

The impact of social media on teenagers

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Social media has always been available for all teenagers in the richest parts of the world and is an essential part of this generation, but there are disadvantages and advantages. 2018 shows a dramatic change from 2012.

Statistics confirm that the highest amount of internet users are from North Europe with 94% of this region using it. However, the least amount of internet users are from middle Africa with only 12% of their region that can access it. This now leads to the frequency of social media usage by teenagers from 2012 to 2018. 70% of them used it more than once a day (27% hourly and 16% almost constantly) in 2012; 34% used it more than once a day. On the other hand, in 2018 19% didn't use social media whilst in 2012 17% didn't use them at all. This shows that in 2012 more teenagers were relying on social media whilst in 2018 it was less popular but used more often. In the United Kingdom social network popularity for Facebook is 90%, Twitter is 60%, Instagram is 51% and Snapchat is 50%.

There are many advantages and disadvantages of using social media. The advantages of social media are: educational, connectivity, awareness and helps build a community. The disadvantages of social media are: cyberbullying, hacking, comparing and oversexualized images. To explain this, connectivity has the advantage of being a really fast and efficient way to keep in touch with friends that might live far away. With communication, you can build a business by speaking to investors. On the other hand, cyberbullying can affect someone's mental health which can cause depression and anxiety. The victims might not want to communicate or leave the house because they will be scared of the outside world. In worst case scenarios, some teenagers have sadly committed suicide because they felt their life had become meaningless.

In conclusion we have spoken about the statistics of the use of the internet; how often teenagers use it; and, the advantages and disadvantages of social media. Clearly in the new generation social media is major part and should still be used with a good manor.