

Influence of Social Media Usage on College Students' Non-intimate Close Relationships

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Abstract

This study was an investigation of whether increased social media usage impacted offline interpersonal relationships of college students with their family and friends. This research consisted of an online study of 404 college students who were eligible to start and finish taking the survey. The concept of this study was the examination of offline relationships that counted as time spent with family and friends— a dimension that was seemingly not significant— and jealousy— a dimension that was seemingly significant. The participants of this study have shown that overall increased social media utilization appeared to have no impact on their time spent with family members and close friends offline. Participants of this study have also shown that overall, social media use did appear to influence relational jealousy of family and friends' posts that were made via social media. In this instance, the researcher found that the frequency of posting content to social media influenced being jealous of family members and friends' posts online.

Chapter I

Introduction

Over the past twenty years, technology has been at the forefront of society. Computers were introduced to the consumer market, then came along cellphones, tablets, smartphones, and speakers. All these new devices not only allowed for a simple call, text, or email, but also encouraged a form of communication and networking that was unheard of through technological progression (McIntyre, 2014). Building relationships in an online forum also became popularized with this communicative shift. Maintaining relationships offline so they are not weakened by online activity is a rising concern for many researchers when considering a young adult's advancement (Subrahmanyam et al., 2008). The Internet became readily available at the touch of a button and the ways in which individuals chose to engage with others took place more digitally. With this focus, social media began its tenure. There are countless examples of how social media has been utilized over the years and the impact it has left on the surrounding world. Taking a deeper look into what many have referred to as a controversial platform itself (Ra et al., 2019), social media has been what has kept society together despite not always being physically present. Not only does each platform build a community, but it maintains relationships in an online forum. However, the effect it has when it is not in use is what requires further examination. The question that derives from this phenomenon is whether the platform is a hinderance or serves as a benefit to users in the long run in terms of quality of offline relationships.

This proposed study seeks to improve the understanding of social media and relationships among young adults. More specifically, this study is an examination of the

link between how increased social media usage could be the reason for negative behaviors in interpersonal relationships. Along with this understanding is the ‘why’ behind young adults using social media. In conjunction with this research, it is vital to recognize the study of interpersonal relationships (Berscheid, 1994), the uses and gratifications theory (Ruggiero, 2000) and how it applies to Internet usage, why certain platforms are chosen over others, and how social media satisfies the needs of young adults. This study investigates these questions: is increased social media usage linked to relationship dissatisfaction? In simpler terms, could the frequency of social media use be linked to the reason young adults are not satisfied in an interpersonal relationship? relationships.

There is a list of reasons why this study is significant. First, while many studies have focused on social media and intimate relationships (i.e., relationships that consist of those with intimate partners or spouses), researchers have not placed as much focus on social media and nonintimate relationships (i.e., relationships that consist of those with family members and friends) even as usage continues to grow. Second, as family members and friends of all ages use various social platforms, researchers agree social media has brought and kept friendships together (Pouwels et al., 2021), but the question remains whether social media could be the reason for negative behaviors in these relationships. Third, researchers have not yet found if social media has a greater impact on relationship quality in short-term or long-term relationships (Bouffard et al., 2021). Fourth, since younger generations are seen as more digitally social than elder generations, it is vital to study if this increased digital social use is to blame for relationship uncertainty further leading to relationship failure (Farrugia, 2013). Lastly, academic

research on social media and interpersonal relationships is not as plentiful regarding how the platform could be a potential harm in maintaining such bonds.

Previous studies in the sectors of social media and relationships recommend more in-depth research of just how much of a role social media plays in creating negative behaviors in interpersonal relationships, much like what is studied here. Providing a better insight to this idea, Verduyn et al. (2021) questions whether increased screen time amongst a population means there will be a decrease in human exchange. Additionally, Dienlin and Johannes (2020) suggest “there is still no coherent empirical evidence as to whether digital technology hampers or fosters well-being” (p. 139). Kahlow, Coker, and Richards (2020) state more research is needed to establish whether social media, especially Snapchat and other communication-based platforms, enhances or deteriorates interpersonal relationship “closeness” (p. 6). This study is an attempt to fulfill such research requirements in relation to the interconnectivity between social media and interpersonal relationships.

The present study investigates the influence social media has on time spent with family members and friends. This study also investigates if increased social media usage influences jealousy of what family members and friends post online. One of the biggest findings of this study revealed that there is no significant impact between social media use and time spent with family and friends offline. Another finding of this study revealed that there was a significant relationship between social media usage and being jealous of family members’ and friends’ posts online.

Chapter II

Literature Review

Connecting with others in the online realm is undoubtedly one of the easiest and most convenient ways for individuals to communicate in today's world. Web-based applications have been specifically designed for users to stay in touch with peers and the surrounding world with a simple click of a button. While many applications have been created to allow utilization (i.e., posts, comments, likes, shares, or direct messages), not everything that is done on a smartphone, tablet, or computer of any sort is considered engaging with social media. For instance, sending an email, making a phone call, or responding to text messages does not constitute as engagement on social platforms. Boyd and Ellison (2007) state social media allows for a "public or semi-public profile within a bounded system, articulate a list of other users whom they share a connection, and view and traverse their list of connections and those made by others within the system" (p. 211). For a better understanding, social platforms are those which allow individuals to create private or public profiles, build a following base of individuals which may be known or unknown to them, and visit other profiles that have been created through the application. In addition to having concrete knowledge about social media, one must also know how platforms have advanced and what more it adds to formal communication methods.

What is Social Media?

Social media is one of the most widespread platforms in this age due to the rise in technology over the past two decades alone. At the most basic level, social media is used on a day-to-day basis, but how exactly could the innovation be defined? Sajithra and

Patil (2013) state the phenomenon “is an extension and explosion of traditional word of mouth networks” (p. 69). Furthering this statement, Richard (2021) defines the innovation as one where individuals are allowed to “create content, share it, bookmark it and network at a prodigious rate” (p. 33). With the many tools and ways to publish content that are made readily available at an individual’s fingertips, accessibility is also an advantage social media has. While it is popular to engage in social media on a phone-based application, users could also access each platform over the internet (Kietzmann et al., 2011). More simply put, if a cellphone is not the most feasible device to participate in online engagement, accessing such platforms on another form of technology is also common.

The elder generation is less likely to participate in online engagement. This is the reason for the focus on adolescents and young adults in this regard. This target population has the tendency to repeat, or feel, the same things that have been shown online in the real world regardless of what type of behavior or response it may be (Nesi et al., 2018). For example, jealousies that are created digitally are likely to become traits shown offline (Nesi et al., 2018). Monitoring social media’s effects has the potential of promoting future positive behaviors both online and offline. Through studying social media, society must know an elder form of media once existed and was as “new” as consumers made it. Traditional (older) media was once the way for individuals to stay in the know about things happening around them before digital platforms took off.

Out with Traditional Media

Although the generalizations focus on social media and its relevance in society, it is imperative to highlight traditional media in this research. Traditional media is the very

start of how mass media even began. For newer generations, traditional media is not as popular as social media. However, for elder generations, traditional media was at some point a way of life for many who wished to send any form of message and still is. So, what is traditional media anyway? Traditional media is the older media that existed prior to the introduction of digital and social media. Examples of traditional media include radio, film and television, newspapers, and mail. While this form of media still exists, it is not as common as it was before social media took the main stage (Bruhn, Schoenmueller, & Schäfer, 2012). Traditional media has also decreased not only due to the introduction and steady use of social media, but because the Internet allows for communication to reach a wider audience than older media (Mangold & Faulds, 2009).

User-generated Content

One of the biggest philosophies to understand when discussing social media is what encourages users to create and share their own digital material. User-generated content (UGC) has existed as long as social media has and should not be left out of the equation. Moreover, user-generated content is the mechanism that grants users the ability to “publish their own diaries on their own websites, post photos or videos, express opinions, meet other users and establish communities based on shared interests” (Leung, 2009, p. 1328). User-generated content is sure to grow as much as social media will.

As it may seem simple to identify which social media websites allow for user-generated content, it is best to clearly define which ones offer this option most effectively in today’s realm. These web pages include, but are not limited to, MySpace, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, Snapchat, and Facebook, along with countless others. Of this list, MySpace and Facebook are the eldest of the other platforms; however, their

continued existence still serves its purpose in giving users a chance to post information that is share-worthy.

Social media users consistently post photos, videos, and blogs about their favorite television series, family and friends, musical tastes, cutest dogs or animals, food, traveling experiences, or even different sporting events. Sharing such information is not uncommon but sharing this type of information on a seemingly public stage for hundreds or even thousands to see is the motivation behind producing user-generated content (Daugherty et al., 2008). Before social media was introduced, messages were still shared, but more traditionally. Content may not have been shared through an online forum, but there was still mail or conversing amongst peers. Extending these ideas, this content was further shared in other conversations that led to more individuals knowing of what was at hand. The Internet and social media came along to boost this concept. To the present day, after much research and consideration has been done, it is agreeable that social media and user-generated content work together simultaneously to ensure the success and increase in social media usage.

A Deeper Look into Web 2.0

In conjunction with social media (new media) and user-generated content, Web 2.0 is introduced. Murugesan (2007) states Web 2.0 was designed to have an impact on “emphasizing peers’ social interaction and collective intelligence” (p. 34). With this sort of connection, users actively participate and engage in posts that are made and published by other users. Murugesan (2007) also states Web 2.0 “presents new opportunities for leveraging the Web and engaging its users more effectively” (p. 34). Lin (2007) suggests

websites that encourage users to publish material and receive engagement or engage with others (user-generated) is a Web 2.0 application.

The desire to participate in utilizing Web 2.0 is one with many facets. One set of reasons for partaking in social media or Web 2.0 that should be highlighted is the need to interact with other individuals who have similar likes or to build a sense of affiliation (Grabner-Kräuter, 2009). At a basic level, users could simply think technology is cool and social websites are being used by a significant number of surrounding peers, so conforming to this behavioral pattern is almost inevitable.

Granted Web 2.0 has a plethora of success as anything else that is web-based, but the contraption has its list of failures as it relates to tying the idea in to nonintimate relationships. Explaining this statement more extensively, Reeves (2009) affirms social websites assist in maintaining mortal relationships but “will never replace the human connections that underlie the most powerful education” (p. 89). Researchers agree social media was built based on creating and keeping relationships, but it was not designed to completely diminish interactions with other individuals. The human relationships that are already built outside of utilizing the Internet should not be avoided or lost due to relationships that are created online.

Society has given Web 2.0 many accolades in terms of keeping everyone updated with matters and encouraging relationships, so it is necessary to study the reverse consequence, if any, of this. Belk (2014) warns users that different forms of sharing through Web 2.0 sites transforms the way different human relationships are perceived. Sharing and site utilization are unique aspects of social media participation. Each user has different goals and reasons for actively engaging in online platforms and how it satisfies

their needs. The uses and gratifications theory provides logical explanations for why and how users participate in social media.

The Uses and Gratifications Theory

Undoubtedly, the uses and gratifications theory (UGT) in mass communication research could be the potential framework in describing how social media is a preferred method of media to use over others for many users. The theory provides insights into how social media is sought out and how it gratifies the audience (Newhagen & Rafaeli, 1996). The theory was first formally introduced in 1974 by JG Blumler and Elihu Katz to explain such media usage. The term was coined years before and minimal research was comprised on the subject in the mid-1900s (Ruggiero, 2000). The uses and gratifications theory is defined as “the way in which individuals use communications, among other resources in their environment, to satisfy their needs and to achieve their goals” (Katz, Blumler, & Gurevitch, 1973, p. 510). In a simpler context, the uses and gratifications theory is best explained as why individuals actively seek out certain media to fulfill their demands and attain their aspirations. Along with fulfilling demands of media consumers comes satisfaction. Once the demands of the consumer have been met, the user is gratified (pleased) with their media use. The term ‘active’ is another term that relates to the audience itself that will be elaborated on in the next section.

The uses and gratifications theory can be associated with social media usage in many ways. Since social media is the chosen media source that is examined for this research, an example of the uses and gratifications theory for this scenario would be how Instagram could be sought out over Facebook for young adults between the ages of 18 and 25. Each user would have their own set of needs for why the specific social site is

utilized and how it satisfies them when it is being used. The list could go on with why certain media is selected over another and how it satisfies the target audience, especially as new digital developments are introduced to the world. Vaterlaus, Barnett, Roche, and Young (2016) build on this theory in relation to social media usage by young adults with illustrating the network as one which meets their demand for communal and family relations. In a study concerning the uses and gratifications theory and why young adults use Facebook and MySpace, Urista, Dong, and Day (2009) found “all participants noted the capacity to stay in touch with friends was one of the most attractive features for using SNS” (p. 222). Countless researchers after this have agreed with the results of this particular study, even as more social networking sites have emerged.

The study of uses and gratifications can explain multiple desires for social media usage and how it is applied in communication. Papacharissi and Rubin (2000) discovered “when examining the uses of newer media, researchers have sometimes combined interpersonal and mediated motives” (p. 179). The researchers here articulate the grounds for the participation in digital platforms rests on communal and moderated leads.

Psychological Reasons for Media Usage

Typically, when one thinks of needs individuals have in life that are required, three of the most basic ideas come to mind: food, shelter, and water. Agreeably, for any person to live and function well, these three needs must be present in one’s life to ensure their existence. Social media and the theory behind uses and gratifications work in the same way. While there may be more than three needs a person has for social media usage— none being related to the basic needs of life to survive— these needs must be met to ensure the likelihood of them revisiting the site and getting a form of satisfaction

from it. Moreover, the needs for social media utilization could be viewed as the needs to keep social media “alive” and a functioning network. With this analogy, social networking sites are seen as the life that depends on “needs” to survive.

Scholars and the public have concluded that media fulfills the needs of consumers in different ways. All aspects of media usage meet mental, emotional, psychological, and physiological demands of the consumer. One of the emotional needs for social media utilization is an individual’s feeling of loneliness.

Social Media Insights: Who uses Social Sites

Mass communication research places high emphasis on social media usage in younger populations, yet a key principle in understanding which groups use social sites more is to look at usage from a broader perspective and study everyone who participates in engagement online. Adolescents have always been at the forefront of this rating and still hold the title of being the age group with the highest amounts of social media utilization, regardless of the site that is used. Perrin (2015) observed more than 75% of adolescents were to be expected to use digital media. It was most certain that almost all adolescents actively engaged online.

Of males and females, usage among this demographic has been striking. Perrin (2015) states before 2014, the female population was more inclined to engage in digital entertainment than male users. After 2014, Perrin (2015) found male and female users were almost equal in terms of employing digital sites, with the female population being slightly higher.

Adding more to this, Perrin (2015) discovered there were also differences in social media usage amongst “socio-economic” class (p. 3). Perrin (2015) made the

interesting find that “those in higher-income households were more likely to use social media” (p.3). Society places this stigma on those who are of the higher class that it is impossible to engage in any form of media because of their societal stature, but the opposite is true.

Auxier and Anderson (2021) have concluded “when asked about their social media use more broadly— rather than their use of specific platforms— 72% of Americans say they ever use social media sites” (p. 5). In this reference, the researchers focused on adults who were below thirty years of age. Compared to other age groups, adults under thirty utilized social media more than older adults.

In full, each demographic listed is part of the active audience of social media users. Each group connects with the media that is in use and connects with it whether on a personal, emotional, or mental level. Such audiences are to be explained further for a better understanding and connection of how active audiences grasp social sites while passive ones do not.

Active Audiences, not Passive Audiences

The uses and gratifications theory mentions the idea of media users being a part of an active audience and not a passive audience. The active audiences theory was first introduced by Stuart Hall as part of his encoding versus decoding model. This idea is a strong correlate of the theory explained, even at a more simplified level. Much like user-generated content and social media working together in a simultaneous manner, as does the uses and gratifications theory and the active audience. A concise definition of the two terms, active versus passive, is necessary to grasp how the term ‘active’ serves its relevance to uses and gratifications.

First, 'active' will be discussed and put into an audience (user) perspective. This term has many translations, but it will be interpreted on a research level. In media and communication research, active is used to describe the willingness to knowingly engage in any task that is media related. For instance, an active audience is made up of individuals who actively connect with the media in which they utilize and contend with (Kwak, 2012). This audience is also cognizant of their decisions to participate and engage with the media that is in use. Active audiences make their media selections based on their demands at the moment it is required. A great example of an active audience would be an individual planning to attend a concert of their favorite artist. This is considered an active decision that is made to attend the concert. Breaking this term down even more and tying it into the uses and gratifications theory, the active audience is one which makes an apprehensive choice in media to meet a concrete desire or want of self.

Conversely, the aim behind 'passive' and passive audiences presents a dissimilar take. Passive outlines accepting the odds of what occurs, whatever they may be, and not actively providing feedback to what is happening. Therefore, a passive audience is one which does not partake in the uses and gratifications theory in any way. A passive audience, then, counts as an audience that does not probe the media that has been seen or heard. The content will undoubtedly be received, however, the passive audience will put it behind them once it has been acknowledged.

After examining the two types of audiences more extensively, while both types of audiences could fall under being a social media user, it is safe to consider active social media users as members of the active audience. These individuals seek to engage in actions that require direct responses from the group in which exchanges are expected

(Trifiro & Gerson, 2019). This is a relevant observation in this research moving forward in understanding the participants that will be studied.

Media Habits in Relation to Social Media

The audiences, both active and passive, are significant when explaining the relevance of media habits. According to LaRose (2010), media habits are essentially “a form of automaticity in media consumption that develops as people repeat media consumption behavior in stable circumstances” (p. 194). Furthermore, a media habit is formed when there is persistence in media dissipation, which then leads to an assured practice (or habit) resulting in an imprudent routine.

Table 1.1 Social Media Utilization. Of American adults, the percentage of who utilizes each platform are as follows (Auxier & Anderson, 2021).

	Several times a day	About once a day	Less frequently	NET daily
Facebook	49	22	29	70
Snapchat	45	14	40	59
Instagram	38	21	41	59
YouTube	36	18	45	54
Twitter	30	16	53	46

Social Conformity

In addition to the uses and gratifications theory which explains why media is sought out and the satisfactions it provides to its users, the concept of social conformity is also best to explain social media use. Klucharev et al. 2009 define conformity as “the act

of changing one's behavior to match the responses of others" (p. 140). Coleman (2004) adds to this working definition of social conformity as an "alignment of people's thinking or behavior with a societal or group norm" (p. 77). Both researchers define the concept in accordance with one another by stating it insinuates the ways in which individuals change their behavior to match that of the behavior of others in a social setting. For instance, if patients at a doctor's office in a waiting room are prompted to cross their legs every time a bell is heard over the sound system and all new patients do the same without knowing why, all patients are participating in social conformity.

Social conformity could be applied to gratifications of social media usage. In this context, social media usage will be outlined as the number of days per week, number of sites used, and motives behind different platforms that are being employed. With the steady rise of digital technology and platforms, Wijenayake et al. (2020) contend online conformity occurs when "individuals are actively interacting with each other through diverse online platforms to satisfy their informational and social requirements" (p. 2). Thus, through online conversations such as posts and digital dialogue, one is engaging in online social conformity.

Intimate vs. Interpersonal Relationships

As explained, this research is the study of how social media could be the potential cause of negative behaviors in interpersonal relationships. As previous researchers have focused tirelessly on social media and its impact on business relationships or even intimate relationships (i.e., dating relationships or marriages), this study is designed to focus more on the impact digital platforms have on friendships and familial relationships to add a different perspective to what has been studied in the past. Taking this approach is

relevant considering the steady increase of social media usage among the younger adult population and how it affects the behaviors that are portrayed in the real world when offline with this group.

Examples of intimate relationships and even interpersonal relationships have been provided above, however, it is best to conceptualize the two for this research study.

Although an intimate relationship could be seen as an interpersonal relationship as well, the two hold different values in this context. For this study, an intimate relationship will be referred to as one that requires intimacy such as that of one with a spouse, mate, boyfriend, girlfriend, or the like. Researchers have compiled so many studies on social media and its impact on intimate relationships alone since relationships with intimate partners seem to be more prone to failure or negative behaviors than other interpersonal relationships. However, if the reverse is also true, it is vital to not only studying interpersonal relationships as closely as intimate relationships but examining interpersonal relationships of different age groups for future research to see if social media has the same ramifications on all age groups or just the younger population.

Next, it is important to conceptualize interpersonal relationships for a better understanding of what the term would mean for this study. An interpersonal relationship would count as a social bond consisting of at least two people. A bond in this condition could mean a small group existing of more than two people, or just two people, who consider themselves to be friends, family members, associates, co-workers, or others who comprise an individual's social linkage. Again, the same way an intimate relationship could be considered an interpersonal relationship is the same way an interpersonal relationship could also be considered an intimate relationship and should not be confused.

As the researcher studied nonintimate relationships, the focus of romantic relationships was not emphasized through this design. Instead, emphasis was placed on how social media impacted Non-Intimate Close Relationships (NICR) such as those with family members and friends to see if the same relational jealousies that arise in intimate relationships would arise in interpersonal relationships through social media usage. This study was designed to test the influence of increased social media usage on relationship quality.

There is, however, one thing that has been discovered through the study of social media. Findings indicate that social media has indeed changed the way the world sees relationships both online and offline (Quist, 2011). Snapchat has been one of the most sought out social media platforms in modern times. As this social network grows, more studies are being focused on how it is perceived in relationships as opposed to other social networking sites. Vaterlaus et al. (2016) found that some participants in their study rated Snapchat as one that “can be annoying if not ‘used correctly’” (p. 597). Vaterlaus et al. (2016) also found that the closest friends feature on Snapchat hinders relationships by creating some form of “jealousy” within that relationship (p. 597). In reference to this study, scholars measured jealousy as participants who were jealous of members they talked to the most on the application who became listed as one of their three closest friends. When the best friends list on Snapchat did not list a “romantic partner’s” name, participants admitted to being jealous (Vaterlaus et al., 2016, p. 597). If Snapchat could produce these types of results on its own, it is only a wonder what other social networking sites could potentially do to harm existing relationships. In comparison to the study mentioned, this study also placed an emphasis on jealousy. The degree to which

jealousy was examined in the present study is whether participants were jealous of their family or close friends' posts on social media.

Even in modern times, social media usage has increased sporadically. The past three years have spiked this growth more as more citizens have been forced to stay home amid the global pandemic. The coronavirus has also been the reason for a recent growth in digital platforms being used as the world heals from the virus.

Pandemic vs. Pre-pandemic Life

The coronavirus has changed ways of lives for all nationwide and will steadily have this influence as it maintains transmission (Pileggi, 2021). During the darkest hours of the current pandemic, citizens turned to the digital world for various insights to help them get through isolation times that seemed never-ending. In December 2019, the first cases of the novel virus began to run its course in Wuhan, China (Fauci, Lane, & Redfield, 2020). Schools were pushed to encourage learning at home or from a digital standpoint, businesses were forced to operate online, and any job that was not seen as “essential” was ordered to temporarily stop work.

While much of the nation was forced to work and attend school from home during the first months of the global pandemic, many turned to the Internet for a plethora of reasons. Most were introduced to Zoom around this time, which allows for scheduled video meetings as well as other networks (Archibald, Ambagtsheer, Casey, & Lawless, 2019). This explains how communication took place for work or school-related necessities, but the bigger consideration for this research would be how everyone remained connected when encouraged by the government to stay home. Aside from Zoom and other sites that provide for ease of communication through videoconferencing

being on the rise, the most popular social platforms in the market have also experienced a surge in utilization.

The coronavirus is not the only reason for a recent increase in social media usage. Following what likeminded peers do digitally is also a strong reason for the desire to engage online. When individuals are afraid of missing something their peers are first to see online, this contributes to the theory of the fear of missing out.

Social Media and the Fear of Missing Out (FOMO)

Much different than that of the concept behind social media usage and the global Covid-19 pandemic comes the notion of the fear of missing out (FOMO). In modern days, this approach has been used to describe how engaging with certain media or tasks is a result of what likeminded others are doing. Scholars have identified social networking sites as something that is capable of making users feel left behind by “resulting in feelings that they are somehow missing out” (Abel, Buff, & Burr, 2016, p. 33). Digital consumers, under these circumstances, are influenced to partake in social media due to their surrounding peers’ involvement in such digital platforms. Having peers who feel social media is something that must be actively used results in others joining in on using each network as well to keep up with what peers are experiencing online.

Research Questions

In essence, although social media has been one of the quickest rising platforms in the digital age, it has been the reason for a host of mental and emotional problems in relationships. Scholars have placed a high emphasis on how social media has had negative effects on intimate relationships, but less emphasis has been placed on the effects social media has on interpersonal relationships (Kahlow et al., 2020). Social

media has been used as an instrument which keeps individuals closer together and in the know of what likeminded peers are engaging in on a day-to-day basis, but it is also seen as a tool that minimalizes the face-to-face interactions that were once more popularized than speaking online (Khang, Ki, & Ye, 2012). In response to increased social media usage over the years, there is a greater concern of the platform being the demise of relationships. Former literature implies that social media is more unsatisfactory for society than traditional media, but it also allows for users to create and engage with others' content more. More research is required in this regard to get a better handle on the role that social media plays in creating negative behaviors in interpersonal relationships of young adults.

The purpose of this study is to investigate whether social media has any negative impacts on interpersonal relationships. There has not been enough research that has been compiled to show the ways in which intimate relationships are impacted by increased social media usage, so there should be a greater aim to focus on NICR consisting of family or friends. Through the surveying method, this study assessed young adults' need to utilize social media as a platform to engage with others in an online format, regardless of knowing the individuals that they engaged with or not. This study investigates the following questions:

- Does social media influence nonintimate relationships?
- Is there a link between social media usage and nonintimate relational jealousy?
- Do motives for using social media influence nonintimate relationships?
- Do motives for using social media influence nonintimate relational jealousy?

Chapter III

Methodology

Overview

This study used an online survey of college students to provide a better understanding of how social media is perceived as having a negative impact on NICR. A series of questions were asked via a cross-sectional surveying method to give a better context to whether young adult social media users thought the innovation negatively impacted NICR, family and friend interactions, quality or not. This work is independent of past research in the sense that it recognized NICR to be more than intimate or romantic relationships.

Participants

A sample of 404 participants were asked to take part in this study. Subjects were college students between the ages of 18 and 25 who were social media users. A total of 529 participants opened the survey and 524 started the survey. Of the 524 participants, 438 respondents completed the survey. 30 respondents indicated that they had already graduated and thus were dropped from the study. Of eligible respondents, 408 participants who were not listed as students who previously graduated started the survey and 404 finished the study. Participants were recruited to take part in this study through emailing different professors of undergraduate and graduate programs at a large southwestern university. Participants were also recruited to take part in this survey through being asked to complete the study in the university's free speech area on campus. Extra credit opportunities were offered to the undergraduate students who took and completed the survey if the instructor of record for the course allowed bonus points. The

survey was released via Sona, the university's College of Media and Communication's online study registration system. Students between the ages of 18 to 25, both male and female, were encouraged to participate in the study.

Professors of undergraduate courses on campus only offered extra credit, if allowed, as an incentive for final course grades to encourage participants to take part in the survey. No form of compensation, whether monetary or reward, was awarded for any participant's voluntary actions to actively participate.

Procedure

Since this study involved the use of surveying human subjects, granted approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) was necessary prior to creating and releasing the survey to participants. Surveying was administered via online format and taken over the course of two weeks. The variables that were being tested were time spent with family and friends and jealousy toward family and friends. Demographic questions were introduced, accompanied by questions being tested.

The proposed survey questions were statistically analyzed and tested using SPSS. The results are to be further explained in the next chapter of this research.

Social Media Usage

Social media, in this context, are outlined as the social networking sites (SNS) that promote user-generated content such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, and TikTok. As social media usage could lean toward passive usage, the focus of this research is of the opposite effect. In this study, social media usage constitutes as frequency of use per day, number of platforms that are used, and motives for using each platform.

Time spent per day was measured on a seven-point scale rating from never to more than 40 times a day (Van den Eijnden, Lemmens, & Valkenburg, 2016). The same scale was used to measure frequency of posts and responses on social media. Analysis revealed the frequency of social media use in relation to time spent with family offline ($M = 3.24$; $SD = 1.55$). Analysis also revealed the frequency of social media use in relation to time spent with friends offline ($M = 3.76$; $SD = 1.36$).

Number of sites were listed (6 plus an option for other) which allowed respondents to check all that applies to them. Different sites were listed, and participants were asked to check all platforms that they used.

Social Media Motives

Social media motives were measured at the nominal level. This scale included topics such as family or friends, interactions with others (i.e., likes, comments, or shares), posting content, news, or other. A seven-point Likert scale was employed rating from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree” (Luo, 2002, p. 36). The same scale was used to measure NICR jealousy of family and friends’ social media posts. Analysis revealed the motives for using social media in relation to nonintimate relationships with family offline ($M = 3.24$; $SD = 1.55$). Analysis also revealed the motives for using social media in relation to nonintimate relationships with friends offline ($M = 3.77$; $SD = 1.36$). Lastly, analysis revealed the motives for using social media in relation to nonintimate relational jealousy of family members ($M = 2.35$; $SD = 1.56$). Analysis also revealed the motives for using social media in relation to nonintimate relational jealousy of close friends ($M = 3.34$; $SD = 1.86$).

Each scale was built as a response to assess how active social media users respond

to their reasons behind using each site that is utilized and how it could be a potential harm to their interpersonal relationships.

Family Relationships Offline

Family relationships offline were measured using three survey statements that were computed into one in SPSS. These statements included time spent talking to family face to face (zero to seven-point scale), time spent with family playing board games (never to always), and time spent with family watching television (never to always). Analysis revealed the mean, standard deviation, and Cronbach's Alpha score of this measure as the following ($M = 3.24$; $SD = 1.55$). In relation to the measure of scale reliability, or alpha score, the subscale consisted of three items and the value for Cronbach's Alpha was $\alpha = .60$.

Friend Relationships Offline

Friend relationships offline were also measured using three survey statements that were computed into one in SPSS. These statements included time spent talking to friends face to face (zero to seven-point scale), time spent with friends playing board games (never to always), and time spent with friends watching television (never to always). Analysis revealed the mean, standard deviation, and Cronbach's Alpha score of this measure as the following ($M = 3.77$; $SD = 1.36$). In relation to the measure of scale reliability, or alpha score, the subscale consisted of three items and the value for Cronbach's Alpha was $\alpha = .60$.

Jealousy Toward Family

Jealousy toward family was examined as participants sometimes being jealous of their family members' posts online. The scale used was a seven-point scale ranging from

strongly disagree to strongly agree. Analysis revealed the frequency of social media use in relation to nonintimate relational jealousy of family ($M = 2.35$; $SD = 1.56$).

Jealousy Toward Friends

Jealousy toward friends was also examined as participants sometimes being jealous of their close friends' posts online. The scale used was a seven-point scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. Each measure for this study was created new to measure relationship quality differently than previous studies. Analysis revealed the frequency of social media use in relation to nonintimate relational jealousy of friends ($M = 3.34$; $SD = 1.86$).

Chapter IV

Results

This study was an investigation of social media and interpersonal relationships of college students between the ages of 18 and 25. The goal of research question one was to examine whether social media had any type of influence on relationships offline with family and friends of college students. Data analysis shows that respondents were 32.6% male, 65.9% female, 1.2% non-binary or third gender, and .2% preferred not to say. 79.9% of the participants of this study were between the ages of 18 and 24. Most of the participants were juniors (25.0%) and seniors (26.2%). 32.8% of the respondents also reported living in a home with their immediate families while 67.2% reported to not living with immediate family. For this research study, data analysis was mainly comprised of regression as a statistical assessment.

RQ1: Does social media influence nonintimate relationships?

Respondents were questioned if the use of social media influenced their nonintimate relationships. The aim of the question was to investigate if social media use had an impact on their interpersonal relationships with family and friends offline. Data analysis revealed that there was no significant relationship between overall social media use and offline interpersonal relationships of college students with both family and friends. However, data analysis revealed that responding to posts on social media per day showed significance on time spent with family offline.

Simple linear regression was used to test if social media usage significantly predicted relationships with family offline. The overall regression model was not statistically significant ($R^2 = .01$, $F(3, 402) = 1.37$, $p > .05$). However, it was found that responding to

posts on social media per day significantly predicted relationships with families offline ($\beta = .12, p < .05$). As the number of posts increased, time spent with families offline also increased.

Simple linear regression was used to test if social media usage significantly predicted relationships with friends offline. The overall regression was not statistically significant ($R^2 = .01, F(3, 402) = 1.87, p > .05$).

RQ2: Is there a link between social media usage and nonintimate relational jealousy?

Participants were asked if social media usage influenced jealousy of posts online made by family members and close friends. The goal of the question was to investigate if social media use had an impact on jealousy toward their family and friends' on social media posts. Data analysis revealed that social media usage showed a significant relationship with being jealous of family members' and friends' posts online. A further examination also determined there was a significant relationship between frequency of posting on social media and jealousy of family members' posts online. Data analysis also revealed the number of times social media was used per day was significantly related to being jealous of friends' posts online.

Simple linear regression was used to test if social media usage significantly predicted nonintimate relational jealousy of family members' posts online. The overall regression was statistically significant ($R^2 = .05, F(3, 402) = 6.92, p < .05$). It was found that frequency of posting content on social media per day significantly predicted being jealous of family members' posts online ($\beta = .18, p < .05$). As the frequency of posting content on social media per day increased, jealousy of family members' posts online also increased.

Simple linear regression was used to test if social media usage significantly predicted nonintimate relational jealousy of close friends' posts online. The overall regression was statistically significant ($R^2 = .03$, $F(3, 402) = 3.61$, $p < .05$). It was found that the number of times using social media per day significantly predicted being jealous of close friends' posts online ($\beta = .13$, $p < .05$). As the number of times using social media per day increased, jealousy of close friends' posts also increased.

RQ3: Do motives for using social media influence nonintimate relationships?

Respondents of this study were questioned if their reasons for using social media impacted their interpersonal relationships. The goal of the question was to examine if motives for using social media had an impact on relationships with family and friends offline. Data analysis revealed that motives for using social media showed no significance of relationships with family offline. However, further examination determined using social media to stay informed about favorite celebrities showed significance of relationships with families offline. Data analysis also revealed that motives for using social media showed a significant relationship with friends offline. Further analysis determined that using social media to keep up with close friends showed a significant relationship with friends offline.

Simple linear regression was used to test if motives for using social media significantly predicted relationships with family offline. The overall regression model was not statistically significant ($R^2 = .02$, $F(8, 399) = 1.10$, $p > .05$). However, it was found that using social media to stay informed about favorite celebrities significantly predicted relationships with families offline ($\beta = .10$, $p < .05$).

Simple linear regression was used to test if motives for using social media significantly predicted relationships with friends offline. The overall regression was statistically significant ($R^2 = .10$, $F(8, 399) = 5.23$, $p < .05$). It was found that using social media to keep up with close friends showed a significant relationship with nonintimate relationships with friends offline, and for every point the predictor increased, the beta score increased by .17 ($\beta = .17$, $p < .05$). As using social media to keep up with close friends increased, relationships with friends offline also increased.

RQ4: Do motives for using social media influence nonintimate relational jealousy?

Participants were asked if their motives for using social media impacted their jealousy of family members and friends' posts online. The goal of the question was to investigate if motives for using social media impacted jealousy in interpersonal relationships of college students. Data analysis revealed that motives for using social media showed a significant relationship with relational jealousy of both family and friends' posts online. A further examination also determined that using social media to stay informed about favorite celebrities is linked to relational jealousy of family members. It has also been determined that using social media to keep up with family and having it a part of a daily regime is linked to jealousy of close friends' posts online.

Simple linear regression was used to test if motives for using social media significantly predicted nonintimate relational jealousy of family members' posts online. The overall regression was statistically significant ($R^2 = .10$, $F(8, 399) = 5.21$, $p < .05$). It was found that using social media to stay informed about favorite celebrities showed a significant relationship with nonintimate relational jealousy of family members' posts online, and for every point the predictor increased, the beta score increased by .12 ($\beta =$

.12, $p < .05$). As using social media to stay informed about favorite celebrities increased, jealousy of family members' posts online also increased.

Simple linear regression was used to test if motives for using social media significantly predicted nonintimate relational jealousy of friends' posts online. The overall regression was statistically significant ($R^2 = .12$, $F(8, 399) = 6.86$, $p < .05$). It was found that using social media to keep up with family showed a significant relationship with nonintimate relational jealousy of close friends, and for every point the predictor increased, the beta score increased by .12 ($\beta = .12$, $p < .05$). As using social media to keep up with family increased, being jealous of friends' posts online also increased. It was also discovered that having social media as part of a daily regime showed a significant relationship with nonintimate relational jealousy of close friends' posts online, and for every point the predictor increased, the beta score increased by .16 ($\beta = .16$, $p < .05$). As having social media as part of a daily regime increased, being jealous of close friends posts online also increased.

Chapter V

Discussion

This study was designed to investigate whether increased social media usage was linked to increased interpersonal relationship jealousies and quality of college students. Although this study is a continuation of previous research on social media and relationships, it is different in the sense that college students' intimate relationships were not the focus. Prior studies in media and communication research placed high emphasis on social media being linked to relationship dissatisfactions in marriages, dating, and other types of personal relationships of different age groups (Sutcliffe, Dunbar, & El-Jarn, 2022). The component of this type of research that has been left unstudied is college students who struggle to maintain NICR offline due to their online usage and activity. As the study of online activity is vital to understanding the perceived implications of social media use, focusing on how online activity influences offline interpersonal relationships brings a better understanding to digital platforms and what positivity or negativity it brings in relationships with family and friends.

As formulated through the study of this experiment, the first research question of this study asked if social media usage had an influence on college students' relationships with their family members and friends offline. For this, the researcher studied offline relationships as something that was measured by examining time spent with family and friends watching television, time spent with family and friends playing board games, and time spent with family and friends talking face to face. In addition to studying offline relationships, the researcher also examined social media usage as how many times per day social media was being utilized, how often users posted content on social media per

day, and how often users responded to posts on social media per day. After regression analyses were complete, the researcher found that it appears that social media usage did not have an impact on offline relationships with family members or close friends.

Although it appears that overall social media usage did not influence offline relationships with family members, it does appear that when college students used social media to respond to posts per day, it was positively related to the amount of time that was spent with family members offline. So essentially, as responding to posts online increased, it appears time spent with family offline also increased whether it meant talking face to face, watching television, or playing board games. According to Auxier and Anderson (2020), “Seven-in-ten Facebook users say they use the site daily, including 49% who say they use the site several times a day” (p. 8). Therefore, it appears that this extends to NICR as well. Relating this to the present study, college students who use social media more may see something online about spending time with family offline even if it means playing a new game and may be inclined to try it with family members.

Next, the second research question is where the researcher took a more in depth look at if there was a relationship between social media usage and nonintimate relational jealousy. Relational jealousy was measured as the participants sometimes being jealous of their family members’ and close friends’ posts online. Here, study findings suggest that overall, social media usage appears to have an influence on the respondent’s relational jealousy of both family members and close friends’ posts that are made online. In addition to this finding, the researcher found that it appears that posting content on social media per day is positively related to being jealous of family members’ posts online. Explaining this finding further, since there is a seemingly positive relationship

between posting content on social media per day and being jealous of family, this means that as posting content on social media per day increased, it appears that jealousy of family's online posts also increased. Also, after the regression analysis was complete, the researcher was able to observe that there appears to be a positive relationship between the number of times social media was used per day and being jealous of close friends' posts online. This seemingly positive relationship states that as social media use per day increased, it appears that jealousy of posts made online by friends also increased. In comparison to romantic relationships, "anecdotal evidence from discussions with undergraduates points to a common perception that Facebook causes jealousy and negatively impacts romantic and sexual relationships" (Muise, Christofides, & Desmarais, 2009, p. 441). Therefore, it appears that this extends to NICR as well. For the mentioned study, jealousy is measured as being jealous of public posts from one's partner if both partners are not in the post. Similar to the present study, respondents seemingly show overall, social media usage is linked to the jealousy of family members and friends' posts online. The more college students used social media the more they could have seen family and friends posting on social media without them which is where the jealousy seemingly came from.

For the third research question, the researcher set out to determine if the motives for using social media influenced nonintimate relationships offline. Here, motives for using social media were classified under a few different categories by the researcher. Motives for using social media were classified as using social media to keep up with family; using social media to keep up with close friends; using social media to stay informed about favorite celebrities; having social media as part of a daily regime; using

social media to interact with others (i.e. likes, comments, or shares); using social media to post content, news, or other content; using social media to make new friends aside from offline friendships; using social media to browse other content and not post their own.

The researcher was able to conclude that overall, it appears that there is no relationship between motives for using social media and offline relationships with family. However, the researcher did find that there seemed to be a positive relationship between using social media to stay informed about favorite celebrities and relationships with families offline. Therefore, as using social media to keep informed about celebrities increased, it appears that relationships with families offline also increased. Continuing with the findings of this research question, the researcher discovered that there seemed to be a relationship between motives for using social media and relationships with friends offline. Additionally, the researcher also found that there appears to be a positive relationship between using social media to keep up with close friends and relationships with friends offline. Therefore, the researcher was able to conclude that it appears as using social media to keep up with close friends increased, as did relationships with friends offline. As found through previous research, young adults engage with social media to keep the relationships they already have that are offline (Schwartz, et al., 2014). Therefore, it appears that this extends to NICR as well.

For the final research question, the researcher decided to test if motives for using social media had an impact on nonintimate relational jealousy. As mentioned, motives for using social media have been outlined above along with how jealousy of friends and family members is measured for this investigation. For this research question, the regression analysis that was employed allowed the researcher to discover overall, the

motives for using social media appears to have an impact on nonintimate relational jealousy of both family members' and friends' posts online. More specifically, the researcher added that there was a seemingly positive relationship between college students using social media to stay informed about their favorite celebrities and relational jealousy of family members' online posts. Outlining this finding further, college students' jealousy of their family members' online posts could have derived from posts not being made about them but instead other people. Moreover, through regression analysis, it was found that there appears to be a positive relationship between using social media to keep up with family and having social media as part of a daily regime in relation to relational jealousy of close friends' online posts. Therefore, it can be concluded that as college students used social media to keep up with family and had social media as part of a daily regime increased, it appears that jealousy of friends' posts online did as well. Of the existing literature, it has been contended that "compared to other SNS sites, Instagram is based more on one's personal identity rather than relational identity" (Sheldon & Bryant, 2016, p. 90). Essentially, photo-based sites such as Instagram explain motives for using social media as something related to oneself, and personal motives for social media use have a relationship with the jealousy of family and friends' posts. Therefore, it appears that this extends to NICR as well.

The findings of this study were interesting and worth studying for clarity of how college students gauge social media and their interpersonal relationships with others whether offline or through online activity. Through studying interpersonal relationships of college students in relation to their social media use, the research that has been

compiled could be related to that of the research compiled for the study of social media and intimate or romantic relationships.

Implications for Theory

In comparison to previous studies of intimate relationships and social media use in media and communication research, scholars have proposed “other studies have suggested that excessive behaviors (e.g., spend much of the time in social networks) can predispose jealousy in romantic relationships, and as a result, relationship satisfaction may decrease” (González-Rivera & Hernández-Gato, 2019, p. 3). At a more basic level, increased social media usage in relationships with romantic partners (i.e., dating relationships or marriages) has also been studied and yielded a seemingly positive relationship to relational jealousy.

Through the findings of the present study, there seemed to be an overall relationship between social media usage and jealousy of family and friends’ posts on the internet just as there seemed to be the same type of response in romantic relationships. In this aspect, interpersonal relationships share similarities with romantic relationships when it comes to social media usage. The main difference is the type of relationship that has been studied in each individual study. For example, prior researchers have studied romantic relationships that have been defined as relationships with romantic partners in their studies. The current study focused more on interpersonal relationships that have been operationalized as relationships with family members and close friends. The results of the investigations from each study, however, have appeared to show the same trend across each form of relationship. With the results that have appeared to have impacts, we are able to next discuss the practicality of what should be done in the future to avoid

increased social media use that could become an issue. One of the main differences between this study and other studies focusing on nonintimate relationships is that they do not measure jealousy but rather social media use. In previous literature, girls “reported using social networking sites to reinforce pre-existing friendships whereas boys reported using them to flirt and make new friends” (Subrahmanyam et al., 2008, p. 421).

Practical Implications

For what has been examined and seemingly found in this study, it is relevant to discuss the findings in terms of implications for social media managers, mental health advocates, and even health professionals on college campuses or beyond. The implications for this specific list of professionals is for understanding students and young adults who may be in danger of overusing social media and what it could mean for their health if not handled properly before it becomes problematic in everyday use. In reference to social media managers, this research study is relevant to the overall nature of their jobs considering their overall duty is to oversee a company’s presence digitally. With this information, social media managers constantly search the internet and social media to make sure the organization which they work for is upholding a positive image online. Other duties come along with the title of being a social media manager; however, managing online presence relates most to this study since the internet and social media are heavily utilized. Tracking time spent looking through social media for individuals who hold this title is the first step in monitoring when, how, and for how much time each platform is used. Perhaps even minimizing the time social media managers spend online as much as possible could prevent potential jealous behaviors of coworkers and their posts online or other members within the same organization. Ultimately, the goal is to

stunt the impact social media plays in relationships even if it means from a business perspective. Along with social media managers using social media platforms less than what they are required to, it would be best for health care professionals to know how to properly assist patients or other people who admit to using platforms increasingly and showing signs of jealousies within the relationships they maintain. Health care professionals should be better prepared to assist college students who use social media increasingly as it appears to be linked to the overall jealousy toward both family members and friends' posts online. Health care professionals could also ask college students the number of times they post per day as the increase in posting online per day is seemingly a predictor of the jealousy of family members' posts online.

Mental health advocates and college health care professionals could also use the findings of this study to examine students' mental health across a college campus. These professionals could urge students to decrease their screen time and the amount of time they spend on each social media platform for improved offline relationships with their family and friends, especially since they are students and may be experiencing being away from home for the first time. Such urgences could also assist professionals in understanding if decreased social media use helps students more in the long run than increased utilization. The next most important step in addition to this is recommending how to build upon this research in the future.

Limitations and Future Research

As expected, this research study does have limitations that should be discussed for future scholars to build upon and change when developing new designs. To begin with, one of the key limitations of this design was that it employed non-probability sampling,

making it to where there was not an equal chance that each individual of the population would be selected to engage in the study. Future scholars should employ more of a probability sampling method which would randomize the selection of participants in the sample population.

Additionally, along with the population of this research, only college students between the ages of 18 and 25 were the focal point of the study. This particular age group and sample is not the only demographic that utilizes social media daily. It is recommended for future research to study nonstudent social media users of a higher age who would also be considered within the age group who uses social media the most. Studying college students alone is representative of making predictions only about college students and not much of the adult population who is not, or has not been, a college student.

This study was also a cross-sectional design in which the researcher studied the participants in the sample at one particular point in time as opposed to over time. To make more conclusions and essentially prove the point that social media hinders interpersonal relationships of college students, future research of this topic should follow more of a longitudinal design to study participants over a longer period of time. Cross-sectional research also is not a study of causation meaning one variable is not the direct cause of the other, but rather, one variable impacted or influenced the other variable. Studying participants over the course of a few months would provide better explanations and proof to if social media is the direct cause of dissatisfactions in interpersonal relationships.

The last limitation of this study involves the ways in which relationships were measured. For this design, the researcher measured relationships as time spent with family members and close friends offline watching television, playing board games, and talking face to face. Future research of similar studies should focus on measuring relationships as how much participants trust or love their family members and close friends as opposed to just time spent with them to test the quality of each interpersonal relationship. Overall, the findings of this research offers information that could be used professionally and academically.

Conclusion

This research study provides insights for not only those in academia, but also those who specialize in social media and mental health professions. In reference to an academic and professional perspective, this study is a continuation of the examination of social media and relationships but from more of a standpoint of social media use and interpersonal relationships of college students between their family members and friends. The present study reveals that in this point in time it appears that overall social media usage does not have an impact on offline relationships with family members and close friends of college students. The present study also reveals that in this point in time it appears that there is an impact between social media usage and being jealous of family members' and friends' posts online. The results of this study have also depicted despite overall social media usage not having an impact on offline relationships with family members and close friends of this population, the frequency of responding to posts on social media per day seemingly had a positive impact on time spent with family members offline.

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Appendix: Survey Questionnaire

Social Media use Questions

1. How many times per day do you use social media?
2. How often do you post content on social media per day?
3. How often do you respond to posts on social media per day?

Social Media Platform Questions

4. Which social media platforms do you use (check all that apply)?

Social Media Motives Statements

5. I use social media as a way to keep up with family.
6. I use social media as a way to keep up with close friends (friends you spend the most time with offline).
7. I use social media to stay informed about my favorite celebrities.
8. Social media is part of my daily regime.
9. I use social media to interact with others (i.e., likes, comments, or shares).
10. I use social media to post content, news, or other content.
11. I make new close friends on social media aside from my offline close friendships.
12. Much of my time on social media is spent browsing other content and not posting my own.

Social Media Preference Statements

13. I prefer to use photo-based sites such as Snapchat or Instagram.
14. I do not use text-based sites such as Facebook and Twitter as often.
15. I keep up with more of my close friends than I do family on the social media platforms I use.

Jealousy Statements

16. I am sometimes jealous of my family members' posts online.
17. I am sometimes jealous of my close friends' posts online.

Time Spent with Family and Friends Questions

18. How many days per week do you spend talking to your friends face to face?
19. How many days per week do you spend talking to your family face to face?
20. How often do you spend time with family watching television per week?
21. How often do you spend time with friends watching television per week?
22. How often do you spend time playing board games with family?
23. How often do you spend time playing board games with friends?

Demographic Questions

24. What is your gender?
25. What is your age?
26. What is your classification?
27. What is your race?

28. What is your ethnicity?
29. Do you live in a home with your family (immediate family)?
30. How many siblings do you have?
31. How many close friends do you have?
32. How many of your close friends are active on social media?
33. What is the average income of your family's household?
34. What is your mother's highest level of education?
35. What is your father's highest level of education?