

DANGER: Adolescent! Keep your personal information private on SNS

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Abstract: The Social Network is a channels of communication and self-expression. Countless individuals use message boards, date matching sites, interactive social networks, blog hosting services and video sharing websites to make themselves and their ideas visible to the world. Facebook is one eminent social networking service where users create personal profiles, add other users as friends and exchange messages, including automatic notifications when they update their own profile. Once you uploaded photos, videos and personal details on the SNS sites, you are helpless to control its circulation. While such intermediaries enable the user-driven digital age, they also create new legal problems. This study has summarized some of the main findings with respect of the antecedents, behaviors, and effects relating to Facebook use. There are still gaps in the research to date that may be worth studying in more detail.

Keyword: *Adolescents, *Blog, sexual deviancy, friend-networking sites, virtual friends, Sexual solicitation

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***Adolescents-** the period between sexual maturity and the completion of physical growth, roughly from 13 to 18 years of age. In this study students of 13-18 years of age-group will be studied.

***Blog -** is a type of website or part of a website usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary and descriptions of events (blogging). The content of a microblog is simply smaller in size.

Introduction:

Social networking sites are websites on which individuals with a common interest can meet, share ideas, and engage in discussion with like-minded others (John Raacke & Jennifer Bonds-Raacke). One of the most popular kinds of social networking website is Facebook and MySpace, allow users to connect with other people who are typically known off-line. About 55% of youth have created a profile of themselves on a Facebook. The most common reason reported for using Facebook or friend-networking sites is to keep in touch with old and current known and unknown friends (Some time we called virtual friends). Users on these sites are able to virtually communicate with people to connect with each other. It focuses on building online communities of people who share personal data, video, images through internet. These sites are able to post information about themselves, upload personal

photographs, and write messages to one another. Many friend networking sites are plagued with untrue information and profiles (See Danah M. Boyd, Friendster and Publicly Articulated Social Networking). Adolescents' self-esteem is also affected by the type of feedback received on their profiles, with positive feedback increasing self-esteem and negative feedback decreasing self-esteem (Patti Valkenburg, Jochen Peter & Alexander P. Schouten) increase in popularity of SNS, more children and adolescents may derive a greater portion of their identity from comments and interactions online.

Ashleigh Hall, a 17 year old girl, accepted friend request from a 33 year old man on Facebook. She had no idea that actually he was a convicted rapist who created a Fake profile as a teenager. And Finally, Ashleigh was murdered by that person ("Facebook – crime," 2010). Ashleigh fall in Sexual Solicitation and murdered by online solicitors. Today this situation knock everyone's door, now time to stop these danger with increasing awareness about cybercrime and Sexual solicitation.

Pornography:

Pornographic material is abundant online, with more than 100,000 websites containing some form of pornography (Andreas G. Philaretou, Ahmed Y. Mahfouz & Katherine R. Allen). Exposure to online pornography can affect attitudes and actions concerning sexual activity and can also produce adverse emotional changes for those who did not wish to view such material. Exposure to pornography can produce unwanted effects, such as increased rates of sexual deviancy, sexual transaction, and acceptance of rape myths (See Elizabeth Oddone-Paolucci, Mark Genius & Claudio Violato).

Sexual solicitation:

Online sexual solicitation typically is defined as online communication wherein one person attempts to encourage another person to talk about sex or participate in a sexual activity (See Kimberly Mitchell, David Finkelhor & Janis Wolak). This activity can potentially take place on various websites. Internet-using youth have experienced some form of sexual solicitation while online. These youth are usually youngsters, typically of high school age. See Kimberly Mitchell, Janis Wolak & David Finkelhor, Trends in Youth Reports of Sexual Solicitations, Harassment, and Unwanted Exposure to Pornography on the Internet, 40 J. ADOL. HEALTH 116, 117 (2007) , examining two studies that found 19% of youth were subject to online sexual solicitations in 2000, a number which dropped to 13% in 2005.

Usually, youngsters fire most online sexual solicitations as mild harassment (See Michele Ybarra, Kimberly Mitchell, Janis Wolak & David Finkelhor). Very few online sexual solicitations lead to offline meetings (See Janis Wolak, David Finkelhor & Kimberly Mitchell). Those that do tend to follow the model of statutory rape wherein an underage involves in sexual activity with an older adult (See Denise A. Hines & David Finkelhor). See Shane W. Kraus & Brenda Russell also reported that teens with internet access engage in sexual activity at an earlier age than teens without internet access. To protect youths from online sexual killers, cybercrime and cyber law should focus on teaching

Examples of social networking sites

1. Facebook – a social networking service where users create personal profiles, add other users as friends and exchange messages, including automatic notifications when they update their own profile.
2. Twitter - a microblogging service enabling its users to send and read publicly visible messages called tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the user's profile page. Users may subscribe to other users' tweets.
3. LinkedIn – a business-related social networking site mainly used for professional networking. Users maintain a list of contact details of people with whom they have some level of relationship, called connections. This list of connections can then be used to build up a contact network, follow different companies and find jobs, people and business opportunities.
4. MySpace – an online community of users' personal profiles. These typically include photographs, information about personal interests and blogs*. Users send one another messages and entertain within the MySpace community.

Why adolescent use social networks?

More than 60% of young people have SNS profile, so what are young people spending all their time doing on sites like Facebook?

1. **Keeping in touch:** Young people today are part of a 'constantly connected' generation – where conversations can start at school or in a youth club, move to mobile phones, and then move onto social networking sites

2. **Developing new contacts:** Young people can find new contacts on SNS through exploring the friends' lists of their existing contacts, searching for people and groups with particular shared interests. Young people may also search for someone who they have met once or twice and add them as a friend on a SNS in order to keep in contact and as part of developing friendships.
3. **Sharing content and appealing in expressiveness:** SNS provide a space for young people to create and share written blog posts, photos and videos, through to edited works and collaborative creations. Much of this creative content is what might be seen as traditional teenage self-expression moved online.
4. **Accessing information and informal learning:** Through browsing social network profiles young people can access a wide range of information. There is also significant interest in the potential of online social networks as spaces for young people's informal learning outside school.
5. **Exploring identity:** SNS provide a space for young people to explore and develop their identity through reflecting on how they should represent themselves on their own profiles on the site

Aims and Objectives

1. To find out the awareness of cyber-crim.
2. To identify the socio-economic causes of Pornography.
3. To analyze the impact of Sexual solicitation on the victim and society.

Tools for Data Collection

The Unstructured Interview is used for the purpose of the study:-

Due to the qualitative nature of the study, besides the questionnaire certain supplementary questions will be asked on social networking website (Facebook). One of the important question is: Are you keeping your information private and accessible only to people in your friend list.

Data Analysis Tools

After collecting the data a descriptive analysis of the data will be done by statistical analysis. Statistical analysis include tabulation of data and representation of data using graphs and charts. Chi square is used to find out the result.

Hypotheses:

1. Your (Profile) information on SNS kept private is significantly depend on age group.

Question : Are you keeping your information private and accessible only to people in your friend list.

Age Group	O	E	(O-E)	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
13 to 15	6	17	-11	113.7778	6.826667
16 to 18	5	17	-12	136.1111	8.166667
19 to 21	12	17	-5	21.77778	1.306667
22 to 24	26	17	9	87.11111	5.226667
25 to 27	22	17	5	28.44444	1.706667
28 to 30	29	17	12	152.1111	9.126667
	100				$\sum (O-E)^2/E = 32.36$

Source : Generated by researcher Table : 1

H0 : keeping your information private is significantly not depend on age group.

H1 : keeping your information private is significantly depend on age group.

Finding:

Calculated Value of χ^2	Table Value of χ^2	Degree of freedom	Level of Significance
32.36	11.070	5	5 %
Accept H1	Calculated χ^2 is > Table value of χ^2 32.36 > 11.070		

Source : Generated by researcher Table : 2

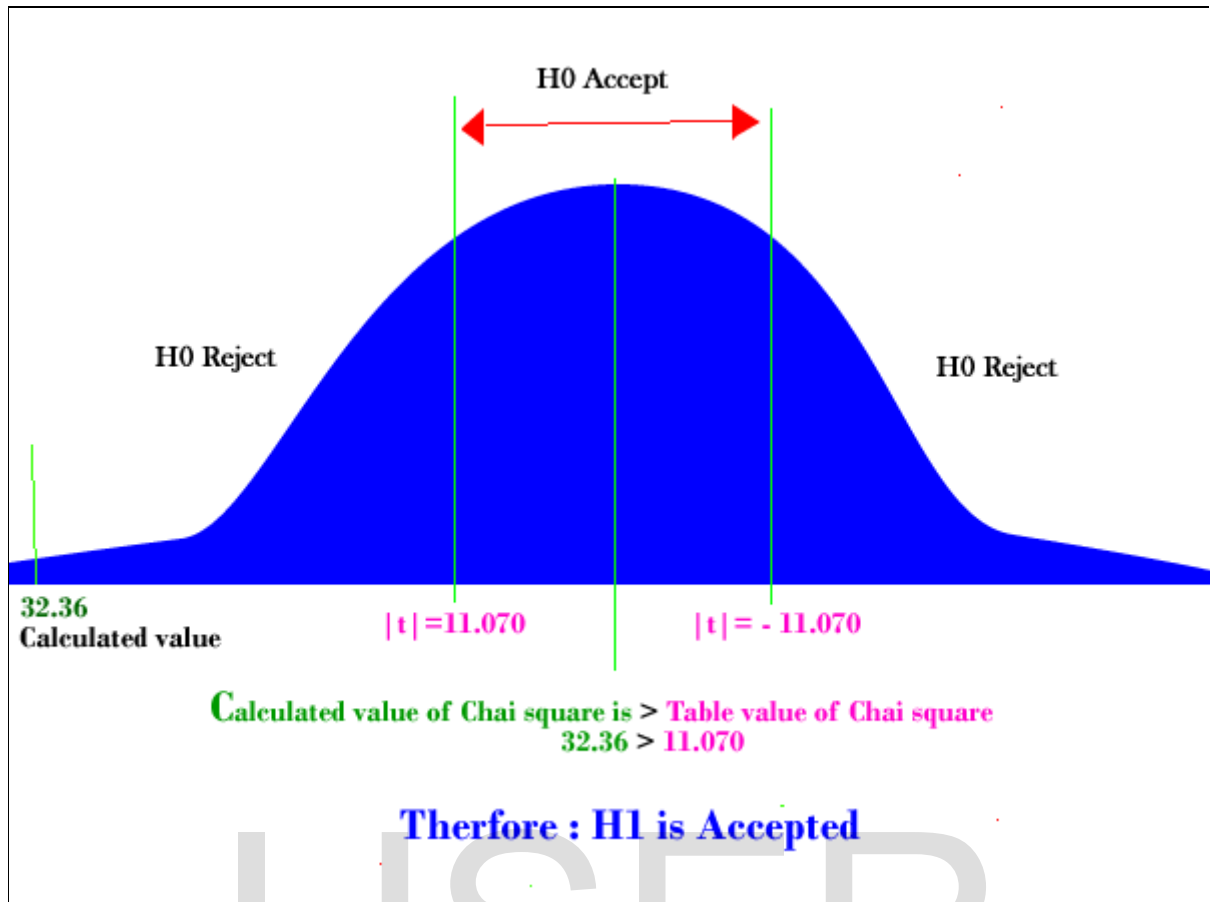


Diagram: 1

Result: From above finding (Table 1, Table 2, Diagram 1), it is observed that the profile or personal information on SNS kept private is significantly depend on age group.

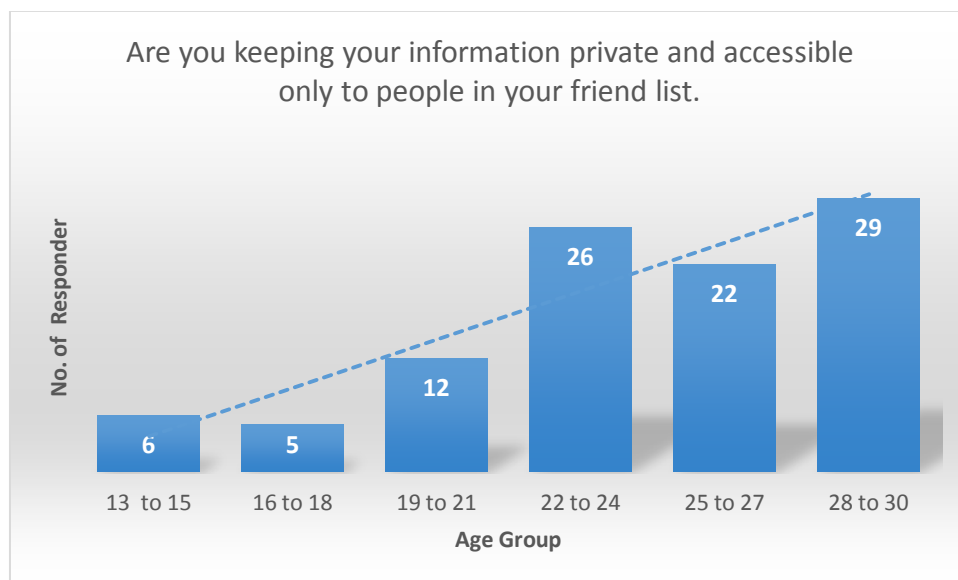


Diagram: 2

Limitations of the study

Limitations of time, space and manpower are the most restrictive aspects in a realistic study and the study may also be limited due to these aspects.

Conclusion:

From (Diagram 2) we can find out that, the age group 13 to 15 and 16 to 18 are less aware about information privacy. From age group 19 onward youth can understand about cybercrime and cyber law, and they kept private their personal information while communication through SNS. The age group of 13 to 18 is called as Adolescents, this is the period between sexual maturity and the completion of physical growth. Adolescents are crazier about impressive personal profile and self-expression. They are less aware about Sexual solicitation. Online sexual solicitation typically is defined as online communication wherein one person attempts to encourage another person to talk about sex or participate in a sexual activity. If someone starts blackmailing using personal profile and encourage you to talk about sex or participate in a sexual activity, your personal life starts affecting. Your safety and security become a big question in relation to online sexual harassment. For away from these danger, Keep your personal profile (information) private on SNS. Parents should make sure their children avoid posting personal material in their profiles. Sharing more personal information, such as feelings about other people or activities performed during the day, can also potentially be used by others to locate or hurt users.

Reference

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- [3] See Denise A. Hines & David Finkelhor, Statutory Sex Crime Relationships Between Juveniles and Adults: A Review of the Social Scientific Research, 12 AGGRESSIVE & VIOLENT BEHAV. 300, 302 (2007) (defining "statutory relationship" as one "between a juvenile and an adult that is illegal under age of consent statutes, but that does not involve the degree of coercion or manipulation sufficient to qualify under criminal statutes as a forcible sex crime").
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- [9] See Danah M. Boyd, Friendster and Publicly Articulated Social Networking, in *CONFERENCE ON HUMAN FACTORS AND COMPUTING SYSTEMS* (The Ass'n for Computing Machinery, Vienna, Austria), April 2004, at 1281–82 (discussing the proliferation of fake profiles and false information on the social networking site Friendster).
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