

Abdelkader Badawi¹

Awareness of Algerian Youth about the Risks of Social Media on Intellectual Security: A Field Study of a Sample of Algerian Youth Users of Facebook

Awareness of Algerian Youth about the Risks of Social Media on Intellectual Security: A Field Study of a Sample of Algerian Youth Users of Facebook

Abdelkader Badawi¹, Zoubir Ben Aoun², Mohammed Dour³

¹University Center Sherif Boushousha, Aflou, Social Empowerment and Sustainable Development Lab in the Desert Environment, Algeria, a.badaoui@cu-aflou.edu.dz

²Amar Thelidji University, Laghouat, Social Empowerment and Sustainable Development Lab in the Desert Environment, Algeria, z.benaoune@lagh-univ.dz

³Amar Thelidji Universit, Laghouat, Social Empowerment and Sustainable Development Lab in the Desert Environment, Algeria, m.dour@lagh-univ.dz

Received: 02/2024, Published: 03/2024

Abstract:

Through this research, we aim to identify the level of awareness among Algerian youth regarding the use of social networking sites and their effects on intellectual, social and psychological security, and to identify the measures that young people take to reduce risks. To this end, we prepared a field study with a sample of Algerian youth, contacted via Facebook and which represented 36 individuals, aged 18 to 40 years old. We relied on the descriptive approach and electronic questionnaire tool to collect information and after analyzing the data, we concluded that: Young social media users are highly aware of intellectual safety. We did not find statistically significant differences related to gender, although there were some differences in the psychological dimension of the intellectual security scale, with men being preferred over women.

key words: awareness, intellectual security, Algerian youth; social media sites.

Tob Regul Sci.™ 2024;10(1): 1191 - 1207

DOI: doi.org/10.18001/TRS.10.1.75

Introduction:

Intellectual security is the cognitive product aimed at preserving the nation in its essence, foundations, and cultural effectiveness against internal and external threats. This, in turn, contributes to achieving the value of intellectual unity connected to the foundation of the nation's identity. Intellectual unity, in its general framework, leads to the unity of common perspectives and the realization of social harmony for the nation. This concept indicates the achievement of reassurance regarding the safety of thought and belief, the prudent interaction with other cultures, and addressing aspects of intellectual deviation within individuals and society.

With the world entering the information revolution, opening the door to the global village and the realm of networks, the pace of the spread of modern communication and media, especially

Abdelkader Badawi¹

Awareness of Algerian Youth about the Risks of Social Media on Intellectual Security: A Field Study of a Sample of Algerian Youth Users of Facebook

social media networks, has accelerated. This necessitates the study of the impact of these platforms, particularly on the awareness of the youth, who are more connected to them than other social groups. Their enthusiasm makes them more susceptible to the waves of values and ideas conveyed by these technologies.

In light of these developments, the general question arises: What is the level of awareness among Algerian youth regarding the effects of social media on intellectual security?

The main question has led to a set of sub-questions, which are outlined below:

1. What is the level of awareness among Algerian youth regarding the risks of using social media on intellectual security?
2. How do Algerian youth interact with the risks of using social media on intellectual security?***
3. Do Algerian youth take measures to mitigate the risks of using social media on intellectual security?
4. What are the factors influencing the awareness of Algerian youth regarding the risks of using social media on intellectual security?

2- Concepts of the Research:

2-1- Youth:

In sociology, youth is a period that begins when society attempts to equip an individual with a social status, enabling them to play a role in its construction. It concludes when the individual is capable of occupying their place and role in the social context (Donorah, 2023, p. 13).

In the context of this research, youth refers to the age group ranging from 18 to 40 years old. This period marks the initiation of biological, psychological, mental, and social maturation. Members of this group possess characteristics and traits that distinguish them from other categories within society.

2-2- Intellectual Security:

Intellectual security is defined as: "Securing the minds and thoughts of individuals in society from any flawed thinking or erroneous belief that may pose a threat to the state's system and security. It aims to achieve security and stability in social life through the state's programs and plans, which focus on enhancing the public awareness in all political, social, economic, educational aspects, etc. The state institutions work towards achieving this through interconnected and communicative services" (Azmi, 2008, p. 6).

Intellectual security is living safely in one's countries, homelands, and among their societies, safeguarding the components of their authenticity, qualitative culture, and intellectual system (Alhadhili, 2012, p. 22).

Abdulhafiz Al-Maliki defines it as: "The safety of a person's thinking from deviation or departure from moderation and moderation in understanding religious, political, and social matters. This

Abdelkader Badawi¹

Awareness of Algerian Youth about the Risks of Social Media on Intellectual Security: A Field Study of a Sample of Algerian Youth Users of Facebook

leads to maintaining public order and achieving security, reassurance, and stability in political, social, economic, and other aspects of national security" (Al-Luhaik, 2008, p. 19).

In this context, intellectual security refers to the protection of an individual's mind within society, including their knowledge, perspectives, and opinions, from any external influences introduced by the individual themselves or by others, whether individuals, groups, institutions, or organizations.

2-3- Facebook:

Sherry Kinkoph Gunter, a researcher in the field of social media, defines Facebook as: "One of the social media platforms, representing an international online community. It is a place where individuals come together to interact by exchanging photos, videos, and other information, and communicate in general with friends, family, colleagues, and others" (Dahmi, 2014, p. 24).

The media and communication dictionary defines Facebook as: "A social networking site founded in 2004, allowing the creation of personal pages. Initially designed to serve university students, faculty, and staff, it expanded to include all individuals" (Danesi, 2009, p. 117).

2-4- Awareness:

According to the British Encyclopedia, awareness is defined as "understanding and the safety of perception. Perception here refers to an individual's knowledge of oneself and the society in which they live." It also refers to the general awareness of individuals in society regarding various social issues that are related to their lives, their reality, and that shape their future. Social awareness has various types, including cultural, religious, economic, political, legal, ethical, and health awareness (Al-Qaws, 2018, p. 7).

In the sociological dictionary, awareness is described as "a mental direction derived from reality, where an individual can perceive oneself, one's environment, and one's society as a member of it" (Sharbal, Belour, 2018, p. 101).

In this context, awareness is understood as a cognitive mental process that occurs within an individual in society. It is influenced by learning, education, experiences, practices, guidance, and directions that individuals receive from members and institutions of society.

3- Methodological Procedures:

3-1- Research Methodology:

We employed a descriptive methodology and utilized statistical methods for analyzing differences and statistical significance.

3-2- Data Collection Tools:

We used a questionnaire as our data collection tool for several reasons, including:

- Limited time allocated for field research.
- Ease of use as a tool for measuring the opinions of youth social media users.

Abdelkader Badawi¹

Awareness of Algerian Youth about the Risks of Social Media on Intellectual Security: A Field Study of a Sample of Algerian Youth Users of Facebook

Therefore, we opted for the electronic questionnaire technique and utilized search engine models, such as Google Forms: [Link to the electronic questionnaire].

<https://forms.gle/rjqhonRkwwk1R8qn9>

3-3- Research Domains:

- Spatial Domain:

The spatial framework of the study lies in the virtual space that goes beyond the traditional definition of geographic location. We conducted our field research in the virtual space characterized by its boundlessness. However, we limited our study to the virtual space in Algeria only. This decision was made because we distributed the questionnaire widely within Facebook groups and pages in the Algerian virtual space. This is justified by the fact that the study sample represents Algerian youth. After preparing the electronic questionnaire using Google Forms, we published it on Facebook pages and groups within the Algerian virtual space. Additionally, we shared it with virtual friends, expanding the reach through their participation and sharing with their friends.

- Human Domain:

- **Sample Unit:** Algerian youth who use social media networks.

- **Sample Type:** Given the nature of the research, we chose and relied on purposive sampling. We specifically targeted Algerian youth who use Facebook. We used convenience sampling, where the researcher personally selected the units, attempting to obtain a sample that appears representative of the research community. The opportunity to include units was subjective, and they were not selected randomly, often referred to as purposive samples.

- **Sample Size and Selection:** The research community consists of Algerian youth who use the Facebook social media platform, with the age range specified from 18 to 40 years old. After widely distributing the questionnaire in the virtual space in Algeria, and considering the slow response rate, we settled for thirty-six (36) electronic responses.

- Temporal Domain:

The field study was conducted during the year 2023, starting from January to April. In January, we prepared the questionnaire, widely distributed it, and collected responses. In mid-March, we began transcribing the questionnaire and preparing statistical tables. The results were extracted, and the research report was written by the end of March and the beginning of April of the same year.

3-4- Statistical Methods Used:

After downloading responses from Google Forms, the data was transcribed using the statistical analysis software SPSS version 26. We prepared statistical tables that include frequencies, sample distributions, and the corresponding percentages. Additionally, we calculated the means and conducted t-tests to measure the differences between response averages.

4- Presentation and Analysis of Data:

4-1- Sample Distribution and Characteristics:

- Table 01: Represents the distribution of sample individuals according to the gender variable.

Gender	Frecuancy	Percentage
Male	18	50
Female	17	48
Not specified better not to answer	01	02
Total	36	100

From the data in the above table, which represents the distribution of study participants based on the gender variable, we observe that the sample is nearly equal between the number of male and female respondents, with a percentage of males at 50% compared to 48% females. We also note one respondent who chose not to disclose their gender. Therefore, we can say that these data provide a social indication that internet usage and social media are no longer exclusive to males. This reflects the extent of change in communication values in Algerian society.

The table number 02 represents the distribution of the research sample individuals according to the age variable.

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Between 18 24 years old	14	39
Between 25 and 30 years old	13	36
Between 31 and 36 years old	03	8
Between 37 and 40 years old	06	17
Total	36	100

From the data in the table above, we notice that the majority of the age groups for the studied sample are between 18 years and 24 years, accounting for 39%. It is followed by a percentage of 36%, representing the age group between 25 years and 30 years. The age group between 31 years and 40 years accounted for 17%. Therefore, the current study sample represented the entire youth category, estimated by most social studies to be between 18 years and 40 years. The obtained percentage reflects a natural representation of social media users, and their response to the questionnaire was good.

- Table 03: Represents the educational level of the study sample.

Educational level	Frequency	Percentage
Secondary Education	01	03
University Education	29	80
University Education (Post graduating)	06	17
Total	36	100

From the data in the above table, which represents the educational level of the study sample, it appears that the majority of the study sample has a university education, meaning that most of them are pursuing their university studies, estimated at 80%, with a frequency of 29 individuals out of a total of 36 respondents. A percentage of 17% of the sample has a postgraduate level, meaning doctoral students or university professors. This confirms the study's findings regarding the economic status of the respondents, with 75% being unemployed, mostly students. The following table illustrates this:

- Table No. 04: Represents the distribution of the economic status of the study sample.

Economic status	Frequency	Percentage
Unemployed	27	75
Ordinary employee	1	03
Public employee	5	14
High School Teacher	2	05
University Professor	1	03
Total	36	100

Based on the data from the previous two tables, it is observed that the study sample consists of young individuals, most of whom have higher education. They vary in their economic status, and it is evident that the majority are unemployed, with a percentage of 75%. In contrast, 14% of the sample are employed in public institutions. This is natural considering the employment landscape in Algeria, where public sector jobs are the primary destination for university graduates, either through integration programs or competitive exams that often require a university degree. Therefore, the results in this area are considered authentic reflections of the current reality as reported by the respondents.

4-2- Use of Social Media by Youth

- Table No. 05: Represents the duration of respondents' use of social networks

Duration of social media use	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 1 year	01	03
5 to 10 years	12	33
More than 10 years	23	64
Total	36	100

From the data in the above table, which reflects the seniority and experience of the studied sample regarding their use of social media sites, 64% of the respondents stated that their usage has been for more than 10 years. Following that, 33% of the total sample reported a usage duration between 5 to 10 years.

And perhaps these results clearly indicate that Algerian youth have been using social media for years and have gained experience in doing so. It is possible that young people began using these platforms during their teenage years. This gives the impression that there is an inclination not necessarily linked to age and not subject to societal constraints in using social media and the internet in general. This is in contrast to some societies that may enact laws taking into account age and cultural considerations when dealing with such platforms that may expose children or teenagers to bullying, extortion, and fraud. Hence, many organizations and governments have started to consider enacting laws to protect minors and young people from the dangers of these platforms.

After exploring the duration of usage, we wanted to know which social media platforms Algerian youth prefer to use, and the following table illustrates that:

- Table 06: Represents the preferred social networks used by Algerian youth.

Social media platforms	Frequency	Percentage
Facebook	28	78
Instagram	2	5
Youtube	4	11
Telegram	1	3
All Networks	1	3
Total	36	100

Abdelkader Badawi¹

Awareness of Algerian Youth about the Risks of Social Media on Intellectual Security: A Field Study of a Sample of Algerian Youth Users of Facebook

From the data in the table above, it is evident that the majority of young participants use the social media platform Facebook, with a percentage of 78%. This is followed by YouTube users, constituting 11%, while Telegram is the least used with a percentage of 3%.

Comparing these findings with the Digital Report specific to Algeria (Simon Kemp, 2021, p.17), which indicated that social media users in Algeria reached 25 million people, or 56.5% of the total population of 44.23 million. In January 2021, the number of Facebook subscribers in Algeria exceeded 23 million users, accounting for 71.8% of the population aged 13 and over. According to the same report, 62% of the network's subscribers are men and 38% are women.

The preference for Facebook among young people may be attributed to its ease of use, diverse multimedia features, and the large user base both globally and in Algeria. Some statistics show that the number of Facebook users worldwide reached 2.963 billion monthly active users in January 2023, making it the top-ranked social media platform in terms of global activity (Facebook Official Report, 2023, p.01).

Certainly, here is the translation of the provided Arabic text:

From the results of our research, there is a significant resemblance to some findings in studies on the impact of social media on Algerian youth, such as the study conducted by Laoubi and Bousalem in 2020 titled "Social Media Networks and Their Impact on Social Relationships Among Algerian University Students: A Field Study at the Tasoust University Pole, University of Jijel." This study found that the majority of the sample used Facebook, representing 94.74% of the participants. Following that, 31.58% preferred using YouTube. Therefore, it can be concluded that the use of these platforms is not devoid of a purpose or motive that drives users to prefer one network or site over another. The following table illustrates this:

- Table 07: Represents the objectives of Algerian youth in using social media networks.

Objectives of Use	Frequency	Percentage
For learning teaching and culturing	23	64
For entertainment and fun	6	17
To escape from reality	2	5
For communicating with relatives and friends	1	3
For getting to know strangers	3	8
For learning and entertaining	1	3
Total	36	100

From the data in the table above, it is evident that the majority of social media users stated that their purpose and motivation for using social networks is for learning and education, representing 64%. Following that, 17% of the sample expressed that their goal is for

Abdelkader Badawi¹

Awareness of Algerian Youth about the Risks of Social Media on Intellectual Security: A Field Study of a Sample of Algerian Youth Users of Facebook

entertainment and fun. A smaller percentage, 5%, mentioned their intention to escape from reality.

Comparing these findings with the study conducted by Laoubi and Bouselam in 2020, there is a convergence in results. In their study, they found that the primary motivation for using social media among Algerian university youth is communication with family and friends at 53.98%, followed by information and knowledge acquisition at 51.31%. Entertainment and leisure accounted for 36.84%, while those using it to escape reality constituted 10.52%.

These data indicate an awareness among Algerian university youth using social media, especially in the recent period where distance learning has become prevalent. Social media platforms have become a conduit for sharing and exchanging information among students, as well as between students and their professors. The significant presence of different segments of society, libraries, and educational platforms within social networks reflects the large amount of educational information available. Additionally, the natural inclination of young people towards communication and gaining friendships is evident in their use of these platforms. Furthermore, a notable percentage prefers these networks for entertainment and leisure, as well as an escape from the pressures of their reality.

4-3- Measuring the Level of Intellectual Security among Youth Using Social Media

In an attempt to assess the intellectual security among Algerian youth, we have constructed a specific scale to gauge their intellectual awareness. The following tables illustrate this:

- Table 08: Degree of Awareness among Algerian Youth Regarding Intellectual Security on Social Media

The degree of awareness level on the intellectual security scale among youth is presented in the following table:

The degree of awareness level on the intellectual security scale among youth		
Degree	frequency	Percentage
Average	6	17
High	30	83
Total	36	100

Based on the study data and to measure the level of the scale regarding the awareness of Algerian youth about intellectual security on social media platforms, it appears that the awareness level about intellectual security is high, estimated at 83%. The average level is 17%. To determine the level according to the dimensions of the scale, the following tables can be included:

- Table No. 09: Measurement of the Personal Dimension of Intellectual Security among the Study Sample.

Statement	Yes	Percentage	Somaymes	Frequency	No	Frequency	Mean	Standard deviation
Do you have awareness of the concept of intellectual security?	16	44	14	39	06	17	2.28	0.549
Do you use a cautious approach in dealing with extremist ideas posted?	26	72	08	22	02	06	2.67	0.343
Can you distinguish between extremist ideas and negative ideas?	27	75	08	22	01	03	2.72	0.263
Can you differentiate between rumors and true news on social media?	20	55	02	06	14	39	2.50	0.371
Do you care about personal information security and manage security in all your accounts?	32	89	01	03	03	08	2.80	0.180
Average and Standard Deviation for the Dimension							02,605	0,154
Total Value for the Dimension							13.022	0,3856
Weighted Average							2.605	

Table No. 10: Represents the Level of Scores for the Personal Dimension of the Intellectual Security Scale.

Grades	Frequency	Percentage
Low	1	03
Medium	2	05
High	33	92
Total	36	100

We observe that the level of security awareness among young people in its personal dimension is high, estimated at 92%, compared to a low level percentage of 3%. It can be said that Algerian youth have good awareness regarding dealing with intellectual awareness issues through their use of social networks and media. This may be attributed to the fact that the majority of the sample has a high level of education.

- Table No. 11: Represents the psychological dimension of intellectual security among young people.

The translation of the provided text is:

- Table No. 11: Represents the psychological dimension of intellectual security among young people.

Statement	Yes	Percentage	Sometimes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
-----------	-----	------------	-----------	------------	----	------------	------	--------------------

Do you worry when discussing issues contrary to your thinking and values	13	36%	11	30%	12	33%	2.03	0.713
Do you see yourself as unable to follow extremist and bigoted intellectual issues?	16	44%	13	36%	07	19%	2.25	0.593
I hate all prejudiced individuals.	11	31%	09	25%	16	44%	2.06	0.568
The average and standard deviation for the dimension							2,111	0,273

2.111 and 0.273, respectively.

6.333.

2.111.

2.111 and 0.273, respectively.

6.333.

2.111.

Statement	Yes	Frequency	Sometimes	Frequency	No	Frequency	Mean	Standard deviation
Do you worry when discussing issues contrary to your thinking and values	13	36	11	30	12	33	2,03	0,713
Do you see yourself as unable to follow extremist and bigoted intellectual issues?	16	44	13	36	07	19	2,25	0,593
I hate all prejudiced individuals.	11	31	09	25	16	44	2.06	0,568
The average and standard deviation for the dimension							2,111	0,273

The total value of the grades for the dimension	6,333	2,457
Weighted average	2.111	

Table 12 represents the level of psychological dimension grades for intellectual security among youth.

Level of psychological dimension	Frequency	Percentage
Low	12	33
Medium	16	44
High	8	23
Total	36	100

From the data in the above table, which illustrates the awareness levels among Algerian youth regarding intellectual security, it is evident in the psychological dimension that there is a medium level, estimated at 44%, with a 33% proportion having a low level.

- Table 13: Represents the averages of respondents' answers in the religious dimension of intellectual security.

Statement	Yes	Frequency	Sometimes	Frequency	No	Frequency	Mean	Standard deviation
I follow all official religious pages and reliable scholars	15	42	06	16	15	42	2,25	0,536
I do not subscribe to suspicious pages with a religious nature	32	89	02	5,5	02	5,5	2,83	0,257
I share everything that enhances religious tolerance and mercy in islam	22	61	14	39	00	00	2,61	0,244
I block anyone who insults or opposes my religious doctrine	24	67	05	14	07	19	2,47	0,656
I block anyone who insults my religious beliefs and convictions	33	86	02	06	03	08	2,78	0,349
I respond to those who disagree with my beliefs with arguments,	26	72	09	25	01	03	2,69	0,275

not insults						
Weighted Average						2.606

Table 14: Represents the level of scores on the intellectual security scale among youth for the religious dimension.

Level of Youth Awareness on the Religious Dimension Scale	Frequency	Percentage
Low	1	08
Medium	8	22
High	27	75
Total	36	100

From the data in the above table, which illustrates the awareness levels among Algerian youth regarding intellectual security in the religious dimension, it is evident that there is a high level, estimated at 75%, with a 22% proportion having a medium level.

- Table 15: Represents the average responses of the respondents to the intellectual security scale in the social dimension.

Statement	Yes	Frequency	Sometimes	Frequency	No	Frequency	Mean	Standard deviation
I can coexist with people of different identities and cultures	28	78	04	11	04	11	2,67	0,457
I like interacting with friend networks from different cultures	20	56	08	22	08	22	2,33	0,686
I enjoy reading about ideological issues, even if they are extreme or radical	09	25	11	31	16	44	1,81	0,675
I strive to raise awareness among my friends about the dangers of ideological deviations on society's well-being	21	58	12	33	03	09	2,5	0,429
I encourage the dissemination and commenting on posts that call for enlightenment and the	19	53	11	31	06	16	2,36	0,58

dissemination of intellectual renewal								
I believe that sharing sensitive information and citizens' problems in my country, even if true, jeopardizes national security	17	47	06	17	13	36		
I believe that the content of social media sites is a danger to Algerian society's values and the youth's ideas	13	36	19	53	04	11	2,31	0,561
I believe that freedom of expression on social media is criticizing all matters, even if they are sacred or prohibited	11	31	16	44	09	25	2,06	0,568
I believe that Algerian slang usage on social media has increased its intellectual awareness	09	25	23	64	04	11	2,14	0,352
Weighted Average							2.268	

Table 16: Represents the level of scores on the intellectual security scale among youth in the social dimension.

Level of Youth Awareness on the Intellectual Security Scale in the Social Dimension	Frequency	Percentage
Low	2	06
Medium	21	58
High	13	36
Total	36	100

From the data in the above table, which represents the measurement of awareness levels among Algerian youth regarding intellectual security in the social dimension, it is evident that there is a medium level, estimated at 58%, with a 36% proportion having a high level.

4-4- Statistical Differences Measurement between the Means of Respondents' Responses Regarding the Gender Variable:

Abdelkader Badawi¹

Awareness of Algerian Youth about the Risks of Social Media on Intellectual Security: A Field Study of a Sample of Algerian Youth Users of Facebook

To answer the question: Are there statistically significant differences among the sample individuals attributed to gender? It is evident from the following table:

- Table 17: t-test for the Intellectual Security Scale among Algerian Youth on Social Media for the Gender Variable.

Social Status	Intellectual Security Scale	T	Mean Ranks	T value	Significance	Statistical Significance
Males		18	55,61	0,234	0,817	Not significant
Females		17	55,23			
Total		36	/			

From the data in the table above, which illustrates the results of the t-test to calculate the differences between the means of male and female respondents, it is evident that the test's significance value is not significant at the 0.05 probability level. Therefore, it can be concluded that there are no statistically significant differences between the responses of male and female respondents. This indicates equality in the level of awareness among Algerian youth regarding intellectual security on social media with respect to the gender variable.

The Results:

After presenting and analyzing the data, we have arrived at several findings:

- The majority of the respondents are unemployed, accounting for 75%, while 14% of the sample are employed in public institutions.
- The majority of young respondents use the social media platform Facebook, with a percentage of 78%, followed by YouTube users at 11%.
- Most respondents stated that their goals and motivation for using social media networks are for learning, education, and awareness, representing 64%. Following that, 17% of the sample mentioned that their purpose for usage is for entertainment and fun.
- The awareness level for intellectual security among the respondents is high, estimated at 83%, with a medium level at 17%.
- There is a high level of awareness for personal dimension of intellectual security among the respondents, estimated at 92%.
- The awareness level for the psychological dimension of intellectual security among the respondents is medium, estimated at 44%, with 33% having a low level.
- The religious awareness level among the respondents is high, estimated at 75%, with 22% having a medium level.
- A medium level of awareness for the social dimension of intellectual security is evident, estimated at 58%, with 36% having a high level.

Abdelkader Badawi¹

Awareness of Algerian Youth about the Risks of Social Media on Intellectual Security: A Field Study of a Sample of Algerian Youth Users of Facebook

- The significance value of the t-test is not significant at the 0.05 probability level. Therefore, it can be concluded that there are no statistically significant differences between the responses of the respondents.

Conclusion:

As is commonly accepted in philosophical, sociological, and even political literature, freedom is the foundation of all values of coexistence. It serves as a value source for opening a broad field of individual and collective understandings to resolve any misunderstanding or misconception. Therefore, countries, international organizations, and human rights advocates have set the basis for all social and political changes to guarantee the realm of freedom of expression and protect society as well from any intellectual deviations under the umbrella of intercultural and interfaith dialogue.

However, it's noteworthy that, in many cases, this approach has not succeeded in bridging the gaps; instead, it might have increased them, especially with the emergence of alternative media and modern communication channels. Ideas have proliferated, their sources have diversified, and the chaff has mixed with the wheat.

In this field research, we focused on modern media, an area explored by many researchers, by addressing its reflections and impact on the awareness of individuals, particularly among the youth. Observers and users of social media sites often witness a constant increase in extremist, hateful, and artificially created discourses. This has led to many misconceptions, doubts, and perhaps contradictions between historical facts and the political and social reality, creating a problem that imposed itself as a necessity to preserve intellectual security against the threats of cultural invasion, mental colonization, and the scattering of individual identity.

Our field research concluded that there is a level of awareness among Algerian youth using social media, especially in their personal and religious domains. Most young people, according to the results, have sufficient awareness to counteract extremist ideas and reject all forms of religious and intellectual extremism and bigotry. Additionally, our findings showed that young people have a national awareness that manifests in their presentation of national and religious values, distinguishing the spirit of coexistence and engaging with others.

In conclusion, we recommend:

- Encouraging research on the topic of intellectual security and the social and political awareness of youth at the local, Arab, and Islamic levels.
- Advising governments to counter direct and indirect attacks from dominant countries seeking to control the intellectual, cultural, and identity levels by promoting the values of modernity and post-modernity through international institutions and organizations.
- Monitoring cybersecurity agencies for topics related to thought, culture, and identity, and addressing publications that spread hate speech, rejection, violence, and radicalization.
- Intensifying awareness topics at all levels, including intellectual security, in educational programs at various educational stages.

Abdelkader Badawi¹

Awareness of Algerian Youth about the Risks of Social Media on Intellectual Security: A Field Study of a Sample of Algerian Youth Users of Facebook

References:

1. Danoura, Amjad Bahjat (2023), "Youth Sociology," Pedagogical Print for Second-Year Sociology Students, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Daraa, Syria.
2. Dahmi, Hussein, Mahmoud (2014), "Public Relations and Social Media Networks" (1st ed.), Osama Publishing and Distribution.
3. Sharbal, Mustafa, Belaour, Taha (2018), "Social Awareness: Concepts and Differences between Psychology and Sociology," Journal of Psychological and Educational Research, Volume 9, Number 3.
4. Azmi, Iman Ahmed (2008), "The Concept of Intellectual Security: Scientific Determinants and Contemporary Methodological Challenges," Analytical Study of Analyses and the Social Role of Institutions, Paper presented at the First National Conference on Intellectual Security.
5. Al-Qaws, Saud bin Sahl (2018), "The Role of Social Media in Shaping Social Awareness: A Field Study on a Sample of Saudi Youth in Riyadh Region," Journal of Fayoum University for Educational and Psychological Sciences, Volume 10, Number 1.
6. Laoubi, Younes, Bousalem, Zina (2020), "Social Media Networks and Their Impact on the Social Relationships of Algerian University Youth: A Field Study at the University Pole Tassout, University of Jijel," Al-Maayar Journal, College of Fundamentals of Religion, University of Prince Abdul Qadir, Constantine, Algeria, Volume 24, Number 03.
7. Al-Louaih, Abdul Rahman (2008), "Building Concepts and Studying them in the Light of the Scientific Method," Paper presented at the First National Conference on Intellectual Security, Prince Nayef Chair for Intellectual Security Studies at King Saud University, Saudi Arabia.
8. Al-Hadaili, Majid bin Muhammad bin Ali (2012), "The Concept of Intellectual Security: A Fundamental Study in the Light of Islam," Supplementary Research for Obtaining a Master's Degree in Islamic Culture, Department of Islamic Culture, College of Sharia, Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University.
9. Kimb, Simon (2021), "Social Media Statistics for Algeria," Digital Report for Algeria, Retrieved on April 12, 2023. [<https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2021-algeria?rq=algeria&fbclid=IwAR3Bhttps>]
10. Facebook Digital Report (2023), Retrieved on April 12, 2023. [<https://datareportal.com/essential-facebook-stats>]
11. Danesi, M. (2009), "Dictionary of Media and Communication," ME Charper, New York.