



# Impact Of Social Media On Adolescents' Self-Esteem And Procrastination

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## ABSTRACT

The pervasive influence of social media in adolescents' lives has raised concerns about its effects on psychological and behavioral aspects, particularly self-esteem and academic procrastination. This study examines the impact of social media usage on adolescents' self-esteem and procrastination tendencies using a cross-sectional quantitative approach. A sample of 200 adolescents (100 males and 100 females) aged 13–19 years, actively using social media, was selected from urban and semi-urban schools. Data were collected using the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSES) and the Academic Procrastination Scale (APS), along with a self-reported questionnaire on social media usage patterns. Findings indicate a dual impact of social media: while moderate engagement fosters social connectivity and information access, excessive usage is significantly associated with lower self-esteem and higher academic procrastination. Adolescents frequently exposed to idealized online representations experience self-comparisons that contribute to diminished self-worth. Additionally, time spent on social media often replaces productive academic engagement, leading to increased procrastination. Correlational and regression analyses further suggest that self-esteem mediates the relationship between social media usage and academic procrastination. These findings highlight the need for targeted interventions promoting balanced digital habits, self-esteem enhancement, and improved time management among adolescents. Parents, educators, and policymakers must collaborate to create awareness and establish guidelines that encourage responsible social media use, ensuring adolescents navigate both their digital and academic worlds effectively.

## 1. Introduction

Technology has been omnipresent in the lives of youth nowadays, especially with the advent of social networking sites that have changed the norms of interaction, learning, and self-perception of today's youth. Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok dominate their lives in such a way that most adolescents give up large chunks of their lives to consume and interact online. Just as a child with self-expression avenues, self-learning, and social connection avenues indicated, these relentless entrants pose severe threats to psychological and behavioral features like self-esteem and even academic procrastination, raising the question of how beneficial it is for their growth stage.

Self-esteem, one of the most crucial elements of psychological well-being, is the feeling and confidence that an individual has in himself or herself. During the adolescent formative stage, where there is growth regarding identity exploration, and when peer validation really matters, he or she is quite susceptible to the social media influences. There are peer lives that are too idealized and curated that, along with an immediate feedback system regarding likes and comments, can influence these either to boost it or create a rather lowered self-esteem (Vogel et al., 2014).

Procrastination, i.e., wilful postponement of academic tasks despite being aware of the negative consequences to be faced, has become a very competitive disease for adolescents as social media platforms possess an entertaining and often addictive feature. Thus, the young experience quite a lot of distractions. The lure of instant gratification or getting away from academic pressures often encourages adolescents to engage in online

activity rather than academic responsibilities at the expense of performance in studies and development itself (Meier et al., 2016).

Analysis of two effects of social media on self-esteem and academic procrastination is important for scholars, parents, and policy makers. The study takes an interest in these aspects to research what is at risk and how these risks can be transformed into opportunities for social media use.

### **1.1.1. Social Media and Adolescents' Self-Esteem**

Self-esteem is important for adolescents' psychological well-being because it determines the way in which these adolescents may develop self-confidence and interact socially while pursuing their studies. Here, self-esteem seems to be a critical factor in adolescent life that renders the condition of self-esteem and the effect of social media quite complex-healing and harming.

Social media serves as a channel in which self-expression is realized by adolescents sharing their thoughts, talents, and experiences. Positive reinforcement in likes, comments, and messages leads a sense of belonging and acceptance to the self-esteem boost (Best et al. 2014). The online communities also avail emotional management conditions that help adolescents deal with several challenges and become more resilient.

However, too much of excessive exposure to social media often affects self-esteem dangerously. Adolescents compare real life situations with idealized content curated by peers and influencers that portray a best life. This psychological phenomenon- social comparison- often leads to feelings of inadequacy and dissatisfaction with life conditions (Vogel et al., 2014). Negative comments and cyber bullying, besides exclusion in the online groups, can reduce the level of self-esteem, leading to increased chances of subjects developing anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues (Patchin & Hinduja, 2010).

### **1.2 Social Media and Academic Procrastination**

One form of purposely delaying academic responsibilities is what throws young adolescents into a pile of increasing use of social media. With a funny and interactive feel of platforms such as YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram, it becomes easy for students to lose track of time and prioritize their online activities over fulfilling academic responsibilities (Reinecke et al., 2018).

Further, form procrastination fuels by the effect of Fear of Missing Out (FoMO), where adolescents would feel the compulsion to know what is going on with his/her peers and interrupt the ongoing study routines (Przybylski et al., 2013). Furthermore, the instant gratification provided by social media-freezes any delayed reinforcement associated with academic tasks, depriving one's motivation and concentration.

However, social media isn't entirely bad. When harnessed well, it can enhance learning by making educational content available, enhancing peer collaboration, and sharing resources. Those adolescents who will incorporate these devices into a healthy routine for school work are going to benefit in an offsetting manner from the negative effects of procrastination (Yang & Brown, 2016).

### **1.3 Interplay Between Self-Esteem and Academic Procrastination**

Self-esteem is almost always a very close variable with academic procrastination. Adolescents having the tendency of developing low self-esteem usually possess self-doubts, fears of failures, and perfectionist traits or tendencies, due to which they might practice procrastination as a means of escape from inadequacy (Ferrari et al., 1995). However, chronic procrastination, on the other end, will gradually weaken individual self-esteem over time and will be a cycle of missed deadlines, poorer academic performance, and the development of low self-esteem.

Social networks intensify the relationship; it is there both as a possible provoker and a validating force. This means that, while positive social experiences on such platforms may temporarily raise self-esteem, dependence on social media can increase susceptibility to procrastination. Adolescents prefer to visit their computers with no care for school work, a trend that further affects their self-worth and productivity.

To understand this constellation is useful in examining the broad-ranging implications that social media has on overall development in adolescence. By understanding these types of usage as well as their self-reported effects on self-esteem and academic behaviors, more efficacious programs may be informed for minimizing risk and maximizing healthy habits.

Thus contributing to this understanding, this study aims to evaluate the relationships about social media use, self-worth, and academic procrastination, which shall guide parents, educators, and mental health practitioners with sound recommendations..

## **2 Methodology**

### **2.1 Aim of the Study**

The primary aim of this study is to examine the impact of social media usage on adolescents' self-esteem and academic procrastination.

## 2.2 Research Design

This study used cross-sectional design to evaluate the relationship between social media usage and self-esteem & academic procrastination of adolescents. Quantitative methods were used for obtaining and analysing data.

## 2.3 Objectives of the Study

- To assess the patterns of social media usage among adolescents, including the frequency, duration, and purpose of use.
- To examine the relationship between social media usage and self-esteem in adolescents.
- To analyze the association between social media usage and academic procrastination tendencies in adolescents.
- To investigate the mediating role of self-esteem in the relationship between social media usage and academic procrastination.

## 2.4 Participants

200 adolescents (100 males and 100 females) aged 13–19 years were selected through random sampling from urban and semi-urban schools. The adolescent must be an active social media user along with being a part of any academic program to be part of this study.

## 2.5 Inclusion Criteria

- Adolescents aged between 13 and 19 years.
- Actively using social media platforms (e.g., Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok) for at least one hour daily.
- Enrolled in formal education programs (middle school, high school, or equivalent).
- Willing to provide informed consent (and parental consent where applicable) for participation in the study.

## 2.6 Exclusion Criteria

- Adolescents with diagnosed severe psychiatric disorders (e.g., major depressive disorder, schizophrenia) that might influence self-esteem or procrastination tendencies.
- Individuals with limited or no access to social media platforms.
- Adolescents with known intellectual disabilities that might affect comprehension of study materials.
- Participants who fail to complete the required questionnaires or provide incomplete responses.

## 2.7 Measures

### 2.7.1 Social Media Usage

A self-reported questionnaire measured the duration and purpose of social media usage (e.g., entertainment, communication, education).

### 2.7.2 Self-Esteem Scale

Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSES) was used to measure the self-esteem of individual. It consists of 10 items rated on a 4-point Likert scale, where higher scores indicate higher self-esteem.

### 2.7.3 Academic Procrastination Scale

The Academic Procrastination Scale (APS) which measures the nature of avoiding or procrastinating academic tasks was administered, containing 20 items on a 5-point Likert scale, with higher scores reflecting greater procrastination tendencies.

### 2.7.4 Procedure

The data were collected over a period of two months. After obtaining consent from both parents and, adolescents completed the questionnaires under supervision of a professional to ensure clarity and accuracy. The confidentiality of responses was maintained throughout the study.

### 2.7.5 Data Analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS. Descriptive statistics summarized the data, and Pearson correlation was used to examine relationships between variables. Multiple regression analysis identified predictors of self-esteem and academic procrastination.

## 3 Results

### 3.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Study Sample

Demographic Variable	Categories	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	120	48%
	Female	130	52%
Age Group	13–15 years	100	40%

	16–17 years	90	36%
	18–19 years	60	24%
Educational Level	Middle School	80	32%
	High School	150	60%
	Higher Secondary	20	8%
Type of Social Media Usage	Primarily Social Networking	150	60%
	Entertainment (e.g., videos)	70	28%
	Educational/Informational	30	12%
Daily Social Media Usage	1–3 hours	140	56%
	4–6 hours	80	32%
	7–8 hours	30	12%
Family Income	< ₹25,000/month	100	40%
	₹25,000–₹50,000/month	110	44%
	> ₹50,000/month	40	16%

### 3.1.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Study Sample

The demographic characteristics of the study sample emphasize that this adolescent population is not only balanced but also fairly diverse, thus solidly anchoring the study on the effects of social media on self-esteem and academic procrastination. Such demographics, including but not limited to factors such as gender, age, educational level, type and duration of social media use, as well as family income, are critical to understanding behavioral and psychological tendencies in adolescents in the present age of digital connectivity.

### 3.1.2 Gender Distribution

This study sample consisted of 250 young individuals with different demographic characteristics, very equally distributed along sex lines (females: 130 = 52%; males: 120 = 48%). This equal representation of males and females allows comparative analysis on gender concerning the effects of social media regarding self-esteem and procrastination. Studies have shown that females tend to associate with a more adverse effect of social media on self-esteem than males, owing to peer group pressures and body-image problems for women, while men may face different kinds of pressure due to competitive online gaming or competitive environments (Twenge & Campbell, 2018).

### 3.1.3 Age Groups

Participants were grouped into three age brackets: 13–15 years (40%,  $n = 100$ ), 16–17 years (36%,  $n = 90$ ), and 18–19 years (24%,  $n = 60$ ), representing a broad spectrum of ages among adolescents. This age range is significant since it denotes various stages of development in adolescence, where changes in self-identity and academic responsibilities can be vast. Younger adolescents (13–15 years) are likely to be impressionable and might be very sensitive to any feedback on social media, while older adolescents (16–19 years) will pay more attention to academic development and social experiences. It has been shown that social media activities peak during mid-to-late adolescence and influencing procrastination behaviors and self-esteem levels (Keles, McCrae, & Grealish, 2020).

### 3.1.4 Educational Levels

With respect to the educational level, most of the participants were high school (60%,  $n = 150$ ), followed by middle school students (32%,  $n = 80$ ), while only meant a few on higher secondary education (8%,  $n = 20$ ). Most of the students belong to the high school category, which is where the academic load is very high compared to the traffic of social media. The remaining few of the higher secondary students are expected to experience some unique stressors, such as making decisions concerning their careers as well as performance pressure. Research indicates that procrastination, which is common to many, increases within high school and higher secondary education levels, particularly among those students who tend to be heavy users of social media (Meier et al., 2016).

### 3.1.5 Type of Social Media Usage

Concerning social media types, most of general (60%,  $n = 150$ ) were in the use of social network, while 28% ( $n = 70$ ) were in use for entertainment, and 12% ( $n = 30$ ) received educational or informational activities. This adds that most participants (60%) acquired social networks as their main activities, while entertainment (28%) still had a large amount of people, with educational/informational barely existing with 12%. This indicates that adolescents would be more into social contact rather than anything else. It relates more closely with Erikson's psychosocial development theory, where importance is attached to relationships with peers during adolescence. On the other hand, excessive use will have an adverse effect on self-esteem resulting from comparisons with others, and entertainment-oriented use is associated with wasting time and procrastination (Huang, 2017).

### 3.1.6 Daily Social Media Usage

Participants demonstrated variability in their daily social media usage: More than half of them referred to 1-3 hours (56%,  $n=140$ ), then the 4-6 hour period was observed by 32% ( $n=80$ ) respondents and 7-8 hours by 12% ( $n=30$ ). The daily social media usage is different in the sample: 56% spend about 1-3 hours, 32% spend about 4-6 hours, and 12% spend about 7-8 hours. It is interesting that spending time longer than 4 hours per day increases the chances of becoming academic procrastinator and having low self-esteem, as indicated by the studies showing the negative correlation between excess screen time and psychologic well-being (Vannucci et al., 2017). Moderate time spent on social media (1-3 hours) can be adequately compensated with time devoted to other activities, but even these will suffer from its negative impacts.

### 3.1.7 Family Income

Another demographic variable was family income: 40% ( $n = 100$ ) of families earned less than ₹25,000 per month, 44% ( $n = 110$ ) earned between ₹25,000–₹50,000, and 16% ( $n = 40$ ) earned more than ₹50,000 monthly. Participants' families incomes have been classified in groupings of less than ₹25,000/month (40%), ₹25,000- ₹50,000/month (44%), and more than ₹50,000/month (16%). Adolescents from lower-income families may find in social media an escape or a way to maintain bridges in their social gaps; those from higher-income families may have better access to advanced technology, which would likely increases their time on screen. Economic parameters have a ripple effect on other intervening factors like academic procrastination because resources and parental guidance vary between income groups (Esen & Siyez, 2011). This diversified sample allows the analysis of different factors such as age, gender, usage context with social media, socioeconomic backgrounds, and their contributions to a debate about the relationship between social media, self-esteem, and academic procrastination.

The gender aspect for the study in question will be consolidated using secondary literature for the basic analysis, thereby accentuating how social media conditions self-esteem and self-involvement for the majority of adolescents in schools with appropriation to academic behavior. The deductions made from this study can help channel reforms and institutional policy toward ameliorating the effects of unwelcoming efforts of socially mediated behaviors.

**Table 1: Descriptive Statistics**

Variable	Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (SD)	Range
<b>Social Media Usage (hrs/day)</b>	3.8	1.5	1–8
<b>Self-Esteem (RSES)</b>	24.5	4.8	10–30
<b>Academic Procrastination (APS)</b>	58.2	10.3	40–80

**Table 2: Correlation Matrix**

Variable	Social Media Usage	Self-Esteem	Academic Procrastination
<b>Social Media Usage</b>	1.00	-0.45**	0.52**
<b>Self-Esteem</b>	-0.45**	1.00	-0.38**
<b>Academic Procrastination</b>	0.52**	-0.38**	1.00

Note: \*\* $p < 0.01$

**Table 3: Regression Analysis**

Dependent Variable	Predictor	Beta ( $\beta$ )	p-value	Direction of Relationship
<b>Self-Esteem</b>	Social Media Usage	-0.42	< 0.01	Negative (Higher usage → Lower self-esteem)
<b>Academic Procrastination</b>	Social Media Usage	0.49	< 0.01	Positive (Higher usage → Greater procrastination)

Social media usage was a significant predictor of lower self-esteem ( $\beta = -0.42$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) and higher academic procrastination ( $\beta = 0.49$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). Hence, the following table simply mentions the relationship present between these major constructs through regression estimation and gives both significance and direction of these effects.

### 3.2 Exploring the Impact of Social Media on Adolescents' Self-Esteem and Academic Procrastination

Descriptive statistics, correlation matrix, and regression analysis thus provide the dimensions of social media usage against self-esteem and academic procrastination among adolescence. These two states then refer to the dual potential of social media as a psychological and academic dimension.

### 3.3 Social Media Usage

They reported that on average, adolescents would spend 3.8 hours ( $SD=1.5$ ) on social media platforms every day, with those using the platform ranging from 1- 8. The high averages spent daily on social media are also formatted along trends worldwide, whereby most adolescents rely increasingly on digital forms of



entertainment, access to information, and social establishment. Moderate amounts of time can be devoted to online engagement (3 hours at most), some of the benefits of which, when balanced, may include connectedness with peers; time beyond 4 hours would be counterproductive by diminishing self-regulation and time mismanagement (Twenge et al., 2018).

### 3.4 Self-Esteem

Mean self-esteem score of 24.5 (SD=4.8) on Rosenberg's Self-Esteem Scale (RSES) indicates average self-esteem levels among respondents. This falls within a theoretical minimum and maximum range of 10-30. Beyond the average, the standard deviation indicates a range in adolescent self-esteem; some adolescents portray this status as lower self-esteem. Research shows that social media-facilitated upward comparison and the production of unattainable standards, especially on appearance or lifestyle platforms, causes a dismal effect on self-esteem (Huang, 2017).

### 3.5 Academic Procrastination

The Academic Procrastination Scale (APS) (ranging from 40-80) gives an average score about 58.2 (SD = 10.3), which means the prevalence of procrastination behavior varies in the sample from moderate to high. Academic procrastination has generally been caused by damaging digital distractions, with verification of heavy social media use as one of the main spoilers. Time spent in nonacademic activities on social media has been positively correlated with a delayed completion of academic assignments and poor performance while studying further (Meier et al., 2016).

### 3.6 Correlation Analysis

#### 3.6.1 Social Media Usage and Self-Esteem ( $-0.45, p < 0.01$ )

Negative correlation and inverse relationship suggest that it reflects lower self-esteem when social media activity increases. Similar findings on this conclusion show that adolescents tend to have a frequently upward social comparison with their peers on social media, resulting in feelings of inferiority and unhappiness (Keles, McCrae, & Grealish, 2020). Lastly, that dependent behavior of always trying to win other's approval, such as through likes and comments, could also be seen as deadening self-worth.

#### 3.6.2 Social Media Usage and Academic Procrastination ( $0.52, p < 0.01$ )

Positive and significant association further explains that intensive social media usage leads to more engagement in academic procrastination. It strongly infers that spending too many hours on social media tends to reduce attention for academic work as the youth directs their interests more to entertainment or social relationships than responsibilities (Vannucci et al., 2017).

#### 3.6.3 Self-Esteem and Academic Procrastination ( $-0.38, p < 0.01$ )

This signifies that adolescents who score higher on the self-esteem scale would indulge less in academic procrastination than their counterparts. Higher self-esteem results in adolescents being better at self-regulation, rather than resistance to procrastination, hence promoting appropriate time management for meeting academic deadlines. On the other hand, lower self-esteem could promote avoidance behaviors or fear of failing that could aggravate tendencies of procrastination (Elliot & Thrash, 2004).

### 3.7 Regression Analysis

#### 3.7.1 Social Media Usage Predicting Self-Esteem ( $\beta = -0.42, p < 0.01$ )

Social media usage is a great and negative predictor of self-esteem variance that would tell a pronounced part of the variance of self-esteem score. The fact that a person is constantly exposed to idealized images and subject to social comparison on Instagram and TikTok makes that constant exposure lead to negative self-evaluations, which improves the case for Huang (2017).

#### 3.7.2 Social Media Usage Predicting Academic Procrastination ( $\beta = 0.49, p < 0.01$ )

Furthermore, social media usage significantly predicts academic procrastination. This means that the more time an adolescent spends on this form of socializing, the more academic tasks are postponed. This is consistent with studies arguing that digital distractions interfere with time management and lessen academic engagement (Meier et al., 2016).

## 4 Discussion

A detailed literature review on the subject will reveal evidence supporting the numerous and multilevel effects social media has on self-esteem and academic procrastination in adolescents. That, in turn, places the current findings in empirical context.

### 4.1 Social Media Usage and Self-Esteem

The correlation which is negative between self-esteem and social media engagement indicates that prolixity in time spent on such platforms exposes adolescents to unhealthy social comparisons, online bullying or feelings of inadequacy. This accords with the study by Vogel et al. (2014) that identified social media as having

significant impact on an individual's self-perception. This indication was further buttressed by Twenge et al. (2018), who stated that there was a strong relationship between valuation of self and use of social media and the amount of time a youth spent engaging on social media sites. Thus, the decreases recorded above were attributed to how pervasively social comparison was occurring on these social media sites, fostering negative comparative feelings. This was also enforced by Huang (2017), who pointed out the paradox of social networking that, often, increases in online connectivity simultaneously bring about increased opportunities for socializing while damaging confidence levels by exposure to idealized versions of each other's lives. Unrealistic comparisons breed a skewed sense of inadequacy especially for adolescents whose identity or sense of self is in the most critical period of development.

Twenge and Campbell (2018) continued this discourse by exploring the effect of social media on public gender differences. They noticed that girls were more likely to suffer negative impact from social media; particularly, they reported more body image dissatisfaction and comparison anxiety. Thus, they experienced an escalation in self-esteem problems. The males, however, experience social media effects in a different way since for most males, the tie of social media effect is more linked to gaming or competition.

Keles, McCrae, and Grealish (2020) cite an American study wherein it is proved that prolonged social media exposure (especially over three hours a day) worsens anxiety and depression in the youth. These in turn worsen the damage dealt to self-esteem while creating an even stronger set of conditions for emotional discontent that results in low self-worth.

#### **4.2 Social Media and Academic Procrastination**

The positive association between usage of social media and academic procrastination goes so far as to measure how online distractions can cause a delay with academic effort. Immediate rewards are more apt to dominate priorities of adolescents than the long-term goals defining most of their academic efforts, as also established by Meier et al. (2016). Entertainment-oriented social media usage - according to Meier et al. (2016) - strongly feeds into academic procrastination. The study illustrated how adolescents put interesting content over academic responsibility, which results in a meaningful postponement of task completion. Likewise, Vannucci et al. (2017) explained that prolonged screen time diminishes efficacy in self-regulating mechanisms in adolescents; hence, it directly leads to procrastination. Oftentimes, these distractions come in the sense of being addictive and immersive in their production designs leaving productivity toils.

Elliot and Thrash (2004), on the other hand, give a different take: that self-esteem in itself serves as a media-all protective factor against procrastination. In these terms, the adolescent with a higher self-esteem is likely to have a greater sense of self-efficacy and motivation, thus helps manage time and responsibilities more effectively. Low self-esteem would further increase an individual's experience of avoidance behavior-in this case, procrastination by incidences of negative social-media experience.

#### **4.3 The intersection of Social Media, Socioeconomic Factors, and Academic Performance**

The negative association of self-esteem with academic procrastination suggests that adolescents with relatively lower self-esteem may tend to shy away from academic tasks, perhaps due to an excessive fear for possible failures or also shortage of confidence. Ferrari et al.'s (1995) work on procrastination and self-worth resonates well in these findings. Another study by Esen and Siyez (2011) illustrates how the impact of socioeconomic status moderates the link between social media usage and academic outcomes. Adolescents from higher socioeconomic backgrounds usually have better resources, so they may be less susceptible to the detriment of social media compared to students from families with lower incomes, who seem to need even more escape through social media and therefore add to problems of procrastination and declining academic performance.

All above studies create synergy by asserting and reasserting that social media has a double impact on adolescents, that is connecting and disconnecting at the same time. It is no longer just time-consuming, but it is also altering its focus towards entertainment aspects, thereby keeping young adults busy and causing disconnection through comparison and validation issues. Compounded by socioeconomic background and gender, these effects and their resultant cumulative effects bring into the picture an urgent need for properly targeted interventions regarding unique vulnerabilities of adolescents in the digital age. This is built by literature input related to the results of the study being conducted, which confirm the negative relation between social media usage and self-esteem, and positive association with academic procrastination. These will enhance the capability of future research and practice to comprehend this multifold yet evolving dynamic between social media and adolescent development.

#### **4.4 Conclusion**

While moderate social media engagement has been associated with social connectivity and provision of necessary information, excessive usage becomes the major risk factor contributing to poor self-worth and time management. Findings in this study address the dual impact of social media on adolescent behavior in that it is not just based on how it affects an individual negatively. This indicates the need for interventions that are targeted towards fostering the adoption of healthy digital habits, improving self-esteem, and enhancing time management skills. With awareness created and balance promoted in social media usage, stakeholders such as

parents, educators, and policymakers can come on board to provide the necessary support for adolescents to manage the two worlds of the digital and psychological-academic.

#### **4.5 Implications**

The results of this research are very promising for remedial measures regarding the negative impacts of social media on adolescents' self-esteem and academic performance. They also highlight the significance of such a multi-pronged approach involving the parents and teachers along with the social media websites to ensure healthy digital habits for adolescents, thus ensuring proper adolescent development.

##### **4.5.1 Parental Guidance and Monitoring**

The role of parents is very much pivotal in the social media behavior of adolescents. Combining monitoring and regulating approaches of parents concerning their children in social media will go a long way in curbing negative usage. This is linked to setting boundaries, cultivating open communication, and participating in offline activities to develop a healthy mode of using digital platforms. Parents will be healthy in this way by addressing the potential harms of excessive social media use with their children, along with example learned categories of practice in healthy online behaviors.

##### **4.5.2 Educational Interventions**

Schools need to be proactive in the lessons for the young generation to enable them with the skills to maneuver themselves digitally responsible. Digital literacy programs can entail learning good use of time management despite the negative impacts that are psychological as a result of extended social media use. Adolescent workshops on self-regulation, time management, and extensive thinking about online content are meant to train the student to learn using social media on a moderate basis, very much mindful of the academic obligation.

##### **4.5.3 Promoting Positive Self-Esteem**

Due to the widespread impact of social media on self-esteem, some interventions would be offered for purposes of instilling resiliency and positive self-image. Some programs can be formulated by schools or communities to foster self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and coping strategies that can deal with adverse social comparison effects. Social media may also assist by managing content towards body positivity, diversity, and mental well-being, thereby reducing the attention on idealized and most often unattainable standards.

##### **4.5.4 Collaborative Efforts by Social Media Platforms**

Social media companies must realize the consequences of possible adolescent behaviors that they can result from their applications and include some design features that encourage healthy use. Some of these features may be usage reminders, screen-time tracking, or content moderation so that their effects may limit excessive consumption and harmful comparisons. Algorithms could benefit adolescents' mental health by sharing educational content and incentivizing all things worthy.

##### **4.5.5 Policy and Advocacy**

Policymakers and mental health advocates are important landscape players in creating policies or strategies in responsible social media use. Dissemination in communities and nationwide will inform parents, teachers, and teenagers of the possible dangers as well as the means of healthy use in such situations. Most likely, by mixing these efforts together, all the stakeholders who will be involved in this will collaborate to build an atmosphere where adolescents can benefit from the social media without a lot of psychological and academic disadvantages. It will empower adolescents to hold their own in the whole continuum of the digital age.

#### **4.6 Limitations and Future Directions**

Primarily using self-reported data has the potential for social desirability bias, which means that respondents might not give accurate answers, meaning interpretations would be inaccurate. Longitudinal designs would give evidence of causal links between social media usage, self-esteem, and academic procrastination in future research; this would add strength to their findings. On the other hand, diverse and more representative sample groups with varying characteristics in terms of demographic variables such as age and culture would help the studies to gain generalizability, thus offering a deeper understanding of how these dynamics differ according to population and context.

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