Is social media an effective tool for young adults to expose their authentic self to present themselves?

Abstract

This paper will argue on whether a person can be authentic and anonymous at the same time. Social media is a platform where each individual connected needs to provide all their ethnic self on their profile. In this paper, it will be shown how important it is for a person to get access to the details that is provided on social media. In the same vein, it will demonstrate how one gets confident to provide details and it will therefore benefit their future career and life at the same time. It will also show how presenting the authentic self has allow younger adults to get job opportunities by being at ease with the information that they have shared because of their confidence level. Online dating is another platform which has also allowed an individual to put all the real identity on the web sites which could help them achieve what they want to. Moreover, on social media platforms, for instance, Facebook has all the options where one needs to add their authentic self for example, the gender, age and most importantly their full name. However, on the other side, this paper will discuss how anonymity has helped in younger adults life by hiding their true self and using social media sites without the exposure of their identity.

Social media has become increasingly integrated in people's life as it is much more important for young adults to present their real self to the world. It is a tool which allows people to connect to media sharing sites. Younger adults are exposing their authentic self for the sake of employment for better careers to create a good reputation to themselves. Being able to come up with authenticity is crucial so that younger adults settle their own identity to the online dating application which demands honest details. Facebook is indeed a very interactive platform for younger adults and others to communicate with each other. It is with the authentic self that one will be able to have a honest representation. Furthermore, this paper will thus argue whether you can be authentic and anonymous at the same time.

To start with, online identity refers to the social identity which an internet user begins by on online communities and websites where they have the right to connect to other people on social media platforms. It is a way how young adults can easily be identified. Authentic self relates to who you truly are as an honest representation of yourself and your personality. Also, the anonymous self is when the person's identity is unknown to any person and no details can be found on social media. In addition, an individual needs to present their true identity in their workplace which is known as professionalism. Much more, it creates a better reputation in the competitive world. It is how one needs to have positive effect in their job where they need to provide their authentic self to others in the any industry. In other words, this can also show how young adults are worthy of their job where they can create their own working identity by themselves. This is why it is paramount to always provide the real identification for any individual on social media platforms because there are departments in a work place who check on the profiles of the person they are recruiting in their company. It is very important to add all the required details to relate to their true self.

In the same vein, social media platforms has another advantage which gives young adults new ways to present their authentic self in a specific and stronger way. It somehow increases their chances for job opportunities. Another way in which it shapes what they say and do on social

media platforms is the aspect of showing a strong way of commitment to their work and to their true self. At times, by presenting their true identity, it boost their confidence level and shows that they are capable of doing work which is appreciated by the owner of the company (Grieve & Watkinson, 2016). People are more connected to network affordance which always plays a role to the self-evaluation and constant reflection of what they can provide for sure. This is why it is crucial to always provide a person's true self to their social media page so that they create a good name for themselves because of their career. Those younger adults have better prestige as they have good communication skills when it is clearly seen on their social media platforms where they interact with their friends on pictures they post. Concurrently, in the web 2.0, social media has become a modern tool which is used by all young adults to have the knowledge of participating and understanding the concepts related to their world.

Equally important, another point to note is that in an online dating application it is very important to present all the honest and truthful details that represent the person. If wrong details are given, it can deceive the other party with whom the latter is talking. There are a plethora of younger adults who go online to register themselves on dating applications in order to get a partner to talk with that is why it is predominant to make avail of the real information for instance, their age, a true picture of themselves and their full name. Hence, the self-presentation, in other words, needs to create a great impression online because it might furthermore take a new step as there will be a time when they will finally meet each other face to face (Walther, 1994). It presumably makes it into a traditional communication such that spoken communication sense (Ellison et al., 2017). With the use of online application it allows individuals to typically impress the other partner to commit in their new relationship and therefore to lead to dates accordingly (Rowatt et al., 1998). Correspondingly, it focuses on the behaviors when both partner start to share everything which creates a true and strong bond for each other to commit. Additionally, the main purpose of an online dating application is to have someone of your choice who is caring, understanding and want to have an intimate honest relationship. Both of them stay connected within the online environment to remain close.

According to Lee (2004), the site True.com have indeed conducted background checks on online dating users and has introduced legislation which is necessary to verify whether the information added on the account is authentic or not. It is important to do all these background checks so as not to hurt anyone's feelings (Ellison et al., 2017). In 2003, 29 millions of Americans were using online dating application (Gershberg, 2004). In addition, there were uniquely 40 millions of visitors to the online dating sites each month in U.S (CBC News, 2004) whereby they were making new friends online. Thus, it is the liberal mode of identity that younger adults decide where they shall connect themselves vividly to provide all their personal information to find another individual of their choice and live in a long term relationship (St. John, 2002). It focuses mainly on the content on managing their online self. This is so because of the Post Marxist perspective, which is a philosophy of how people's identity have been formed only through interactions that have reformed their identity more specifically. Social media can really create a bond between two people to perform themselves in terms of how to present, create and maintain a favorable image projected to other people. It creates a very important aspect in every individual's life who are connected to online dating platform because it renews to the focus of authenticity which is always viewed online by providing details such that location and contact details or whether they have mutual friends in common or not. At last, they finally meet offline too to know their dating partner who they are currently talking to online to, to see if they are online authenticity reflects on their real life also.

By the same token, on Facebook, true self and real personality is the most important to them. It is known as the Facebook self which is necessary to acknowledge their true self to allow others to know. It is a way to increase the self-esteem of those younger adults who are more at ease to share their details without any fear on social media platforms (Grieve & Watkinson, 2016). Furthermore, Facebook gives individuals the opportunity to present their self to communicate more fully and to actually post pictures of the activities they did during the day. Therefore it allows them to provide their true self without hesitation to their Facebook friends. The social media platform is an environment which gives evidence on how one truly behaves and has the authenticity in an organized manner. Notably, it gives one the power to be confident about oneself when they present their authentic self on social media platforms which somehow has the tendency to eradicate their stress level, anxiety and depression from what other will think according to their identity. On Facebook, people have the option where one has to add their gender and age accordingly. They manage to make an impression on themselves by interacting with others to their own self.

On the flipside of the coin, young adults have the right to keep their private information anonymous where the online privacy protection is paramount for each individual who have access to Facebook particularly because of how people interact with the internet. The worldwide internet growth has indeed changed the way people live their life. Nowadays, even on the internet, it has become a crucial fact for people to protect their identity so that they do not face dangerous issues in the future (Liljander, Gummerus, & Söderlund, 2015). Information of the owner should not be shared without permission. According to researchers, this can therefore lead to an identity fraud where all the personal details of the owner has been stolen. Young adults eschew the willingness to share their information, for instance, their name, age and image so that they could avoid dangers for themselves because of strangers. According to Christofides (2009), young adults have the option to control who have the authority to view their shared information as vivid as all the post that is on their timeline which is a reflecting of no violation of privacy because their identity remains anonymous. While being anonymous, people are having fun when posting online and they are exploring aspects which are not exposing themselves. In the same vein, tensions have been raised for those younger adults because they think that with the privacy that Facebook has offered, they have the benefit to self-disclose themselves to strangers which is not at all obligatory. Young adults have the right to decide whether they will put their true self on privacy or not. Walther (2011) states that, "The behavior of teenagers have changed because there are teenagers who make illegal statement, insulting and make foolish act in their profiles" (para. 3) where they act without consequence because their self is hidden.

In a nutshell, this paper has mainly discussed the three main points of authentic self and has argued that it is crucial to provide details of one's identity to the social media platforms for specific reasons. Much more, in creating a good reputation in the world of working places, where the evidence is mainly in the profile of the employees who are looking for the job. It is also an advantage to the online dating app because people consider all the details authentic on the platform and even on Facebook young adults are at ease with the information section that is provided online. One future prediction is that it is better to provide all the ethnic details on platforms and have privacy at the same time on the profiles of those individuals.

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