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An Overview of Young Adults' Opinions into Cyber Relation: Turkey Sample

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Abstract

Social media consumption is increasing in Turkey day by day as in whole word. Nowadays, individuals contact with emotional attachment and have romantic relations with people who they meet on internet and social media. People's perception and their messages to those who have online relationship could affect the relationship's quality. Aim of this study is to determine the opinions of young adults about cyber relations that contacted with social media. 244 volunteer young adults participated in the present study. The sample was comprised of 85 female, and 55 male. Young adult's perception of cyber romantic relationship was discussed according to literature.

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Keywords: Cyber relationship; young adults; social media

1. Introduction

Social media consumption is increasing in Turkey day by day as in whole word. The number of emotional relations is increasing because of being used extensive and often by the youths. Nowadays, individuals contact with emotional attachment and have romantic relation with people who they meet on internet and social media. Parks and Roberts (1998) found that the most commonly reported types of online relationships were close friendships, friendships and romances. The majority of relationships formed (83.6%) was with members of the opposite sex. Although online relationship increases day by day, there are limited research which focus on online romantic relationships (Wolak, Mitchell & Finkelhor, 2002).

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In some cultures that dominated by traditional rules like Turkey such relations aren't considered affirmative and dependable. In general, people tend to perceive negatively both online romantic relationships and the people who engage in them (Anderson, 2005). Sometimes people who have cyber relation can be judged and underwent criticism by society. According to Anderson (2005) online interpersonal relationships, especially romantic relationships carry the stigma of being something of a “talk show phenomena.”

People's perception and their messages to those who have online relationship could effect the relationship's quality. Wildermuth (2004) found out that more severe, disapproving, and explicit messages from off-line family and friends correlated with higher levels of stigma consciousness on the part of the on-line relationship participant. Additionally, relationship participants who experienced more stigma consciousness were less satisfied with the overall quality of their on-line relationships.

There might be so many variables which are related to perception of the online relationship. For example; the research results which was conducted by Anderson (2005) showed that amount of time spent online and affinity for the internet are positively related to more favorable perceptions of online romantic relationships.

In the young adulthood stage, having emotional relations especially by social media is common. Because of this reason learning the opinion of people who are in this stage is really important. Although there are researches about how people view the online relationship, the number of these researches is limited. For this reason aim of this study is to determine the opinions of young adults about cyber relations that contacted with social media.

2. Methods

2.1. Participants

244 volunteer young adults who attend to formation program in Ahi Evran University participated in the present study. The sample was comprised of 85 female, and 55 male. 100 of participants are studying on history, 22 of them are studying on chemist, 12 of them are studying health and 6 of them are studying psychics. The study was conducted during 2014 summer school.

2.2. Instruments

Virtual Relationship Questionnaire was used which prepared by researchers in this study. The survey consisted of two sections. In the first section there are questions for determining demographic characteristics of participants. The second section was consisted of items related to young adult's opinions about using social media and having romantic relationships via social media.

2.3. Data Analysis

Data was collected using the developed questionnaire. The data obtained by the survey was analyzed and interpreted upon using the SPSS program with the percentage and frequency.

3. Findings and Results:

The results about participant's information about relationship and social media use are given on the Table 1.

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