seminars and lectures that explain and educate the younger generation on how to use Facebook in positive aspects and warn them of its dangers, and exploit free time by learning new skills available through the contents of the platforms Social communication, finally guiding young people on how to use social media platforms to spend useful needs in a way to control all that could threaten the cohesion of families in Palestine.

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