Teenagers on Social Media: Socialization and Self-Esteem
Clive Anderson Jr., Eknoor Johar, Jocelyn C. Key
Learning Community 04 Sociology 101 & English 101, Professors Antonio (Jay) Pastrana, Jr. & Christen Madrazo

Research Question
How does social media have a negative effect on the self-esteem of teenagers? [6]

Introduction
This poster discusses the relationship between social media and the positive and negative impacts on the self-esteem of a teenager. A person with an interactionist perspective would say that these negative impacts are not the results of social media itself; rather, they are the results of the interactions that people make while on these social media sites.

Background
The use of social media in modern-day youth is an ever-growing phenomenon, resulting in interest to want to discover the impact and grasp social media has on the youth. Others have researched a similar question through questionnaires that asked about the amount of time teenagers were on social networking sites and how it affected their self-esteem [4]. Questionnaires were also used to determine how cyberbullying on social networking sites affected teenagers [1].

Use of Social and Digital Communication Among all 13- to 17-year-olds, percent who have ever:

- Used any social media 90%
- Texted 89%
- Visited a social networking site 89%
- Used email 77%
- Used an IM chat 69%
- Texted in an online game 65%
- Visited a virtual world 38%
- Heard about or engaged in a video game 28%
- Written or commented on a blog 20%
- Used Twitter 27%

Note: Social media includes social networking, Twitter, blogs, and chatting in online games or school work.

Materials & Proposed Methods

Materials
- Internet.
- A group of teenagers (15-24).
- Surveys with questions relating to perceptions of social media.

Methods
- Conduct anonymous surveys.
- Ask questions related to the feelings of happiness and sadness due to the use of social media.
- Discover how many teens use social media.

Findings

Negative Impacts
- The use of social media leads to cyberbullying, which leads to depression, thoughts of suicide, and sadness. [1]
- “19% of youth between the ages of 10 and 17 had experienced cyberbullying either as a victim or offender.” [1]
- 17% of teenagers experienced cyberbullying over the span of a lifetime. [1]
- 5.7% of teenagers felt afraid to go to their computer. [1]
- Leads to suicide, which is the third leading cause of death among young people ages 15-24. [3]

Positive Impacts
- Helps those with social anxiety.[2]
- Gives freedom to express oneself.[4]
- Helps individuals interact with their sexual preference.[2]

Conclusions
There are more negative impacts of social media on the self-esteem of teenagers than there are positive impacts. This is due to the ability to speak without visual confirmation, thus giving an individual ability to cause havoc without remorse and therefore contradicting the age-old phrase, “Stick and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.”

References
6. See handout