

Children's Usage of Social Networking Sites and Family Relationship

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Abstract: The proliferation of social networking sites has changed the instrument people use to communicate with one another. Nowadays, individuals are using social networking sites more than ever to network with friends and family members. At the same time, many studies have been conducted on the use of social networking sites with family relationships. Therefore, researchers want to identify whether there is a need to study both the variables in future studies. Specifically, this research aimed to identify whether there is a significant and positive relationship between children's usage of social networking sites and family relationship. The research also looked into the relationship between children's daily usage (hours) of social networking sites with the quantity of time spent and the quality of face-to-face communication with family members. The researcher conducted a study with 40 teachers. The researcher uses structured questionnaire to collect quantitative data pertaining to the research. The analysed data shows that there is no significant relationship between children's usage of social networking sites and family relationship. Therefore, children's usage of social networking sites does not affect family relationship. Therefore, as a suggestion to future research, researchers may relate other variables in the in-depth look at the relationship between children's usage of social networking sites and family relationship.

Keywords: Social networking, family relationship

I. INTRODUCTION

Family members thrive on feelings of belonging and affection that come from having warmth and supportive families. Warmth families produce an atmosphere of trust, understanding and compassion, enabling family members to reach their full potential in a secure environment (Caughlin, Schrodt, Koerner, & Fitzpatrick, 2011). The very essence of a strong and warmth family depends greatly on the quantity of time spent and the quality of face-to-face communication among family members. Individuals who cherish their family members understand the importance of spending time communicating with one another, thereby strengthening interpersonal relationship among family members. Interpersonal relationship among family members is the most important and genuine social relationship an individual can cultivate and maintain.

However, meaningful communication takes time and effort. Today, one of the biggest thieves of time is social networking sites. Social networking sites can be so enticing that family members become addicted to it, resulting in a

dearth of communication among family members. A recent report states that the rapid technological advancement leads to a drastic increase in the amount of time people spend using social networking sites (Adler, 2014), which results in the decreasing of the amount of time people spent with family members and the lowering of the attention during face-to-face interactions (Sharaievskaa & Stodolskab, 2017). The younger generation, also known as the Millennials, made up the majority of social networking sites users. With children investing more and more of their time on social networking sites, the quantity of time spent and the quality of face-to-face communication between children and family members will definitely be affected.

The researcher intended to understand to what extent does children's usage of social networking sites has significant and positive relationship with interpersonal relationship among family members. The research intended to discuss not only the impact of children's usage of social networking sites towards the time children spent communicating with their family, but also the quality of communication, the meaningful conversation with family members. Thus, there is a need to carry out this research. In essence, this research studies the relationship of children's usage of social networking sites towards family relationship.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Children's Usage of Social Networking Sites

Kaplan and Haenlein (2010) defined social networking sites as applications that allow users to connect with one another by creating personal information profiles, inviting friends to have access to those profiles and sending instant messages between each other. After joining social networking sites, users were asked to key in descriptors such as gender, age, location, hobbies and "about me" section, to generate personal information profiles. Then, users are prompted to identify other users within the bounded system with whom they want to share a connection (Boyd & Ellison, 2008). As soon as users had identified other users, either as friends, fans or contacts, they are able to chat with each other via instant messaging and share information. Generally, the terms "social networking sites" and "social media sites" are used loosely and interchangeably. However, it is important to note that social networking sites differ slightly from social media sites (Boyd & Ellison, 2008). Roughly, social

networking sites are dynamic websites that enable people to interact and stay connected with one another in online communities through instant messages. Some widely used social networking sites are Facebook, MySpace and Twitter. On the other hand, social media sites are websites that allow people to share user-created contents, such as articles, picture and videos. For example, Youtube and Flickr are widely known social media sites. It is interesting to know that some social networking sites, such as Facebook and Twitter, are also social media sites as such sites allow users to upload articles, pictures and videos.

While social networking sites varies in technical features, their backbone consists of visible profiles that display a list of friends with whom users are able to connect with. Worldwide statistics show that approximately 73 percent of teens worldwide ages 12-17 have created account on social networking sites and the average teens with a Facebook account have 201 Facebook friends and 37 percent of teens send messages to friends every day (Thomas, 2018). Additionally, the statistics show that 86 percent of teens comment on friends' wall; 83 percent of teens comment on friends' picture; 66 percent of teens send private messages to friends; and 52 percent of teens send group messages.

In 2010, the Kaiser Family Foundation conducted a study measuring the time children spent on the Internet, which include watching movies via social media and communicating with others through social networking sites. Surprisingly, the study found children ages 8 to 18 spent an average of 7.5 hours a day on social media, surpassing time spent on any other activity (Rideout, Foehner, & Roberts, 2010). In 2016, the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) conducted a similar survey measuring the percentage of Internet users in the country. The statistics show that 80 percent of 24.2 million Internet users in Malaysia have on average four social networking sites accounts and spent on an average of four hours per day on social media sites. One statistic that stuck out is that 83.2 percent of children aged 5 to 17 were Internet users and visiting of social networking sites are among the top online activity. The same survey shows that school-goers or children spent three hours in a day to access the social networking sites (Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, 2016).

Interpersonal Relationship among Family Members

Cheal (2002) delineates a family as a group of people that live together in a permanent arrangement separated from the rest of the world by the walls of the family dwelling. Within the family arrangement, the parents usually carry the responsibility to provide materially for the family members living together under the same roof (Lalor, Kevin, Róiste, & Devlin, 2009). Moreover, a family also involves a group of people generating a sense of home and group identity through communication, which is being made complete with strong ties of loyalty and emotion (Caughlin et al., 2011). Chesley and Fox (2012) use the term "family cohesion" to explain the

degree of emotional bonding that family members have towards one another. Similarly, Lalor et al. (2009) argue that a family is the most important source of security, love, belonging and identity to a person, especially to a young child. With regard to the sense of security and love, every family member should take the initiative to build a loving bond with one another.

However, building and maintaining strong interpersonal relationship among family members is not always easy as all families have to cope with the ups and downs of family life. In 2000, the Family Strengths Research Project asked Australian families to nominate characteristics that made their families strong despite the obstacle they encountered. The interviewees identified eight characteristics, namely communication, togetherness, sharing activities, affection, support, acceptance, commitment and resilience, as the foundation of strong families (Geggie, DeFrain, Hitchcock, & Silberberg, 2000). The findings of the study highlights that the keys to developing strong and caring family relationships include making relationships a priority, communicating effectively and providing support to each other. Certainly, family members yearning to have strong families should put forth earnest effort to strengthened family ties. Among the most important factor to strengthen family ties is face-to-face communication between family members (Mesch, 2006).

The Quantity of Time Spent and the Quantity of Face-to-Face Communication between Family Members

Communication is the process of making sense of the world and attempting to share that sense with others either through the use of verbal or nonverbal messages (Subramanian, 2017). Interpersonal communication is a distinctive and transactional form of communication, which involves mutual influence between individuals and usually for the purpose of building and managing long-lasting relationship (Caughlin et al., 2011). In fact, interpersonal communication is an essential requirement for life because all of us communicate in one way or another on a daily basis.

In the family circle, communication also plays a vital role in strengthening the relationship between individuals of a functioning family. In other words, good interpersonal communication among family members determines the very success of happy family life. Failure of interpersonal communication can have a detrimental effect on family cohesion and thus on interpersonal relationships among family members (Mesch, 2006). One study poses that the breakdown of interpersonal communication between marriage mates contribute to the increase of divorce rate (Hussain, Cakir, Ozdemir, & Tahirkheli, 2017), while parents failure to communicate with children could leads to antisocial behavior on the part of children and affect the children wellbeing (Rosen, 2011).

Hofferth and Sandberg (2001) assert that family members engaging in shared activities create opportunities for interaction and communication among family members,

thereby strengthening family ties. Mesch's (2006) study also show that family members that spend time together in shared meals, games, chatting and other common activities "enjoy a higher quality of communication". Communication is more than just talking. Communication has not occurred if the words of the speaker are not understood by the hearer. For true communication, there must be a transmitting of thoughts, ideas and feelings from one mind to another. True communication between parents and children are more than the normal day to day "How is school today?" conversation. When parents spend quality time hearing the innermost thoughts, feelings and concerns of their children, and provide children with relevant and helpful guidance, a higher quality of communication takes place and contributes to the strengthening of interpersonal relationship.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

Polit, Beck and Hungler (2001) define a research design as a blueprint for conducting a study, which describes how, when and where data are to be collected and analysed. The researcher uses the quantitative approach to conduct the research. Aliaga and Gunderson (2002) delineate that quantitative approach requires the researcher to collect numerical data and to analyse the collected data using mathematically based methods in order to explain occurring phenomena. To put it differently, quantitative research is an approach used to test theories by examining the relationship among variables. These variables, in turn, can be measured with research instrument, so that the data being collected can be analysed using statistical procedures. The researcher will then make sense of the analysed data to answer the research questions and test the research hypotheses. The researcher of this study adopted the correlation design, a non-experimental form of quantitative research, to describe and measure the degree of relationship between two or more variables (Creswell, 2003), i.e. children's usage of social networking sites, the quantity of time spent and the quality of face-to-face communication among family members, as well as family relationship. The researcher uses structured questionnaire as research instrument to collect data for the study. The researcher conducts the survey with 40 teachers from a secondary school in Bintulu, Sarawak. The survey provides the researcher with quantitative description of attitudes and opinions of teachers in relation to the impact of children's usage of social networking sites towards family relationship.

Sample and Sampling

The researcher has chosen purposive sampling technique to collect quantitative data from respondents. Purposive sampling technique is a non-probability sampling method that allows the researcher to use his judgment in choosing members of population to participate in the study (Sharma, 2017). The rationale of using purposive sampling technique is to select a group of respondents with particular characteristics to ensure that their feedback is valuable and

relevant to the research (Etikan, Musa, & Alkassim, 2016). Besides, the usage of purposive sampling technique also saves time, energy and money. The reason is that the researcher does not have to waste time, energy and money in interviewing respondents who are not in the position to provide relevant and useful feedback to the research. The sample of the survey consists of 40 teachers of a secondary school in Bintulu, Sarawak. Since teachers are concern about the wellbeing of children and their relationship with their parents, the viewpoints and feedback of teachers will be useful for this research. The sample comprise of teachers with different teaching experiences, teachers who are single and married, as well as married teachers with or without children. All the respondents willingly participate in the survey.

Research Instrument

The researcher uses structured questionnaire to collect quantitative data pertaining to the research. The researcher conducts the survey to measure the behavior of children's usage of social networking sites, how children's habitual usage of social networking sites affect the quantity of time spent and the quality of face-to-face communication among family members, and the resulting impact towards family relationship. The structured questionnaire consists of four parts, namely (A) Respondent Profile (3 Items); (B) Children's Usage of Social Networking Sites (2 Items); (C) The Impact of Children's Usage of Social Networking Sites towards the Quantity of Time Spent and the Quality of Face-to-Face Communication among Family Members (8 Items, Items C1 to C3 are used to measure the resulting impact towards the quantity of time spent with family members, whereas Items C4 to C8 are used to measure the resulting impact towards the quality of face-to-face communication with family members); and (D) The Impact of Children's Usage of Social Networking Sites towards Interpersonal Relationship among Family Members (6 Items). Part C and D of the structured questionnaire is design based on summated scales, also known as the Likert-type scales. The questionnaire consists of statements that express either an unfavorable or a favourable attitude towards the given subject to which the respondents is asked to react. Respondents expressed their attitude by selecting one of the five point Likert scales: (1) strongly disagree, (2) disagree, (3) less agree, (4) agree and (5) strongly agree. The advantages side of the Likert scales in collecting data is that the responses are easily quantifiable and easily understood (Likert, 1932). Besides, Likert-type scales questionnaire does not require respondents to give a concrete yes or no answer, but it allows them to respond in a degree of agreement. Since the questionnaire does not force respondents to take a stand on a particular issue, they are more willing and comfortable answering the questionnaire (LaMarca, 2011). The content of the questionnaire is taken and adapted from Drago (2015).

IV. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Among the 40 respondents of the full-scale research project, 11 are male teachers and 29 are female teachers. All of them

participate willingly in the survey. The opinions of teachers are being tabulated and analysed. The findings of descriptive statistics of the survey is shown in Table 1.

Questionnaire items C1 to C3 are used to measure the impact of the children’s daily usage of social networking sites towards the quantity of time spent with family members. The finding of the study shows 7.5% of the respondents less agree, 37.5% of the respondents agree and 55% of the respondents strongly agree that children spend too much time on social

networking sites (Statement C1). Regarding the resulting impact towards the reducing of the quantity of time children spent with their family members, the finding shows 10% of the respondents less agree with the statement; 50% of the respondents agree with the statement; and 40% of the respondents strongly agree with the statement (Statement C3). Similar to Salgur’s (2016) study, the respondents in this study claim that the usage of social networking sites reduces the amount of time children spent with family members.

Table 1 Descriptive Statistics of Questionnaire Items

| Questionnaire Items / Statements | Percentage (%) | | | | | M | SD |
|--|----------------|-----|------|------|------|------|-------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |
| C1. Children sometimes spend too much time on social networking sites such as Facebook. | 0.0 | 0.0 | 7.5 | 37.5 | 55.0 | 4.48 | .640 |
| C2. Children spend more time communicating with friends on social networking sites than family members. | 0.0 | 0.0 | 10.0 | 47.5 | 42.5 | 4.33 | .656 |
| C3. The time children spend on social networking sites reduces the amount of time they spend communicating face-to face with family members. | 0.0 | 0.0 | 10.0 | 50.0 | 40.0 | 4.30 | .648 |
| C4. When children spent time with family members on shared activities, they sometimes check social networking sites for updates. | 0.0 | 0.0 | 12.5 | 55.0 | 32.5 | 4.20 | .648 |
| C5. It bothers parents when children check social networking sites for updates while spending time with family members. | 0.0 | 0.0 | 45.0 | 37.5 | 17.5 | 3.73 | .751 |
| C6. The presence of social networking sites while spending time with others affects face-to-face interpersonal communication negatively. | 0.0 | 2.5 | 20.0 | 52.5 | 25.0 | 4.00 | .751 |
| C7. The quality of children’s conversation with family members decline when technology is present or when social networking sites is being used. | 0.0 | 0.0 | 20.0 | 40.0 | 40.0 | 4.20 | .758 |
| C8. If social networking sites like Facebook did not exist, then children will spent more time communicating face-to-face with family members. | 2.5 | 7.5 | 40.0 | 27.5 | 22.5 | 3.60 | 1.008 |
| D1. The amount of time children spend on social networking sites has a negative impact on family relationships. | 2.5 | 7.5 | 27.5 | 45.0 | 17.5 | 3.68 | .944 |
| D2. Children can be addicted to the usage of social networking sites if they have no self-control. | 0.0 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 35.0 | 62.5 | 4.58 | .636 |
| D3. Children’s addiction of social networking sites promotes individualism rather than collectivism among family members. | 5.0 | 2.5 | 20.0 | 52.5 | 20.0 | 3.80 | .966 |
| D4. Children’s habitual usage of social networking sites causes family members to drift away from one another. | 2.5 | 5.0 | 15.0 | 60.0 | 17.5 | 3.85 | .864 |
| D5. Every family member plays a major role in strengthening family relationship. | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.0 | 35.0 | 60.0 | 4.55 | .597 |
| D6. Parents should monitor children’s usage of social networking sites in order to maintain strong family relationship. | 0.0 | 0.0 | 17.5 | 30.0 | 52.5 | 4.35 | .770 |

Note: M=Mean, SD=Standard Deviation

Questionnaire items C4 to C8 are used to measure the impact of the children’s daily usage of social networking sites towards the quality of face-to-face communication with family members. The finding of the study shows that 2.5% of the respondents disagree, 20% of the respondents less agree, 52.5% of the respondents agree and 25% of the respondents strongly agree that the presence of social networking sites affects face-to-face interpersonal communication negatively (Statement C6). With regard to the quality of children’s communication with family members, the finding shows that 20% of the respondents less agree, 40% of the respondents agree and 40% of the respondents strongly agree that the quality of the conversation will decline when social networking sites is being used during the conversation (Statement C7). Collectively, the respondents purport that the usage of social networking sites attenuate the quality of the conversation between children and family members. The

findings is similar to Beth’s (2011) study, which assert that children engaging in social networking sites are inattentive when others are speaking and failed to respond accordingly.

Questionnaire items D1 to D6 are used to measure the impact of the children’s daily usage of social networking sites towards the interpersonal relationship among family members. The finding of the study shows that 5% of the respondents strongly disagree, 2.5% of the respondents disagree, 20% of the respondents less agree, 52.5% of the respondents agree and 20% of the respondents strongly agree that children’s addiction of social networking sites promotes individualism rather than collectivism among family members (Statement D3). With regard to children’s habitual usage of social networking sites which result in the drifting apart from family members, 2.5% of the respondents strongly disagree, 5% of the respondents disagree, 15% of the respondents less agree,

60% of the respondents agree and 17.5% of the respondents strongly agree with the statement (Statement D4). Generally, the respondents believe that children’s habitual usage of social networking sites affect to a certain extent the interpersonal relationship among family members, which is quite matching with Sultana’s (2017) study.

The descriptive analysis of few items in the survey show that there is a relationship between children’s usage of social networking sites and the quantity of time spent with family members, the quality of face-to-face communication with family members and the interpersonal relationship among family members. Similar to the existing literature related to the research topic, children’s habitual usage of social networking sites affect negatively to a certain extent family relationship as it reduced the quantity of time spent with family members and attenuate the quality of conversation with family members. Before reaching a conclusion based on the descriptive analysis, the researcher uses the Pearson Correlation Coefficient and Multiple Linear Regression research analysis techniques to measure the significant relationship between the independent variable and the three dependent variables.

Pearson correlation coefficient is used to measure the strength of relationship between two variables, namely children’s usage of social networking sites and family relationships. Based on Table 2, it is found that the Pearson Correlation Coefficient value obtained between children’s daily usage (hours) of social networking sites and the negative impact on family relationship is positive and not significant with $r = .140$. The coefficient r in the range $.1 \leq r \leq .3$ denotes that there is a weak relationship between the variables. The finding demonstrate that there is no significant relationship between children’s usage of social networking sites and family relationship.

The researcher intended to investigate to what extent children’s daily usage (hours) of social networking sites increase or decrease the quantity of time spent with family members significantly; augment or attenuate the quality of face-to-face communication with family members significantly; and strengthen or loosen family ties significantly. The result in Table 2 shows the outcome of multiple linear regression analysis performed on the independent variable (children’s usage of social networking sites) and three dependent variables (the quantity of time spent with family members, the quality of face-to-face communication, the interpersonal relationship among family members).

The finding found that children’s daily usage (hours) of social networking sites has contributed 1.4 percent of the variance changes for the quantity of time spent with family members. The assessment of the value of the beta coefficient (β) indicates the children’s daily usage (hours) of social networking sites does not have a significant effect on the quantity of time spent with family members ($\beta = .119, p < .05$). Thus, the finding shows that children’s usage of social

networking sites does not affect the quantity of time spent with family members.

The finding found that children’s daily usage (hours) of social networking sites has contributed 2 percent of the variance changes for the quality of face-to-face communication with family members. The assessment of the value of the beta coefficient (β) indicates the children’s daily usage (hours) of social networking sites does not have a significant effect on the quality of face-to-face communication with family members ($\beta = .143, p < .05$). Thus, the finding shows that children’s usage of social networking sites does not affect the quality of face-to-face communication with family members.

Table 2 Pearson Correlation of Average Times and Average Hours and Interpersonal Relationship among Family Members

| | Interpersonal Relationship | |
|---------------|----------------------------|------|
| | Pearson Correlation | Sig. |
| Average Times | $r = .295$ | .064 |
| Average Hours | $r = .140$ | .387 |

Note: * Correlation is significant at the level .05

The finding found that children’s daily usage (hours) of social networking sites has contributed 2 percent of the variance changes for the interpersonal relationship among family members. The assessment of the value of the beta coefficient (β) indicates the children’s daily usage (hours) of social networking sites does not have a significant effect on the interpersonal relationship among family members ($\beta = .140, p < .05$). Thus, the finding shows that children’s usage of social networking sites does not affect the interpersonal relationship among family members.

Table 3 Coefficient value β for the effect of Independent Variable (Daily Usage of Social Networking Sites in Hours) and Dependent Variables (The Quantity of Time Spent with Family Members; The Quality of Face-to-Face Communication with Family Members; and Interpersonal Relationship among Family Members)

| Independent Variable: | Dependent Variables: | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--|
| | Quantity (β) | Quality (β) | Interpersonal Relationship (β) |
| Daily usage | .119 | .143 | .140 |
| R | .119 | .143 | .140 |
| R ² | .014 | .020 | .020 |
| Adjusted R ² | .012 | .005 | .006 |
| F Value | .545 | .790 | .765 |
| Durbin-Watson | 2.03 | 1.99 | 1.82 |

Note: *At the significant level of .05

Most of the existing literatures show that there is a significant relationship, either positive or negative effect, between children’s usage of social networking sites and family relationship. Some researchers claim that the usage of social networking sites enhance family relationship (Yoon,

2006; Chesley& Fox, 2012; Heirtein&Anchet, 2014), whereas other researchers purport that the usage of social networking sites loosen family ties as less time are spent with family members (Mesch, 2006; Carvalho, Francisco, &Relvas, 2015; Sharaievskaa&Stodolskab, 2017).

Only the study conducted by Shklovski, Kiesler and Kraut (2006) claim that there was little or no relationship between internet use, including the usage of social networking sites, and social interaction between family members. The multiple linear regression of this analysis also shows that there is no significant relationship between children's usage of social networking sites and family relationship. The phenomenon can be explained using the descriptive statistic of the questionnaire item D1, which ask for respondents opinions on whether the amount of time children spend on social networking sites has a negative impact on family relationships. The finding of the study shows that 2.5% of the respondents strongly disagree, 7.5% of the respondents disagree. 27.5% of the respondents less agree, 45% of the respondents agree and 17.5% of the respondents strongly agree that the quantity of time children spent on social networking sites can have a negative impact on family relationships. Furthermore, the descriptive statistic of questionnaire item C8 also supports the claim that there is little relationship between social networking sites usage and family relationship. The finding shows that 2.5% of the respondents strongly disagree, 7.5% of the respondents disagree. 40% of the respondents less agree, 27.5% of the respondents agree and 22.5% of the respondents strongly agree with the perspective that family relationship will be strengthened through the increase of the quantity of time spent with family members if social networking sites did not exist. The diverse viewpoints hold by the respondents show that children's habitual usage of social networking sites is not the sole reason that contributes to the loosening of family relationship. Some other issues that cause the loosening of family relationship could be economic pressures that force parents to spend more time working or family breakdown due to the lack of cooperation between spouses.

Besides, the proliferation of social networking sites among family members, not limited to children only, contribute to the little significant between children's usage of social networking sites and family relationship. The rationale is that even parents spend a majority of their time on social networking sites. Parents often use social networking sites to communicate via text messages and share pictures videos with their children. The extensive usage of social networking sites among family members have become a norm of family life, therefore the usage of social networking sites has a small relationship with family relationship. Regarding the descriptive statistic of questionnaire item C5, the finding shows that 45% of the respondents less agree, 37.5% of the respondents agree and 17.5% of the respondents strongly agree that it bothers parents when children check social networking sites for updates while spending time with family members.

Therefore, there are no significant relationship between the independent variable (children's usage of social networking sites) and three dependent variables (the quantity of time spent with family members, the quality of face-to-face communication with family members, the interpersonal relationship among family members).

V. IMPLICATIONS, RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

The researcher conducted a survey on 40 teachers in order to measure whether there is a strong relationship between children's usage of social networking sites and family relationship. Most of the existing literatures state that children's habitual usage of social networking sites has a negative impact on family relationship. The rationale is that the usage of social networking sites saps their time away from communicating with their family members, and even if they did communicate with family members, the quality of conversation is reduced as they are inattentive to the conversation. However, the current research yields different results. The finding shows that there are little or no significant relationship between children's usage of social networking sites and family relationship. Besides, the findings demonstrate that there are no significant relationship between children's usage of social networking sites and the quantity of time spent and the quality of communication with family members.

Based on the research findings, the researcher concludes that children's daily usage (hours) of social networking sites does not have significant impact on family relationship. The findings show that the respondents do not agree that the usage of social networking sites is the sole factor that affects the strengthening or the loosening of family relationship. Other factors such as economic hardships, infidelity between marriage mates, health problems such as depression, could also affect family relationship. The extensive usage of social networking sites among family members, both children and parents, might be another reason why the usage of social networking sites does not impact family relationship. It is true that the usage of social networking sites reduces the amount of time family members spent with each other. However, this does not means that they are not communicating with one another. Social networking sites give family members the ease to communicate with one another through text messages, voice call, and even video call. The sending of text messages and the sharing of pictures and videos create more topic of discussion between family members, thereby strengthening family members, which make up the lost in face-to-face communication. The findings do not stress the importance impact of social networking sites towards family relationship.

The researcher of this study conducted the research on 40 respondents. Therefore, the findings cannot be generalized to a greater population. In the future, it is advisable to conduct the survey with larger sample

populations involving both parents and children. Additionally, the questionnaire was taken and adapted from other study by the researcher who does not have the necessary specialized training. It would be better if the questionnaire had been devised by researcher with the appropriate expertise to ensure scientific reliability. Furthermore, with the proliferation of the usage of social networking sites, it is advisable for further research to look into the impact of social networking sites towards self-esteem, self-confidence, mental health of the users, children's educational development and adults' efficiency at work.

The current project focuses on the impact of children's usage of social networking sites towards family relationship. The findings show that there is no significant relationship between the usage of social networking sites and family relationship. In essence, children's usage of social networking sites does not affect interpersonal relationship among family members.

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