

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.

Content

Thanks for the opportunity to review this manuscript about the impact of social media addiction on well-being, quality of life, and mental health. This is a cross-sectional questionnaire study among college students which focuses on students' nocturnal social media use, sleep disturbances, and fear of missing out.

Title

The title clearly shows the objective of the study.

Abstract

In the first two paragraphs, the abstract repeatedly describes the background of the study. This could be done more concisely in favor of the methods and, above all, the results, so that their interpretation and the conclusions drawn from them can be emphasized.

Background

The introduction has become too extensive, and the content is more like a lecture on the topic with too many explanations that are less relevant to the question. It needs to be significantly shortened and prepared more precisely for the research questions, with a focus on empirical studies on the prevalence of social media addiction in young adults at college or in vocational training.

The research questions of the study should then be derived logically from the literature and mentioned here at the end of the introduction for clarification, and not in the methods (see page 6). Research question 4 "Do the Arab youth have consistent attitudes towards social media addiction as a multidimensional variable that contains (preoccupation, withdrawal symptoms, tolerance, mode modification, relapse, and conflict)?" is misleading and needs to be revised.

Methods

The questionnaires used are correctly described in the methods and indicate their reliability as internal consistency.

However, information on the type of survey (online/paper-pencil) and the locations (which universities) as well as all socio-demographic data on the participants (sample description with frequency according to gender, age, academic year, field of study) is missing. The latter is particularly noteworthy as research question 2 focuses on its influence on social media use. The missing survey period can only be approximately closed due to the use of SPSS version 25.0 (license has been available since 2018).

The three research hypotheses are confusingly not formulated in a way that corresponds to the four research questions.

Results

The results are well structured based on the four research questions to be answered.

Question 1: The figure shows the percentage frequency of social media use. The total sample size is missing from Figure 1 (see page 7). The frequencies and respective percentages are also missing from the text. The results are not only described below, but also discussed inappropriately, as they are usually only interpreted during the discussion.

Question 2: To answer the question, two tables are offered with socio-demographic characteristics, which, except for gender, differ from those mentioned in the methods and are not presented using descriptive statistics. The results on duration of media use in Table 1 (see page 8) and Table 2 (see page 9) differ in descriptive statistics and in test statistics (T-test, F-test), without different subgroups of the sample being mentioned. The text that refers to the respective tables does not clarify these results but does address possible impacts.

Question 3: The correlations between time spent using social media and social media addiction are documented in Table 3 (see page 10). A reference to the questionnaire used (BSMAS sum score?) would have been helpful here. Again, the results are not classified into comparative values of the procedure.

Question 4: The results of this incomprehensible question (see above) are presented in Table 4 (see page 11). The table documents mean values and standard deviations of the items and the respective subscales formed from them. The respective Cronbach's alpha is also shown for the subscale. However, the information on Cronbach's alpha and significance for each individual item is not statistically comprehensible. This is not made clearer by the following text (see page 12) with redundant wording for all subscales.

Hypotheses 1-3: Connections are presented (Tables 5-7) that are not comprehensible in terms of content because it remains unclear how the various parameters were formed. In the text, the results are seen as supporting the hypotheses, which is also incomprehensible.

Discussion

The results are not discussed and/or embedded in the literature, but it is directly concluded that they are aligned with the media functional approach and media system dependency theory. These two theoretical approaches are mentioned for the first time in the conclusions and are not presented in the introduction. The recommendations are of a general methodological nature and not derived from their own work.

Format and Tables

Proofreading the entire manuscript for formatting requirements is recommended.