

# The impact of the new generation of social networks on women's performance of their roles within the Algerian Family: A field study on a sample of Algerian Women

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**Abstract---**This study sheds light on the impact of the new generation of social networks on Algerian women's performance of their roles within the family, by identifying the positive and negative effects these networks have on women's roles toward their families. To achieve the objectives of this descriptive study, a field survey was conducted on a sample of women who use social networking platforms. The main findings revealed that the respondents make extensive use of social networks, which has generated several effects on the way they perform their roles within their families. Among the positive effects is the use of advice and guidance provided on these platforms to care for the family and fulfill their roles appropriately. As for the negative effects, the most significant is spending long periods of time on these networks, which negatively affects the performance of their roles as well as disrupts family balance.

**Keywords---**impacts, social networks, role, woman, family.

## 1. Introduction

In light of the technological developments the world has witnessed in recent years, especially with the emergence of the Internet and its invasion of human life, it has become a true revolution in the field of communication. It spread across the world and opened the way for societies to interact, grow closer and exchange opinions and interests. Consequently, every Internet user has benefited from the features and

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services it provides, making it one of the best means of communication between individuals and groups.

Among the most important new forms of communication via the Internet are social networking sites, which have attracted increasing attention due to the advantages they offer, such as interactivity speed flexibility low cost and the important role they play in the lives of individuals and societies. Among these platforms are Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and others. These social networks have penetrated various aspects of life, including the economic, cultural, political, sports, and social fields.

Social networks have affected the lives of individuals and societies as well as the structure of the family, the relationships among its members and the performance of each member's role within it. The family is considered the foundation of society and the basis of human life. If it is built upon sound principles, society becomes stable and its foundations strengthened. However, if the family's foundations weaken and the principles upon which it is based deteriorate and if the factors of strength are absent, society becomes unstable and loses its balance. Indeed the family is the fundamental basis for shaping an individual's personality; it is the primary architect that designs this formation.

Social networks have attracted all members of society toward their use, especially family members such as fathers, mothers and children. They have become an integral part of daily life and are used to carry out various activities. Since women represent half of society and are among the most important pillars upon which the family is built and because of their essential role in maintaining balance and ensuring family stability, women too have increasingly adopted the use of social networks in their daily lives for various purposes. This is despite the responsibilities they bear within the family, whether material or moral, such as raising and caring for children, maintaining family cohesion and stability, providing emotional and financial support, reinforcing the husband's role within the family, managing household affairs, and other duties.

Women are the nurturing figures for all individuals belonging to the family, whether married or unmarried. Psychological stability and family warmth within the family structure cannot be achieved except through the psychological well-being of women and the meaningful investment of time that fosters affection and closeness with them. This occurs through renewing and strengthening relationships among all family members. Family cohesion is closely linked to the importance of women's roles, their psychological stability, and its impact on relatives and children. The role of women within the family becomes clearly evident through the significance of the mission they perform within it. This has led to the emergence of an important issue that requires study and analysis: the impact of social networks on women's performance of their roles within the family. This raises the following main question:

What are the implications of new social networks on women's performance of their roles within the family?

Under this main question fall the following sub-questions:

What are women's habits in using social networking sites?

What are the motives behind women's use of social networking sites?

What are the positive effects of social networking sites on women's performance of their role within the family?

What are the negative effects of social networking sites on women's performance of their role within the family?

### **Study Objectives:**

To identify women's habits in using social networking sites.

To reveal the motives behind women's use of social networking sites.

To monitor the positive effects of social networking sites on women's performance of their role within the family.

To identify the negative effects of social networking sites on women's performance of their role within the family.

### **Importance of the Study:**

What led us to focus on this topic is its great importance at the present time compared to other topics, in addition to the scarcity of local studies dealing with it. Given the enormous spread of modern communication technology, especially modern social networking platforms, and their impact on various fields—particularly the social field—this study attempts to highlight the influence these networks have on women's performance of their role within the family. It also seeks to identify the characteristics and positive aspects they add, as well as the negative effects they create on women's performance of their family role. Furthermore, the study examines the differences that appear in women's performance before and after using social networking sites. This is done in order to benefit from the advantages these platforms provide to women in helping them perform their role in the best possible way, by making use of the available services that enhance such performance, while also attempting to correct the negative aspects and effects of social networking sites on women's role within the family, with the aim of promoting society, avoiding shortcomings and defects, and finding appropriate solutions for them.

## **2. Definition of the Basic Concepts of the Study:**

### **2.1 New Social Networks**

They are web pages that facilitate active interaction among members subscribed to these social networks already existing on the Internet. They aim to provide various means of interest that help members interact with one another. These features may include: instant messaging, video, chat, file sharing, and discussion groups...<sup>1</sup>

-Web-based services within the limits of the system that enable individuals to create their own profiles, identify other users with whom they share connections, viewpoints, and common interests. These services include many types such as Twitter, Friendster, and MySpace, which is popular among the music, party, and celebrity community, while Facebook is popular among the general public <sup>2</sup>

-Technological applications based on second-generation web systems aimed at achieving communication and interaction among different individuals around the world through written, audio, and visual correspondence, while ensuring instant communication that maximizes the benefit of bringing people together through remote social networking sites. These applications are used in various fields of life, including the social field, where they are used by different members of society and the family, including fathers, mothers, and children, to carry out various activities, especially communication-related activities.

### **2.2 Role**

-“Ahmed Zaki Badawi” defined role in the Dictionary of Social Science Terms as “the expected behavior of the individual within the group and the dynamic aspect of the individual's status. While status refers to the individual's position within the group, role refers to the pattern of behavior required by that status. The individual's behavior is determined in light of his expectations and the expectations of others toward him. These expectations are influenced by the individual's and others' understanding of the rights and duties associated with his social status. The boundaries of the role include those actions accepted by the group according to the standards of behavior prevailing in the dominant culture” <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hassan Al-Sudani (2015), *The Impact of Social Networking Sites on the Audience of Recipients*, Amman: Academic Book Center, p 28

<sup>2</sup> Helou, A., Mahamat, A. R., & Zaichrach, N. (2014). The influence of social networking sites on students. *International Journal of Electronic Commerce Studies*, p. 24.

<sup>3</sup> Ammar Noui. (2009–2010). *The role of leadership in managing voluntary associative work – a case study of associations in Bordj Bou Arreridj Province*. Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Constantine Mentouri: Master's thesis, p. 24

-Theodore Sarbin defines it as “a pattern of actions and behaviors that are learned either intentionally or incidentally and performed by a person in a situation involving interaction. It is also defined as a set of expectations related to a structural and systemic status occupied by individuals, or as behavior reflecting the requirements of the status occupied by the individual. Some believe that role consists of behavioral practices reflecting specific requirements and conditions formulated and imposed by society” (Jafal, 2021–2022, p. 31).

### 2.3 Family

-The human group consisting of the husband, the wife, and their unmarried children who live together in one residence, which is known as the nuclear family .<sup>4</sup>

-The family can also be defined as: the social institution that arises from the union of a man and a woman through a contract aimed at establishing the basic unit that contributes to building society. Its main pillars are the husband, the wife, and the children <sup>5</sup>

-The family is also defined as: a social group whose members are connected by blood and marriage ties, living together in a shared life and interacting continuously to fulfill the economic and social requirements necessary for the survival of the family <sup>6</sup>

The family is a social bond that brings together two or more people through ties of kinship, marriage, or adoption. It begins with marriage and then childbearing, in which parents care for their children and provide for their various needs. Women are considered the fundamental cornerstone in building the family, as they perform many roles within it. Therefore, a woman’s ability to maintain and develop the family and fulfill her role properly will ultimately contribute to preserving and advancing society.

### 3. Previous Studies:

#### 1.3 Study by (Al-Aidi, 2017) on Saudi women’s exposure to social media advertisements and its relationship to their purchasing behavior

The study aimed to identify the extent to which Saudi women are exposed to advertisements on social networking sites and the relationship of this exposure to their decisions and purchasing behavior toward advertisements for goods and services presented through social media platforms. The study is considered a descriptive study based on the sample survey method. The study population consisted of Saudi women in the Eastern Province (Dammam, Khobar, Jubail, Al-Ahsa, and Qatif). The researcher used the snowball sampling method by distributing questionnaires to female students in the Department of Communication and Media Technology, where each student distributed the questionnaire through her personal page and referred it to women’s websites and forums.

The study reached several findings, the most important of which was that Saudi women are constantly exposed to social networking sites, with Twitter being the most frequently browsed platform among them. Advertisements on these sites influence Saudi women’s purchasing decisions to some extent, as the highest percentage of respondents made purchasing decisions regarding products they had seen advertised on social media platforms.

#### 2.3 Study by (Melebari, 2018) on consumer obsession with social networking sites and family alienation: a comparative study of the concept of moderation between Saudi and Egyptian families.

The study aimed to define and regulate the concept of consumer obsession and conduct a comparison between the effects of excessive social media consumption in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The

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<sup>4</sup> Dalal Awad. (2016). Adolescence and the role of the family in dealing with it: characteristics and problems. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Dar Khaled Al-Muhayni, p. 28

<sup>5</sup> Alaa Abdul-Dakhil. (2016). Social networking sites and their role in shaping the image of women from the perspective of Jordanian university students. Middle East University, Jordan: Master’s thesis, p. 16

<sup>6</sup> Amr Ezz. (2016) The image of the family in the Egyptian press: vision of reality and shaping the future. Egypt: Dar Al-Arabi, p 12.

methodological procedures included the use of the comparative method and a questionnaire as a research tool.

The research reached several findings, including that manifestations of family alienation were represented in family isolation, lack of family interaction, lack of emotional and sexual fulfillment, economic consumption, and waste of money. These manifestations also appeared in the educational and relational aspects between parents and children, in addition to manifestations of moral alienation and cultural invasion revealed by the analyses. The manifestations of family alienation were found to be more evident in Egyptian society than in Saudi society. The study also warned of societal dangers and threats affecting the Arab family.

### **3.3 Study by (Sahari & Bouhda, 2021) on the impact of social networking sites on family relationships.**

This descriptive study attempted to investigate the issue by relying on the field survey method through conducting a field study on a sample of (300) families in the. One of the most important findings of the study was that social media, particularly Facebook, has brought about radical changes in family relationships. Among the most prominent effects were the absence of dialogue, isolation, and family disintegration.

### **4.3 Commentary on Previous Studies:**

The previous studies by (Sahari & Bouhda, 2021) and Melebari (2018) agree with the current study in addressing the topic of the effects of modern social networks on the family. However, they did not address their effects on women's roles within the family. In contrast, the study by Al-A2017) examined women's exposure to social networking sites without linking it to the family context. Previous studies mainly focused on the negative impact caused by the use of social networking sites on the family, whereas our study focuses on both the positive and negative effects of these networks.

Our current study also agrees with most previous studies regarding the type of methodology used and the data collection tool. The study benefited from previous studies in organizing its general framework, particularly in designing and constructing the data collection instrument, since all the studies used the questionnaire form. Previous studies were also relied upon in analyzing and interpreting the obtained results.

## **5. Methodological Procedures of the Study:**

### **5.1 Type of Study and Methodology Used:**

Since this study aims to identify the effects of social networks on women's performance of their roles within the family, it is considered an exploratory and descriptive study. This type of study is defined as a method of analysis based on sufficient and accurate information about a specific phenomenon or subject over a certain period of time, with the aim of obtaining scientific results that are interpreted objectively in a manner consistent with the actual data of the phenomenon <sup>7</sup>

The study relied on the field research method, which Maurice Angers defines as the method usually used to study a phenomenon existing at the present time and related to large groups <sup>8</sup>

### **5.2 Study Sample:**

The sample is the most common method used in most scientific research because it is easier to apply and less costly than studying the entire population. The sample must represent the original population, since the results derived from studying the sample are largely generalized to the original population. A sample is considered a part of the population, or a number of cases taken from the original population from which data are collected in order to study the characteristics of that population. In this way, the

<sup>7</sup> Mohamed Obeidat, et al. (1999). *Scientific Research Methodology: Rules, Stages, and Applications*. Amman: Dar Wael, p. 46

<sup>8</sup> Maurice Angers, translated by Bouzid Sahraoui, et al. (2004). *Scientific Research Methodology in the Humanities*. Algeria: Dar El-Kassaba.p. 106.

whole population can be studied through examining a part of it, provided that the sample is representative of the population from which it was taken <sup>9</sup>

Since the target audience of the study is women who use social networking sites, the population is heterogeneous and it is difficult to reach all its units. Therefore, it was preferable to select a research sample representative of the study population consisting of 100 respondents. In this case, it was also preferable to use a purposive sample, which is a type of non-probability sampling in which the sample units are selected by the researcher based on convenience due to the difficulty of conducting a comprehensive survey and the time, effort, and resources it requires. Moreover, the absence of a precise and clear sampling frame made the selection of respondents random in nature.

### 3.5 Data Collection Tools

The questionnaire was selected as the tool for data collection, as it is considered a means of gathering data from respondents concerned with the phenomenon under study. The questionnaire form serves as an intermediary between the researcher and the respondent. Researchers often resort to questionnaires to collect information related to individuals' feelings, motives, and beliefs regarding a previously specified topic. A questionnaire has been defined as a set of organized questions concerning a particular subject, placed in a form that is either mailed or delivered by hand to the concerned individuals. It has also been defined as a tool for collecting data related to a specific topic through a form filled out by the respondent <sup>10</sup>

## 6. Field Study Results

**Table (1): Characteristics of the Sample Individuals According to Different Variables**

Percentage (%)	Frequency (K)	Variables	Characteristics of the Sample Individuals
%57	57	From 20 to 30 years	Age
%28	28	From 31 to 50 years	
%15	15	Over 50 years	
%87	87	Married	Marital Status
%13	13	Single	
%89	89	Have children	Presence of Children
%11	11	Do not have children	
%23	23	One child	Number of Children
%27	27	Two children	
%36	36	Three children	
%8	8	Four children	
%6	6	Five children	
%10	10	Primary	Educational Level
%23	23	Middle school	
%27	27	Secondary school	
%40	40	University	
%73		Employed	Employment
%27	73	Housewives	

Source: Prepared by the two researchers based on frequency and percentage results

<sup>9</sup> Abdullah Al-Askari. (2002). Research methodology in the humanities. Syria.p. 168

<sup>10</sup> Ibrahim Abrash. (2008). Scientific Methodology and Its Applications in the Social Sciences. Amman: Dar Al-Shorouk., p. 269

The results presented in Table (1) show that the sample is characterized by diversity in its categories, whether in terms of age groups between youth and adults, or in terms of educational level and occupation. This is particularly evident in the category of the working housewife, defined as a married woman who works both inside and outside the home and receives a wage for her work outside the home. She has fixed working hours not exceeding 8 hours per day, has been working since marriage, and has not interrupted her employment for any reason. She has also not recently started working<sup>11</sup>. This category of women has limited free time compared to non-working women at home. In addition, the greater the number of children, the greater the responsibilities placed on the woman. This raises an important question: does the woman reduce the time devoted to caring for her children and family in order to use social networks, or does she devote herself to them after fulfilling all her required roles?

All of these considerations indicate that the answers to the remaining questionnaire items will be influenced by these factors. This allows for an understanding of the opinions of different categories of the sample regarding the use of social networks and their impact on women's performance of their family roles, as well as the extent of their awareness and understanding of the importance of social network use and their level of interest in it. This also helps in identifying patterns of use and its effects on them, with the aim of formulating a set of recommendations through which the positive aspects of these networks can be utilized while avoiding everything that negatively affects women's performance within the family, thereby contributing to improving the level of the family and society and reducing the problems that hinder its development.

**Table (2): Shows women's habits of using social networks**

%	Categories	Variables	Women's social network usage habits
%20	20	Less than one hour	Duration of use
%56	56	One to two hours	
%24	24	More than two hours	
%16	16	Morning period	Time of use
%57	57	Evening period	
%27	27	Unspecified times	
%63	63	Smartphone	Device used
%19	19	Tablet	
%18	18	Computer	
%41	41	Home	Place of use
%29	29	Bus	
%18	18	Car	
%08	08	Public places	
%04	04	Workplace	
%58	58	Facebook	Social networks used
%27	27	YouTube	
%09	09	Instagram	
%06	06	Twitter	

Source: Prepared by the two researchers based on frequency and percentage results

Through the respondents' answers regarding their habits of using social networks, it appears that there are clear differences among the sample members, both in terms of the extent of their use of these

<sup>11</sup> Inas bint Ahmed. (2011). The economic role of the working Saudi housewife and its relationship to marital adjustment. Journal of Qualitative Education Research, p. 369

networks. A large proportion of the respondents use them continuously, which is due to their ease of use and the lack of restriction to specific times of use. Among their most important characteristics are: flexibility, wide dissemination, global reach, openness, and the ability to provide diverse services according to users' varying needs<sup>12</sup>. In general, the high rate of smartphone and tablet use, and the low rate of personal computer use, is due to the availability of 3G and 4G internet services via smartphones and tablets in Algeria in general <sup>13</sup>This is also due to the availability of social media applications on mobile phones, tablets, and laptops, and the ease of carrying these devices and using them at any time and place, especially during leisure time, after completing daily tasks, and during rest periods.

**Table (3): Illustrates women's motivations for using social networks**

%	Frequency (k)	Variables	Motivations for using social networks
%27	27	Ease and speed of use	What attracts respondents to social networks
%30	30	Ability to interact	
%27	27	Free usage	
%16	16	Diversity of services	
%24	24	Communication	Objectives of respondents in using social networks
%22	22	Following news	
%21	21	Entertainment and leisure	
%19	19	Publishing and sharing posts	
%14	14	Expressing opinions through comments	Communication
%54	54	with family	
%28	28	with colleagues and friends	
%18	18	Meeting new people	Reasons for using social networks
%29	29	Breaking routine	
%26	26	Psychological gratification	
%25	25	Developing ideas and daily lifestyle practices	
%20	20	Habitual use of social networks	

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on frequency counts and percentage results

The respondents use social networking sites to obtain many of the services these platforms provide, particularly to access the latest news, communicate with family and friends, or interact with new people who share similar interests, as well as for entertainment and following programs and videos broadcast on these networks <sup>14</sup>This reflects the existence of a parallel society, namely the virtual society, which has begun to take a path similar to that of the real society. More alarmingly, it may lead to the fading of the features of real society. Therefore, attention must be paid to the issue of the impact of the virtual society on the characteristics of the "lived" real society, and the extent to which it replaces it among younger generations. This raises concerns about a future risk of the disappearance and replacement of the lived world with a virtual one that imposes its own features, manifestations, and mechanisms, which has been occurring for some time <sup>15</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Alaa Abdul-Dakhil. (2016). Social networking sites and their role in shaping the image of women from the perspective of Jordanian university students. Middle East University, Jordan: Master's thesis, p. 23

<sup>13</sup> Mustafa Sahari & Khair Eddine Bouhadda. (2021). The impact of social networking sites on family relations – a field study on a sample of families in Medea Province. Journal of Scientific Research and Studies,, p. 62.

<sup>14</sup> Jan Hiem & Petter Brandtzaeg. (2009). Why people use social networking sites. Online Communities, pp. 147–148).

<sup>15</sup> Najat Mlibari. (2018). Consumerism on social networking sites and family alienation: a comparison of moderation concepts between Saudi and Egyptian families. Journal of Qualitative Education Research, p. 9.

The culture disseminated through social networking sites has an influence on the culture of its users, especially women, given their role as educators of future generations and their transmission of culture to other segments of society. Culture is linked to the ideas and attitudes that individuals adopt for communication and interaction within society. Its outcomes are reflected in all aspects of life, contributing to the formation of individuals' behavioral patterns. It expresses heritage, ideas, customs, traditions, and binding beliefs that guide individual behavior. Culture may be based on national, religious, ethnic, or geographical-regional foundations. It also reflects values that embody a set of concepts and beliefs related to modes of behavior or criteria for evaluation and choice, which in turn influence individual behavior. Individuals acquire the values of their society through the process of social adaptation; however, with the use of social networking sites, a disruption has emerged in the value system of society and in the way these values are acquired (Al-Ayadi, 2017, p. 143).

Table (4): shows the positive impacts of social networks on women's performance of their role in the Algerian family

%	k (frequency)	Variables	Positive impacts of social networks on women's performance of their role within the family
%39	39	Child upbringing	Acquiring family-related skills
%34	34	Household care	
%27	27	Dealing with the husband	
%23	23	Understanding the nature of relationships between family members	Obtaining new information about the family
%16	16	Knowing family customs and traditions	
%27	27	Knowing family problems and their solutions	
%14	14	Knowing how to build an ideal family	
%20	20	Learning childcare methods	
%23	23	Time management in family care	Family problems that social networks helped solve
%16	16	Ways to overcome conflicts with family members	
%27	27	Balancing work and home	
%46	46	Using advice according to need	The extent to which respondents follow advice provided on social networks
%37	37	Adopting most of the advice	
%17	17	Verifying the advice	
%21,62	20	Child-rearing advice	Advice adopted by respondents through social networks
%18,92	18	Guidance on household management	
%13,51	14	Supporting the husband during difficult times	
%10,81	11	Advice on preserving Algerian customs and traditions	
%10,81	11	Cooking guidance	
%8,11	9	Family budgeting management	

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on frequency counts and percentage results

The respondents, through their answers, confirm their interest in topics related to family matters presented on social networking sites. These platforms enabled them to become familiar with several family-related issues, such as understanding the nature of relationships among family members, learning about family customs and traditions, recognizing family problems, understanding child-rearing

practices, and learning how to build an ideal family. This represents a fundamental step toward improving women's performance within their families according to modern approaches presented by social specialists or individuals with experience in finding solutions to obstacles that women may encounter while performing their family roles, whether as wives, mothers, or sisters.

Therefore, awareness among husbands and wives of their roles, duties, and family responsibilities is considered a key entry point for solving many of the problems and difficulties faced by the family. Women also contribute effectively to maintaining family strength in the face of various life pressures and in the continuous search for stability <sup>16</sup>. Awareness of these issues enables women in the future to detect any dysfunction in family-related matters and to take initiative to intervene, prevent any excesses, and stop problems that may develop into crises threatening the family structure.

A large percentage of the respondents benefited from advice and guidance provided on social media pages, and many of them recommend it to others. Among the most important types of advice presented on family-related pages, which the respondents adopted through social media, are those related to child-rearing skills and proper upbringing based on attending to basic physiological needs and personal development. Some also considered the guidance related to household management useful, and a portion benefited from advice on how to support the husband during times of hardship. All of this contributes to achieving family stability, which is defined as a family relationship based on continuous interaction among family members, preparing children for the social, cultural, economic, and religious life necessary to satisfy their needs at different stages of development. This relationship is characterized by love, democracy, and cooperation among family members in managing their affairs, thereby strengthening human relations and achieving the greatest degree of cohesion and closeness within the family <sup>17</sup>

Table (5): Shows the negative impacts of social networks on women's performance of their role within the family

%	k	Variables	Negative Effects of Social Networks on Women's Performance of Their Role within the Family
%33	33	Using social networks	Activities of Family Members While the Woman Uses Social Networks
%16	16	Watching television	
%20	20	Children studying on their own	
%13	13	Sleeping	
%18	18	Being outside the home	
%74	74	They complain	Extent of Family Members' Complaints About Women's Use of Social Networks
%26	26	They do not complain	
%53	53	Requested to stop	Extent to Which Families Ask Women to Stop Using Social Networks
%47	47	Not requested	
%22	22	Neglect of childcare responsibilities	Reasons for Husbands and Families Requesting Women to Stop Using Social Networks
%29	29	Neglect and weakening of the marital relationship	
%18	18	Doubt and lack of trust in women's online practices	

<sup>16</sup> Najlaa Sayed. (2013). Women's awareness of coping strategies and its relationship to family stability. *Journal of Qualitative Education Research*, p. 460

<sup>17</sup> Najlaa Sayed, 2013, p 475.

%	k	Variables	Negative Effects of Social Networks on Women's Performance of Their Role within the Family
%20	20	Neglect of household responsibilities	
%11	11	Fear of foreign cultures present on social networks	
%30	30	Complete refusal	Women's Reactions to Their Families' Requests to Stop Using Social Networks
%28	28	Discussion and attempts to persuade the family	
%13	13	Entering into conflicts with the family	
%29	29	Directly ignoring the issue	

Source: Prepared by the two researchers based on the results of frequencies and percentages

The table shows that there are many negative effects of excessive use of social networking sites on women's performance of their role within the family and on their relationships with family members. This excessive consumption of social media has created a lifestyle, a daily routine, and continuous practice that may reach the level of electronic addiction and habitual use across all segments of society, both rich and poor, across all age groups, including those who work and those who do not. It is evident that the virtual society is increasingly becoming a primary aspect of individuals' lives instead of lived reality. This may be due to the fact that each individual, especially women, now has a "virtual family" on social networking sites that replaces the real family, interacting with it and spending considerable time engaging with it at the expense of interactions and time spent with the real family. More seriously, this threatens the structure, functions, relationships, bonds, and institutions of the family and society as a whole <sup>18</sup>

This leads to neglect of women's essential roles, particularly raising children properly according to religious and moral values and providing them with adequate care. It also leads to reliance on information obtained from these networks, which may be of unknown origin and unsuitable for Algerian family culture. In addition, it contributes to neglecting the marital relationship, increasing doubts and problems between spouses, and neglecting household responsibilities such as cleaning, organization, cooking, and providing household necessities. The home is considered the environment that contains the family, and conditions within it affect all its members. This may lead to serious consequences for the family's stability and existence, potentially resulting in its disintegration <sup>19</sup>

## Conclusion

The results indicate that Algerian women are highly engaged with social networking sites and use them continuously, as they occupy a significant part of their daily lives more than other means of communication. This is because they allow communication with family and friends and the formation of new social relationships with individuals who share similar interests. These networks provide many distinctive services that meet women's needs, especially by offering a large amount of information in various fields, particularly social issues and topics related to the family, its structure, and its problems. Women find in them a refuge to explore issues and solutions to the problems they face in family life, adopting and applying these suggestions within their families and relationships, which may positively contribute to solving existing problems.

<sup>18</sup>Milibari, 2018, p 10.

<sup>19</sup> Malika Ben Ziane. (2003–2004). Working women and their effects on family relations. Mentouri University, Constantine: Master's thesis, p. 83.

However, they may also have negative long-term effects, as they can introduce habits and behaviors into the family that are alien to the structure and culture of Algerian society. Based on these conclusions, a set of recommendations has been reached, the most important of which are:

The use of social networks and new technologies has become inevitable, but it is better to regulate their use by women by allocating specific periods of the day to them after completing all required family responsibilities, as caring for the family is more important than using these networks.

Avoid comparing the lives of other women and families seen on social media with one's own life, because every family has its own circumstances and capabilities, and not all families can be at the same level. Such comparisons may create many family problems and dissatisfaction. It is also important to preserve Algerian customs and traditions and avoid introducing foreign practices, especially those that conflict with Algerian religious and cultural values, as this may disrupt society.

Follow pages and groups on social media that provide positive content, ideas, and information beneficial to women and their families, and avoid empty-content groups that have negative effects and waste time.

Allocate time during the day for family members to gather, discuss various topics, and engage in shared activities such as games, cooking, and outings, in order to strengthen family relationships and ensure their healthy development. Continuous engagement with social networking sites should be avoided, as it may lead to serious psychological and social consequences.

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