Studying the effect of virtual social networks on the family

(Case study: of the citizens of District 9 of Tehran)

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to investigate the effect ofvirtual social networks on the family (Case study of citizens in district 9 of Tehran).The research method was descriptivesurvey and in terms of purpose was applied survey,the population of the study have consisted of 165903 people from the 9th district. Which 384 were selected as samplesbased on the standard sampling table of Cohen et al. (2001).To access the sample, a multi-stage cluster sampling method was used. For collecting information, library methods and questionnaires were used.Cronbach's alpha was 0.82.To analyze the data and observations, descriptive statistics methods were used and one-sample test was used for descriptive analysis of the data and inferential statistics in order to test the hypotheses of the research.Finally, in studying of research hypotheses, the following results were obtained:Virtual social networks are effective on domestic violence, the contradiction between the values of parents and children, marital conflicts, emotional divorce, emotional and sexual diversity, and reducing trust and increasing misunderstandings.

Keywords: virtual social networks, domestic violence, the contradiction between the values of parents and children, marital conflicts, emotional divorce, emotional and sexual diversity, and reducing trust and increasing misunderstandings.

1. Introduction

With the arrival of new home appliances and technology, parents and children sit together for hours without saying anything.There are fewer families who can sit together and talk about family issues and ask the opinion of each other for different topics.These days, increasing the use of the Internet, and in particular mobile social networks,in spite of its beneficial uses, have caused family members to stay away from each other alongside the long-term employment of parents and changing parents' attitudes toward child-rearing. Despite the physical proximity and being with the family at home sometimes there is a great deal between mental and psychological distress, and family members have the least sympathy and dialogue.It has also caused harm in families, which along with other destructive factors in family relationships, has led to the weakening of the family foundation and the emotional divorce of couples and the diminished intimacy of family members and the expansion of the generation gap.

In fact, the main nature and function of the social networks is based on the interaction and the two-way communication between the users and this has raised its attractiveness.Because any person with a personal page on these networks can become a content maker in a multi-faceted environment with feedback.

Cyberspace is a new generation of social relations space, although they have not had much of a lifetime, but they have been able to become a part of people's lives.Many people come together in different ages and from different social groups in cyberspace, and communicate in real-world from long distances.Today, the Iranian family faces with satellite channels, cyberspace, modern media, etc., which each of them targets part of the process of influencing the family.The normalization of the betrayal of the spouses to each other, the normalization of the sex of the girl and the boy before the marriage, the promotion of unbridled families in the family structure, the promotion of the culture of white marriage, and are the common messages of these social networks (Shokrbeigi, 2912).

The consequences of the exposure of Iranian audiences to satellite programs have created a lot of concern for the experts' community. Many family and sexual health experts talk about planning for the cultural impact of these series in the normalization of couples' betrayal.

The expansion of cyberspace has also led to changes in the field of the relationship between children and parents such as decreasing of the role of the family as a reference, the reduction of parent-child relationship, the generation gap due to technological advancement,the disappearance of the sanctum between children and parents. The reduction of religious teachings in the family, the passage of the family from the law, the diminution of religious rights in family relationships are changes that occurred in the religious sphere in society.It seems that social networks are a space that can be exploited both negatively and positively. What matters is how to use these networks.

Now, considering what is being discussed in the blueprint, the main issue of the research is how is the impact of virtual social networks on the family?

2. Literature Review

One of the biggest social issues of modern societies is the weakness of the family foundation.Since the problems of families appears as social anomalies,family and health are very important.Preparing children for social responsibility is one of the basic duties of families.

One of the main contexts for family problems and, principally, dissatisfaction with shared life is cyberspace that has been affected by media productions and has led to increasethe level of expectation and satisfaction of common life, especially among younger generations.Under the influence of this space, what young people should expect from a common life is somehow distorted.

On the other hand, technological changes affect the values and norms of society.One of the challenges of cultures is to deal with this phenomenon.Since some of the elements in this phenomenon are in contradiction with the insider culture (Islamic-Iranian values), then it can be said that the Internet can cause a lot of damage.For example, entering the Internet in the family sector may change the value system in families.An experimental study showed that the use of the Internet by youthhas reduced the values of the family (Zanjanizadeh, 2005).

Also, the Internet has widened the gap between generations, and now the gap between the second and third generations who are interested in the Internet, is also appeared; so that no one understands the other.Today, with the arrival of new devices and technologies in the families, we see that parents and children spend time sitting together without saying anything (Rahimi, 2011).

Todays, the speed of technology has expanded thegap between the generation of children and their parents.According to the deputy of the Welfare Organization, the amount of dialogue among family members in the country is only about 30 minutes, which can be harmful.Children, compared to their parents, have different kinds of information, trends and behaviors, although they live in a cultural environment, many factors affect this phenomenon, and this gap is increasing day by day (ibid).

The Internet has been very much considered in immortal fieldas it facilitates the creation of friendly relations and the internet makes it easy to betray marital relationships and create illegitimate relationships.In 1999, a global meeting titled "A Bachelor for Children's Support against Sexual Abuse of Internet" was held, which resulted in the issuance of a resolution stating that "the more the Internet develops, the more children are exposed to its dangerous content (Akbari, 2011).

Today, the Internet has taken its place in social life, friends and relatives, and in fact, has replaced with friendly and family relationships."The results of Shanders' research showed that high Internet use was associated with poor social links.On the contrary, users who use the Internet less likely to be more involved with their parents and friends. "(Saborikhosroshahi, 2007).

Keshtiarai and Akbarian (2012) have introduced the new era as a fast-paced era of communication, and named the access to various databases and participation in economic, scientific, cultural, artistic, religious activities as specific characteristics of this era.

Yasminezhad, Azadi and Amoei (2012) concluded in their study that cyberspace could threaten social security, so today, the bulk of computer, Internet, and cybercrime offenses are targeting social security.

Two spatial disorientations of cybercrime: A comparative study of international policy is the research topic that Ameli and Hasani (2012) have done.The results of this comparative analysis show that policies and cultural and social programs of countries can be divided into positive and affirmative policies.

Hypotheses

1. Virtual social networks are effective on domestic violence.
2. Virtual social networks are effective on the contradiction between the values of parents and children.
3. Virtual social networks are effective onmarital conflicts.
4. Virtual social networks are effective on emotional divorce.
5. Virtual social networks are effective on emotional and sexual diversity.
1. 6.Virtual social networks are effective onreducing trust and increasing misunderstandings.

3. Methodology

The research method was descriptive survey and in terms of purpose was applied survey; the population of the study has consisted of 165903 people from the 9th district. Which 384 were selected as samples based on the standard sampling table of Cohen et al. (2001). To access the sample, a multi-stage cluster sampling method was used. For collecting information, library methods and questionnaires were used. Cronbach's alpha was 0.82. To analyze the data and observations, descriptive statistics methods were used and one-sample test was used for descriptive analysis of the data and inferential statistics in order to test the hypotheses of the research.

4. Finding

The first hypothesis: Virtual social networks are effective on domestic violence.

Table 1: Single sample t test

Variable	statistics t	Degrees of freedom	The significance level
Domestic Violence	39.41	383	0.000

With regard to the above hypothesis, since t is calculated (t=39.41) at a confidence level of 95%, ($\alpha = 0.05$), and the degree of freedomdf = n-1=383 is greater than t of the critical table (t=1.64), therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected (H0) and the research hypothesis is strongly confirmed by the data, so we conclude with 95% confidence thatvirtual social networks are effective on domestic violence.

The second hypothesis: Virtual social networks are effective on the contradiction between the values of parents and children.

Table 2: Single sample t test

Variable	statistics t	Degrees of freedom	The significance level
Contradiction between the values of parents and children	42.16	383	0.000

With regard to the above hypothesis, since t is calculated (t=42.16) at a confidence level of 95%, ($\alpha = 0.05$), and the degree of freedomdf = n-1=383 is greater than t of the critical table (t=1.64),

therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected (H0) and the research hypothesis is strongly confirmed by the data, so we conclude with 95% confidence thatvirtual social networks are effective on the contradiction between the values of parents and children.

The third hypothesis: Virtual social networks are effective on marital conflicts

Table 3: Single sample t test

Variable	statistics t	Degrees of freedom	The significance level
Marital Conflicts	38.13	383	0.000

With regard to the above hypothesis, since t is calculated (t=38.13) at a confidence level of 95%, ($\alpha = 0.05$), and the degree of freedom df = n-1=383 is greater than t of the critical table (t=1.64), therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected (H0) and the research hypothesis is strongly confirmed by the data, so we conclude with 95% confidence thatvirtual social networks are effective on marital conflicts.

The fourth hypothesis: Virtual social networks are effective on emotional divorce.

Table 4: Single sample t test

Variable	statistics t	Degrees of freedom	The significance level
Emotional Divorce	31.42	383	0.000

With regard to the above hypothesis, since t is calculated (t=31.42) at a confidence level of 95%, ($\alpha = 0.05$), and the degree of freedom df = n-1=383 is greater than t of the critical table (t=1.64), therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected (H0) and the research hypothesis is strongly confirmed by the data, so we conclude with 95% confidence thatvirtual social networks are effective on emotional divorce.

The fifth hypotheses: Virtual social networks are effective on emotional and sexual diversity.

Table 5: Single sample t test

Variable	statistics t	Degrees of freedom	The significance level
Emotional and Sexual Diversity	29.13	383	0.000

With regard to the above hypothesis, since t is calculated (t=29.13) at a confidence level of 95%, ($\alpha = 0.05$), and the degree of freedom df = n-1=383 is greater than t of the critical table (t=1.64), therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected (H0) and the research hypothesis is strongly confirmed by the data, so we conclude with 95% confidence thatvirtual social networks are effective on emotional and sexual diversity.

The sixth hypothesis: Virtual social networks are effective on reducing trust and increasing misunderstandings.

Table 6: Single sample t test

Variable	statistics t	Degrees of freedom	The significance level
Reducing Trust and Increasing Misunderstandings	41.16	383	0.000

With regard to the above hypothesis, since t is calculated (t=41.16) at a confidence level of 95%, ($\alpha = 0.05$), and the degree of freedom df = n-1=383 is greater than t of the critical table (t=1.64), therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected (H0) and the research hypothesis is strongly confirmed by the data, so we conclude with 95% confidence thatvirtual social networks are effective on reducing trust and increasing misunderstandings.

5. Discussion & Conclusion

One of the biggest social issues that today's societies are faced is the weakness of the family foundation.As family problems develop as social anomalies, family and health are extremelyimportant.The results of this study showed that the more people attend on social networks, the same amount is effective on domestic violence, the conflict between the values of parents and children, marital conflicts, emotional divorce, emotional and sexual diversity, and reducing trust and increasing misunderstandings.

Interactive and virtual communication technologies, especially "social networks," have a strong commitment to identifying individuals.Today, due to the increasing penetration of social networks, especially with the expansion of smart phones among people, it is impossible to ignore or eliminate the function of social networks as one of the social activators.Rather, it has to deal with this emerging phenomenon in a way that prevents different patterns and fundamental damage to the family institution that, if not taken seriously, leads to divorce among couples.The way to deal with the damage caused by social networks and to prevent the formation of the contradiction between traditional and modern patterns and values between couples is that the families themselves are fully aware of the existing patterns and values.

Cyberspace and Internet in our worldhave infiltrated the way that life cannot be imagined without it, but this space has caused several damage, one of the main causes of this damages is the change in lifestyle and the breaking of the boundaries of beliefs and values such as veil and vileness among our young ladies and girls;The generation that is supposed to be the generator and breeder of the next generations, and with changing in their identity can transform the identity of the Iranian generation.The West and the cyber-rulers have widespread plans to achieve such a goal.That is why the leader of the revolution says: For me the domain of cyberspace is as important as the extent of the Islamic revolution.Against this background, the authorities have several important tasks, including increasing public awareness, strengthening education and more seriously addressing the activities of the National Center for Cyberspace.In this case,virtual space can be used as an opportunity, without the threat of it becoming troublesome for us.

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