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The Impact of Digital Communication Technology on Family Cohesion Dynamics: An Analytical Study in Light of Contemporary Social Transformations

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Abstract

Technology is a double edged sword that may be positive or negative this depends on the way it is used Although Technology it helped enhance communication between individuals through multiple applications it was improved from the life of the individual and facilitated many works send messages and call who is far away in seconds it contributed to the family disintegration and turmoil in relations between individuals because of it bad use.

Keywords: technology, digital communication, family cohesion

Introduction

The family is based on a set of relationships whose foundation is communication, which has become one of the contemporary social phenomena addressed by sociologists due to its role in social cohesion and building good relationships among family members. This has resulted from the spread of technology and its penetration into various aspects of life, impacting societal structures and social institutions, most importantly the family, which is the fundamental unit for building society. Technology has helped bridge long distances and interact with other cultures. It has also impacted relationships within the family, resulting in the emergence of family disintegration, isolation, discord, and the absence of dialogue and discussion sessions among family members. Family members, in turn, have abandoned their social functions and roles. The family now faces the challenges of coexistence and interaction with this world by raising children and preparing them to interact positively and consciously with these developments, with the goal of achieving balance in building successful relationships.

Elements of the Study

First: The Research Problem

Technology has become a reality that imposes itself forcefully on societies, especially after its significant increase in use due to its ease of use. This has led individuals to transcend spatial and temporal boundaries, creating social impacts on the roots of the social structure, affecting the system of social values within the family. Excessive use of technology has contributed to the weakening of family ties, the growth of individual conflicts, and the family's lack of dialogue. This has also led to a lack of time management and a failure to utilize free time. Consequently, the family suffers from a lack of balance and stability due to the absence of its basic components and the absence of consultation between them. The disruption of social relations between parents and children and the

loss of their control over their children has led to a decline in the process of social control, affecting the unity and cohesion of its structure and the awareness of the responsibilities of its members. Family cohesion is one of the important components that plays an active role in building human societies and has a profound impact on shaping human behavior. It preserves society's identity, strength, and unity, and drives it toward further growth and development, as it is a basic condition for creating a secure, harmonious, and integrated society. Family cohesion is evident on two levels: the first level relates to the spouses and what they provide. Tranquility, mercy, and affection guide children and correct their behavior. The second level relates to children. This is achieved by providing them with an appropriate environment for proper upbringing and satisfying their psychological, social, cognitive, and personal needs, which complements their psychological and cognitive balance and develops their personalities.

Second: The Importance of the Research

The importance of the study stems from its addressing a very important topic. Modern technology has led to the formation of social relationships in the virtual environment, diminishing the importance of family cohesion, leading to the emergence of social problems that did not exist before. Each family member now has their own world, far removed from the basic functions for which the family exists. Family members must utilize various awareness-raising mechanisms to mitigate the negative effects of this technology.

Third: Research Objectives

1. Identify the components of family cohesion.
2. Identify the impact of technology and digital communication on family cohesion.

Fourth: Definition of Scientific Terms

1. Definition of Impact / Linguistically, the verb "affect" means to have an apparent effect, produce an impact, give a positive result, leave a psychological impact, or create an impression and have consequences. Influence is caused by a factor or is exercised by a specific person. (1)
2. Technically, "effect" is the result of something, and it has several meanings: the first is the result, which is what results from something; the second is the sign, which is the characteristic indicative of something; and the third is what results from something. (2)
3. Procedural Definition / It is the impression or effect that an event or person leaves on the thoughts or feelings of individuals.
4. -2Technology Linguistically: The word technology originates from the Latin language, which is derived from the Greek word (techne), meaning art or skill, and (logy), meaning science and study. The meaning of the word is the means by which a person can achieve his goals. It is an integrated system of science, knowledge, and means through which the production process is developed. (3)
5. Technology, technically, is a social phenomenon in which a group of people participate in research, thought, discovery, and then application and acceptance. Its success depends on the ability to comprehend and respond by members of society. (4)

Procedurally: a set of tools, information, and means used by individuals to communicate with others.

1. Digital communication linguistically: The origin of the word communication in the Arabic language is derived from the past tense triliteral verb "wasala" and the present tense "yasul". It is said that something reached something or reached something, meaning that it reached it and reached it (1) Digital communication, technically, is the process of exchanging information and ideas between individuals using digital media, such as the Internet, social networks, or technological applications, whereby audiences can be reached across different geographical distances. (2) The operational definition is the exchange of information using electronic networks and digital technology, aiming to speed up the transfer of information and collective and individual communication.
2. Cohesion, linguistically: derived from the verb "to hold onto" (masak), meaning to take and cling to. (3) Cohesion, technically: a set of positive relationships and family rights among family members that enable them to perform their various functions, making the family a magnet for its members, or at the level of the nature of the family's offspring (children). (4) Cohesion, procedurally: a family's ability to communicate and provide mutual support among its members, which enhances family unity and stability in terms of love, trust, understanding, and working together to face challenges and achieve common interests.
3. The family linguistically: The family in the language is derived from the word "asr", which is the chain that binds the captive. It is said that "asr Yasser" and "sarah qayd" means that he took him captive. The man's "asr" means his "rahat" because he feels strong and protected by them. It is the man's clan, which are the man's relatives on his father's side. It is the impregnable shield that protects family members from any threat or danger (1). The family, technically speaking, is the first building block in society and plays an important role in shaping the character of children and shaping their behavior at various stages of their lives. Through the family, children acquire the general standards imposed by the prevailing cultural patterns in society. The role of parents in shaping the character of children is clear, as it is the primary role in the socialization process. Among the functions of the family are the educational, pedagogical, biological, psychological, and religious functions, as well as the transmission of heritage (2). The operational definition: It is the primary group consisting of the father, mother, and children. Responsibility is shared among them. They raise children in a sound social upbringing and contribute to the development of society.

First: Examples of Previous Studies

The Impact of Social Media on Family Cohesion

The study aims to identify the impact of social media on family relationships, the obstacles families face in guiding their members to optimally use social media, and developing proposed recommendations to regulate the use of social media to achieve family cohesion.

Study Methodology: The researcher used the social survey method.

Study Results:

1. The study results showed that 71.1% of the sample were males, and 45.8% of the sample in the 35-45 age group used social media.
2. The study results indicated that 85% of families face obstacles in guiding their children to optimally use social media. The most prominent of these obstacles is the ease of use and its widespread use among all groups.

3. The study results showed that 89% agreed with the proposed recommendations to regulate the use of social media, including enhancing the role of the media in instilling good values, spreading awareness of the importance of family relationships, and ensuring dialogue with parents. The study also showed the necessity of utilizing social media effectively. Positively

Second: The theory of the powerful influence of communication media

Communication media has a strong and direct influence on family members and has the ability to change attitudes, inclinations, and opinions to suit its users. This theory emphasizes psychological and social assumptions drawn from psychology and sociology. In the psychological field, they believe that individuals are driven by their emotions, which they cannot voluntarily control. If communication media can inject them with certain information, they will be directly affected by it. (1)As for the social aspect, they believe that individuals in virtual communities are isolated from one another and lack strong ties that unite them. If a particular problem occurs, there is no one to protect them from the influence of communication media due to the absence of these ties and social relationships. (2)

Components of Family Cohesion

First: The Social Factor

1. Educational Level: The higher the educational level of the husband and wife, the greater their sense of responsibility toward the family and their resort to alternative solutions to solve problems instead of divorce. This is because education increases the ability to understand and determine consequences.
2. Selection Criteria: Sound choice is the basis for achieving marital satisfaction. These criteria vary according to religion, culture, education, and money.
3. The spouses' sense of the importance of the relationships that unite them. The husband has ties to his family, and the wife has ties to hers. Each finds themselves building new relationships based on mutual acceptance and adapting to the new life, including its friendly emotions and mutual support.
4. The family's commitment to fulfilling its duties will promote cohesion and avoid problems that threaten family cohesion.
5. It is preferable for the spouses to enjoy residential independence, which is achieved through practicing a private marital life with a high degree of affection and freedom, and ensuring that their various needs are met to the greatest extent possible. (1)
6. Accepting differences: Marital life is compatible with achieving and supporting harmony and accepting differences, which paves the way for achieving family cohesion. Marital disputes appear in the early stages of marriage, especially in the first year. (2)

Secondly, the economic component

The economic factor is the foundation of life, and the availability of money helps solve the problems facing the family (1). Economic changes have increased people's desire for quick gain, which leads to preoccupation with this and neglect of some family matters, which paves the way for increased disputes. When the family is unable to provide for its members' material needs, it will be exposed to psychological and social pressures and illnesses, and family disintegration will occur (2). It has been shown that most social problems are linked to the failure of economic systems and the inability to

provide services to all members of society. Eliminating poverty and unemployment and providing housing with health care for every family will free the family from social problems (3)

Third: The Cultural Component

The culture of individuals influences this factor and the nature of the relationship between them. A sense of responsibility grows with the rise in the cultural level of the parents. This sense of responsibility develops, and parents learn how to weigh their affairs correctly. They become accustomed to controlling their emotions and being able to express their opinions without restricting the opinions of others. This is shaped by several sources, including family and education. Cultural affinity between spouses will reduce conflicts between spouses and achieve family cohesion. (1)

Fourth: The Emotional Component

This refers to the deep interaction between spouses, and between parents and children, in a separate home. This creates a small primary unit that serves as the primary source of emotional satisfaction for all family members. This is an important function for the individual and society, as the family becomes a safe haven through which children receive a sense of security, love, emotional support, understanding, and affection. This helps them cope with the formality of relationships within bureaucratic organizations. This need is satisfied through marital relations, childbearing, raising children, and participating in marital activities. We find that when a son or daughter does not find affection and tenderness within the family, they look outside, and a major dilemma arises. (2)

Fifth: **The Psychological Component**

Social life has become complex. Individuals cannot satisfy all their needs alone. They need to meet others and form social relationships that support their familial and social existence, and to fulfill all their needs, including the need for psychological and social stability within their families, in light of the customs and traditions that bind them to their social environment. The individual remains in need of a sense of security, respect, and mutual appreciation. It is essential for the family to provide its members with care, sacrifice, and solidarity. These are elements that contribute to creating an atmosphere of psychological health within family life and creating an atmosphere of psychological satisfaction that creates a balanced and stable child, reflecting a positive image and feelings of loyalty to the outside community. The family's support for its children, providing them with feelings of love, instilling proper behavior, and guiding them to the right path, increases family cohesion and achieves psychological and social comfort for its members. (3)

The Impact of Technology and Digital Communication on Family Cohesion

The importance of the family is highlighted as the fundamental building block of society. The well-being and cohesion of society depends on the well-being and cohesion of the family, and vice versa. In recent decades, we have seen the family receive attention from governmental and international institutions, as well as civil society organizations, due to its importance in society. The family is responsible for raising and educating children properly. We find that modern technology has intervened in all aspects of life, and it is difficult for an individual to limit it to a specific list due to its multiplicity and diversity. It has left its mark on every social system, whether in education, health, upbringing, or the family. Among the features of technology is that it has shortened the distances of time and space, and has come to combine negative and positive aspects, i.e., benefit and harm. This depends on how the means of technology are used. The individual can harness it to serve himself, or

he can make it negatively impact his family and society (1). Technology has helped in the emergence of new interactions in relationships within the family, and family disintegration, discord and social isolation have emerged, so family sessions have disappeared, dialogue and discussion between family members have become scarce, and many have abandoned their functions and roles and have begun to face the challenges of coexistence and interaction through raising children and preparing them for positive interaction and conscious dealing with these developments with the aim of achieving a balance in building successful and continuous relationships. Due to the widespread use of the Internet, young people have become eager to establish relationships with others and deal with the virtual world, taking from it foreign and Western symbols, which has led to the birth of a society that is intellectually and morally discordant and reinforces individual values instead of social values (2)

Technology has helped in the adoption of deviant behaviors, morals and friendships that conflict with religious values and social traditions, which has widened the gap between generations. Children have begun to accuse their parents of backwardness, which has helped in developing a model of social and cultural conflict between generations. All these negatives have contributed to the lack of family cohesion, increased disintegration, a high divorce rate, and increased rates of moral deviations and psychological damage. The family must inform them of the dangers of using technology and must realize its duties in instilling scientific knowledge in the souls of children about technology and its role in the advancement of the individual and society (1). Technology has also helped in increasing cases of marital infidelity due to one of the spouses being busy and preferring the Internet and its increasing use, especially by young people, affecting the family and its value system, so neglect, emotional coldness and marital silence have crystallized between them as a result of the situation escalating to marital infidelity, which will lead to the collapse of the marital relationship, which leads to divorce (2). Technology has brought about transformations that have affected all structures of society. What we are witnessing in terms of changes, the civilizational shift, rapid technology and misuse has affected family cohesion and has reached the point where a brother does not speak to his brother or father. The supervisory role of parents has disappeared and the performance of their duties towards their children has weakened, which has helped increase the rate of deviation and loss and increased social conflict and tension and the violation of the family fabric. (3)

Technology has had a psychological impact, such as addiction to social networking sites, which leads to tension, anxiety, frustration, fatigue, and exhaustion, and ultimately leads to the emergence of other problems, such as spreading a culture of violence, committing crimes, and focusing on matters that are contrary to values (1). Its effects also include being influenced by the culture of others, as a person who interacts and talks with another person whose culture and society are different must transmit ideas to the other and market their culture and collective values to him. Digital communication has become inherent to culture, which makes young people abandon their culture, disavow their customs, and be influenced by Western cultures (2). Technology has affected the culture of society and individuals can access world news, the flow of information, cultural programs and emotional films. This will affect the values, behaviors and practices of individuals, which will produce a negative impact on the stability and balance of society. The family's preoccupation with life's affairs and their presence outside the home has led to them falling into some contradictions and a tendency to withdraw and be indifferent towards their relationship with their children on the Internet, which has led to their attachment to this network as a result of emotional and sentimental factors linked to spiritual emptiness and emotional deprivation from the family, which has led to the creation of an atmosphere of isolation and introversion among them. (3)

Recommendations

1. Emphasize that social media relationships are not a substitute for family relationships, which are based on compassion, love, understanding, awareness, and social consciousness.
2. The necessity of establishing a friendly relationship between parents and children based on understanding and openness without punishment or blame. Parents should be the first resort, protecting them from fake or inexperienced friends.
3. Strengthen the role of the media in instilling good values in spouses and raising awareness of the dangers of technology and its impact on family cohesion.
4. Establish a regulatory system by government agencies on social media networks to limit their misuse and prohibit anything that affects marital relationships within the family.
5. Create groups on social media that, in turn, educate families about the dangers of these sites and their negative effects on family life and the threat they pose to family cohesion.
6. Organize a time for family gatherings, set a time for social media use, and ensure that individuals adhere to them.
7. Avoid social media relationships and focus on personal interaction between family members.
8. The necessity for civil society organizations to address issues related to family life. Childhood, youth, and the family, and intensify their efforts in coordination and cooperation to preserve family cohesion and educate their children, because the well-being of the family means the well-being of society.
9. Organizing a time for family gatherings, setting a time for using social media, and ensuring that individuals adhere to it.

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