

Review of: "Youth Attitudes Towards the Effects of Social Media Addiction: A Study on College Students in the United Arab Emirates"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Author, Thank you for this submission. I was very excited to review the manuscript. It is a timely and appropriate topic given the benefits and negative consequences of social media use, as well as the ongoing use of social media among youth and adults. I have provided the following extensive manuscript review. Some suggestions are minor, such as the manuscript benefiting from various grammar edits. However, some suggestions are major and might be contributing to some grave confusion regarding the study's purpose and overall study readability. There are a range of concerns presented here. Please take them as constructive criticisms for this paper and your future papers. It was lovely to read, but addressing these concerns I've outlined below would improve the paper tremendously. (Please do not let the star rating I gave discourage you; I believe it is a worthwhile paper if many of the issues mentioned below are fixed/clarified.) The comments below are in order of reading the manuscript.

Please ensure that all in-text citations are formatted correctly throughout the paper (e.g., Author last name(s), year).

"The average time individuals spend using social media daily is 2 hours 32 minutes." [This needs an in-text citation.]

"96 percent" [Please change to "96%"]

"Social media also allows for information sharing (Yoon S et al. (2021) have previously highlighted how social media has been tapped upon to actively engage patients and the public." [I think this should be two separate sentences.]

"The SM addiction is also called SM disorder, excessive SM use, problematic SM use, and compulsive SM use." [Please spell out SM in its first occurrence; Change to: "The social media (SM) addiction is also called SM disorder, excessive SM use, problematic SM use, and compulsive SM use."

I appreciate the information and research outlined in the introduction. However, I believe the paper would be strengthened simply by changing the order of these paragraphs. As they are currently, the flow goes from SM addition to sleep benefits, back to SM addition, then to FOMO, then back to SM addition linked to cyberbullying, etc. – I would suggest organizing the introduction with the following outline or similar: a) starting with paragraph 2, introduce SM addition; b) paragraph about Strength Model of Self-Control (SMSC), c) paragraph about "...addiction to internet connectivity to be a 'major factor'"; d) all the other paragraphs about adverse outcomes; e) then introduce sleep quality as one of those adverse outcomes (i.e., the sleep quality paragraph); f) then introduce FOMO; g) then the research on the mediating and

moderating effects. This would greatly improve the flow for the reader, as opposed to the intro jumping back and forth somewhat.

At the very end of the introduction section, please indicate what your particular study will focus on. You can take this from the line in the abstract that says this and elaborate.

Participants and Procedures: Please separate these. One section for participants. One section for procedures.

Participants: Please use scientific notation throughout. N=520; N=327.

Participants: Use scientific notation. Please identify percentages and N's for: gender (xx%, N=xx males; xx%, N=xx females; xx%, N=xx prefer not to say, etc.) , academic years from 20xx to 20xx, and various fields of study including [name a few broad fields of study to show the field range, e.g., Sciences, Liberal Arts, Technology, etc.].

Procedures: State that the study was ethically approved. Tell only about the procedure for acquiring the participants. How were they contacted or recruited? How were they selected in the first place? How did they provide consent? Online or paper surveys? How were many excluded such that you arrived at the reported analyzed sample? ...If I wanted to do exactly what you did to replicate this study, what would I have to do? - All this needs to be explained sufficiently in the procedures section.

Measures: Instruments used in the study: This section is good, reporting the scales and alphas. However, please tell how you modified the scales that were modified. Also, later on, the research questions mention attitudes about social media addiction. How was this measured? It needs to be included in the Measures section also. You also talk about daily duties and tense feelings; preoccupation, withdrawal symptoms, tolerance, mood modification, relapse, and conflict. How were these measured? They need to be included in the Measures section also. It is unclear whether or not these facets were subsumed by any of the other measures mentioned. If these are dimensions of the BSMAS, please report that in the BSMAS measure subsection.

Research Questions and Research Hypotheses need to be moved to the Study Purpose subsection at the end of the Introduction that I mentioned previously.

Neither the Research Questions nor Research Hypotheses mentions sleep quality or FOMO; mediation effects are not discussed here either.

Figure 1 is incomplete. I do not know the scale for the Y-axis (e.g., percents or N's?) N=xx is missing.

Table 1. The general audience may be unfamiliar with age categories. What do these mean?

Table 1. Frequency of use: Is this in hours? Please specify.

Table 2 should say "Frequency of Duration," right? What is the difference between Frequency of Use and Duration? What is the metric for Duration (days, hours, etc.)?

Table 3. Please label the third column “P-value” or “Sig.”

Table 4. Needs indents to distinguish between subscales and scale items.

General advice for tables: Please ensure that all tables are formatted similarly.

Results Section overall: Three Major Concerns: 1) Within the first results paragraph, please specify the means and SD of the measurement scales and/or subscales for the entire sample using scientific notation. 2) How was a “mean” for gender calculated? This is a nominal level variable for which a mean cannot be interpreted. Please change to percentages/N’s and calculate a Pearson Chi-Square; 3) Most importantly, where are the FOMO scale and the Sleep Quality scale reported in these results? It reads as though we changed to a different (descriptive) study than what the introduction set up. The abstract mentions that the study conducted mediation analysis and later mentioned the Process macro in SPSS used to analyze such mediation models. This is reported nowhere in the results section.

Discussion: The discussion is underdeveloped. Please re-cap results (after deciding whether this paper will simply report descriptive group differences and correlations in SM use - which would be perfectly fine) or whether you will report the mediation model. But re-cap results, then explain to us the unique contribution that this study makes (e.g., maybe this study has not been conducted on the study sample’s population before, and any other unique contributions). Relate this study to other similar studies: Did you find similar results, or did your research contradict previous research? Sometimes, both could be the case. Report and in-text cite these studies (if any in your introduction section fits here, go back to them and outline how your findings are similar or different).

Discussion: The next step would be to appeal to the reader audience as to why this information is beneficial to the scientific community. Are there public health implications? What are the mental health implications? What could we as researchers and scientists do to assist in the betterment of our youth as it pertains to their SM use and/or addiction? What are possible/potential remedies in your professional opinion that were garnered from the results? Then, conclude with BOTH 1) Limitations (process, procedure, and/or analytic limitations) and 2) future research.