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The Effects of Social Media

There are over 2 billion active social media users. Many of those users may be affected positively, and others may be affected negatively. In the article, “Antisocial Networking?”, by Hilary Stout, claims that over generations, the amount of time people and children have spent on social media has grown less as people are more interested within having a normal, face-to-face conversation. I believe that social media may not be the best choice for most people. Why? Social media can lead to cyberbullying, and it causes them to have depression which can lead to suicidal thoughts or suicide, which is stated in document F. Social media may have an affect on the way people and children may think, as it can also be a way for strangers to hurt children, as stated in document A. It may also affect their communicating skills, stated in document C.

To start off, active teens and children who use social media may be affected in many different types of ways which can include suicide and thoughts of suicide that they have developed because of the hurtful and judgmental comments that they have received from others. For instance, when the author says, “It leads to suicide, which is the third leading cause of death among young people from ages 15-24.” (Resource F) As those people who are hurt by the posts that are made to embarrass them, they may include abominable language, and harassment or inappropriate material, they feel very hurt about the fact that they are being made fun of. It can cause them to think about physically hurting themselves. Most of the time, people feel very unsafe about going on social media sites (For example, when the author states, 5.7% of teenagers

felt afraid to open their computers.” (Resource F) They deal with a lot of cyber bullying which is most likely to deal with depression. This happens daily and very often to them which makes them feel extremely uncomfortable, so at this point they were affected very negatively. This means that social media is not suitable and is very unsafe for most teens who have joined the social world.

Furthermore, since college students are also involved in the world of social media, they can also be affected negatively. As being a student they are not very different from us. They most likely would have to deal with the feedback they receive from others and is meant to be straightforward, and sometimes it can turn out to be negative and they will have to deal with things going on around them. As noted on document C, “Social media networks offer a way to converse with peers and get feedback, as well which may influence a young adult’s self-esteem.” (Resource C) As the feedback they receive may be negative, it can lower self-esteem and confidence. It creates negative thoughts on how they think about themselves they may feel the need to change yet, it is hard because they need to feel like they are enough as they are dealing with social anxiety caused by judgment. They are also still trying to create an identity for themselves on the online world. As stated in document C, “Identity formation occurs during emerging adulthood as young adults are figuring out who they are as a person.” They think based on the way they see others they feel the need to be more like them and it makes them feel stressed on the online world trying to hide their identity and still trying to be more like others. They are most likely spending their time thinking about their imperfections. Therefore, it doesn’t help them develop a high self-esteem and confidence.

In addition, social media is another way for strangers to hurt children and also are able to remain anonymous. Children sometimes decide to use social media to interact with friends and family. But other children use it, and end up having conversations with strangers. Hanging out with different people may come out as a bad influence. For example, the author states. “The dangers are the old dangers of who they hang out with.” (Document A) They decide to be with the people who seem to be cool and popular, so what they do it gives them the idea of “If you do this, then you are cool.” So part of the problem is that they are influenced to talk to strangers as way to make “friends”. Those strangers may use social media as a way to get to the point where they can mess around with that person and will try to hurt them. Children can be lured in for online strangers. As noted in document A, “Children are far more likely to be bullied or sexually harassed propositioned by peers they know than they are to be preyed upon by a stranger on the internet.” (Document A.) Children are targeted by strangers using them and making them think that they are friends as so that later on they can harass or assault them. To have gone this far to hurt the children, they will feel used and scared because the way the strangers interact with them on the internet making them feel uncomfortable. This will not make children and teens comfortable nor confident on social media.

To conclude, Not having the assurance and confidence of being online may not be very comforting for children and teens to interact with others online. Therefore, going online can lead to being cyber bullied which can lead to suicide, they can be harassed, and form a low self-esteem and have less confidence in themselves. When going on social media most people aren't able to avoid this problem. It can be very hard for them when dealing with social anxiety. So in my opinion, social media is not a good way to interact with others.