



Research Paper

Understanding Social Media Tools, Impact over National Security - A Literature Review

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ABSTRACT:

Social media is an effective online virtual platform of today's modern digital world. It is a widely popular medium for mass communication and can be used efficiently for political, religious, and social purposes. It has been accepted by all that every coin has two sides, similarly social media too have multiple roles along with positive and negative effects on the users. It can be used for different vicious purposes such as racial, linguistic, and cultural tensions among people. It is an effective tool for fueling hatred and can be used for social communalism. Its negative use can accelerate tension during the communal conflicts and can create problems for social harmony. The use of social media for radicalization and propaganda are dangerous for the nation. Through this tool an extremist organization can initiate communal conflict that could challenge social harmony. Therefore, it is important to take serious and conscious efforts at different levels to control the misuse of this effective tool. By keeping this aspect in mind, the researcher has studied the available literature and is expecting the need for its fundamental study. Moreover, the gaps and loops are pointed out by using the SWOC method of the available literature in this paper.

KEYWORDS: social media, impact of social media, gaps, propaganda, communal tension etc.

Received 02 June, 2021; Revised: 14 June, 2021; Accepted 16 June, 2021 © The author(s) 2021.

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I. INTRODUCTION:

Communication has a paramount importance in every society; through communication many problems can be solved. For the same continuous dialogue is inevitable in society which should happen in harmony. There should not be any kind of discord anywhere to avoid miscommunication. In the present time there is a huge revolution in technology and has provided new tools for communication to people at mass level. It is used all over the world and the number of users is increasing day by day all around the world. Currently India has 349.97 million active social media users which is the second largest user in the world. This technology has offered new capabilities to people for communication. Generally, when we talk about social media, primarily Facebook and Twitter come to us, but it includes several other tools which are widely used for communication by people and accessed through mobile phones or computers from every corner of the world irrespective of geo-political boundaries with innumerable audiences.

Online social networking can be defined as access to social networks in the virtual world through the collection of online channels in the form of web-based technologies. It is a virtual world where people can communicate with each other through messages and by sharing information, pictures, video, and audio to name but a few. In addition, they discuss each other's ideas, thoughts, and ideologies. Positive news can reach us also through social media. Without any financial burden every individual can run his own TV, newspapers, online channels, and many other ideologies. It provides an equal opportunity to everyone for sharing and expressing their ideas freely. These mediums give people an opportunity to showcase their talent to the community and get important information and learn new things at their convenience. Social media can play a significant role in

rescue and relief works during natural and man-made disasters. Having Facebook, WhatsApp or Twitter is considered a status symbol nowadays. It is a new podium where new relations and contacts are built as well as an attractive place for cybercriminal or destructive minded people.

Just as everything has its own pros and cons, social media too has its positive and negative sides. On the one hand, these mediums are used for creativity; on the other hand, they are used to spread rumors and fake news. Fake news is spread like wildfire to several people through different sources. When a volley of information is returned from many sources, many people assume it is real. Feelings about understanding what is true and what is false are numb and unfortunately happen collectively at the social level. Sometimes this threatens social harmony and leads to loss of life and finances. There is no facility for the general reader to check the rumors or news spread over social media. Such rumors are spread from multiple users in a coordinated manner at the same time. In the available time, it would be difficult to find out whether the information or news came through is true or false. However, when it is used for spreading mischief in the society or spreading wrong thoughts or information, the responsibility of citizens and the government increases. There are several factors that affect the user's mentality. It can cause change in actions or influence the religious, psychological, political, social, and national factors. The use of social media for terror and naxal activities, spreading panic, radicalization, protest, and cyber spying are the major concerns from the national security point of view.

II. THEME OF LITERATURE REVIEW:

In research it is important to study the previous research on the subject. The task of reviewing available literature is more constructive because the researcher must synthesize available attention in a unique way to provide a rational description / basis for their study. It is important to study the research that is available or done in the context. A review of the related literature can prevent a researcher from inadvertently repeating prior research work. Through the review research can take a different direction and the results can be expected. It is also important to note that the aggressive use of social media may increase national security concerns. The role of this literature review is to study the available research on this area. Important reason for reviewing a related literature is to know what the former researchers recommended for further research in their studies.

Social media is a useful option for mass communication today and is used for political, religious, and social works. Many negative incidents are happening due to unrestrained and irrational use of it. How to control or discipline those who express their views from different places becomes a serious concern today and used for social division. Several scholars have observed that we are moving towards a latent chaos.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

RQ1. Social media is a tool (parameter)

RQ2. National Security: concept and Threats (parameter)

RQ3. Impact of social media over National Security (Interconnecting Parameter)

III. METHOD

3.1 Data collection Method and Sources and Time (2010-2019):

Research papers published nationally and internationally during 2010 to 2019 have been used to review the literature on this area.

3.2 Search Process:

Research papers published nationally and internationally during 2010 to 2019 have been used for reviewing literature on this. Some of them are from online journals while some papers are from various edited books. Various research websites and edited books are used for getting research articles.

3.3 Data Collection:

Table 1: Distribution of Research articles per year

Sr. No.	Year	Number of Papers
1	2010	1
2	2011	4
3	2012	2
4	2013	2
5	2014	3
6	2015	6
7	2016	9
8	2017	7
9	2018	8
10	2019	3
Total		45

3.4 Data Analysis:

Table 2: Distribution Chart of Research Articles, Books and Edited Books

Sr. No.	Year	Books	Research Papers	Edited Books
1	2009	01	-	-
2	2010	-	01	-
3	2011	-	04	-
4	2012	-	02	-
5	2013	-	02	-
6	2014	-	03	-
7	2015	-	06	01
8	2016	-	09	01
9	2017	-	07	-
10	2018	-	08	-
11	2019	-	03	-

IV. OUTCOME

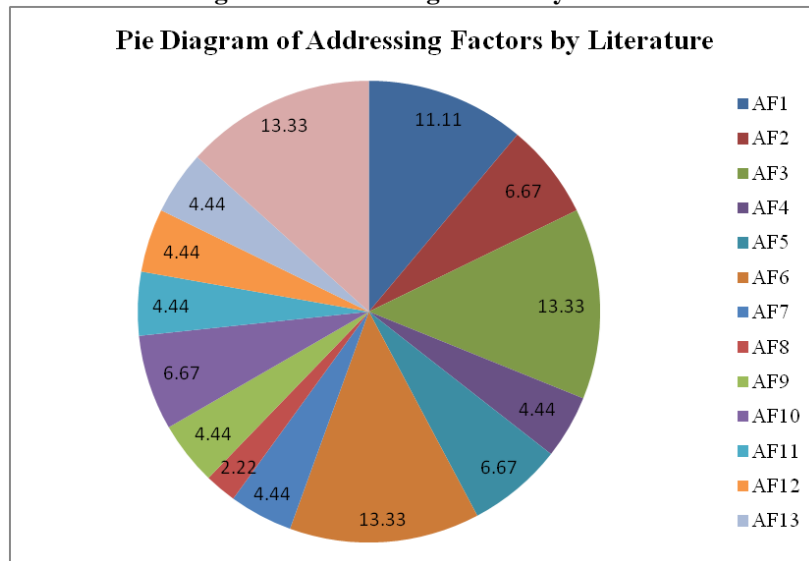
4.1 Search Result: Research papers published on National and international levels related to social media are studied for this research. They were categorized according to the study and effects on different social factors. Researchers have selected 14 factors that can be affected by social media and are classified according to the studies.

Table 3: Literature on various Addressing Factors

Sr. No.	Literature Addressing Factors	Addressing Papers	Collected Papers
1	AF1: SM and Security and Privacy Issues	05	45
2	AF2: SM and Radicalization and Communal Activities	03	45
3	AF3: Use of SM for Cyber antinational Activities (Terrorism, Naxalism, Insurgency, Activism)	06	45
4	AF4: SM and Intelligence	02	45
5	AF5: Use of SM for Provoke People (Protest, Propaganda, Fake News)	03	45
6	AF6: Information Sharing, Emerging Threats and Cyber Security	06	45
7	AF7: Impact of SM on Consumers and Consumption	02	45
8	AF8: Impact of SM on Academic Development	01	45
9	AF9: Impact of SM on Dept. of Defence	02	45
10	AF10: Impact of SM on Society	03	45
11	AF11: Connection Between National Security and Communication	02	45
12	AF12: Government Responses to Misuse of SM	02	45
13	AF13: SM Conflict Between LAW and Democracy	02	45
14	AF14: Positive and Negative Aspects of SM	06	45

4.2 Quality Evaluation:

Pie Diagram of Addressing Factors by Literature

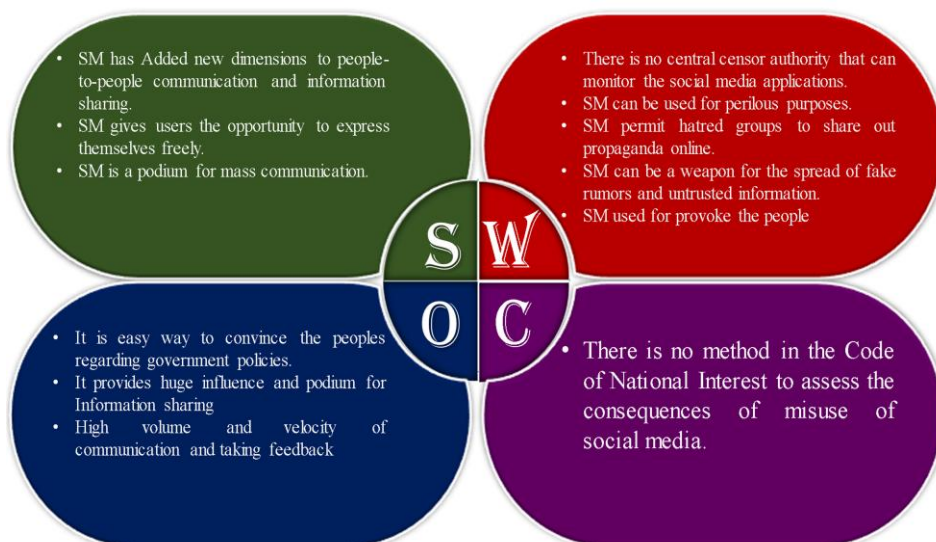


4.3 Quality Factors:

Sr. No.	AF	Literature on various Addressing Factors	AL (%)
1	AF8	Impact of SM on Academic Development	2.22
2	AF4	SM and Intelligence	4.44
3	AF7	Impact of SM on Consumers and Consumption	4.44
4	AF9	Impact of SM on Dept. of Defence	4.44
5	AF11	Connection Between National Security and Communication	4.44
6	AF12	Government Responses to Misuse of SM	4.44
7	AF13	SM Conflict Between LAW and Democracy	4.44
8	AF2	SM and Radicalization and Communal Activities	6.67
9	AF5	Use of SM for Provoke People (Protest, Propaganda, Fake News)	6.67
10	AF10	Impact of SM on Society	6.67
11	AF1	SM and Security and Privacy Issues	11.11
12	AF3	Use of SM for Cyber antinational Activities (Terrorism, Naxalism, Insurgency, Activism)	13.33
13	AF6	Information Sharing, Emerging Threats and Cyber Security	13.33
14	AF14	Positive and Negative Aspects of SM	13.33

V. DISCUSSION:

For this study we collected 107 papers and reviewed 45 reports. The available literature was distributed into the 14 addressing factors related to social media studies and the research done according to that addressing factor is outlined. Of the literature available, 11.11% research focuses on security and privacy issues in the context of social media. The 13.33% research of the available literature points to the use of social media for acts against the national security such as Terrorism, Naxalism, Insurgency and activism. Similarly, 13.33% of the available literature has been researched on the positive and negative aspects of social media and the threats associated with the information shared on social media. Respectively 6.67% of the available literature has studied the social media’s utilization to promote radicalism and racism, to provoke people through protests, propaganda, and rumors and to study the effects of social media in society. The 4.44% of the available literature has studied social medias utilization for espionage, social media's impact on consumers, impact of social media on the department of Defense, regarding the relationship between national security and dialogue, government response to misuse of social media and the struggle that social media creates in the context of law and democracy. 2.22% of the available literature emphasizes the impact of social media on academic progress. The published literature address 14 factors, but an available literature no one addresses social media utilization in an anti-national activity like social polarization of the society and its impact. Furthermore, the SWOC analysis based on the above mentioned 14 factors assists to realize the real aspects of social media utilization and its impact over national security.



VI. CONCLUSION:

social media has emerged as a new dais for addressing personal, religious, psychological, political, social, and national questions and challenges. The following are some of the important points that can be underlined from the study of the available literature. Social media itself is not a threat to a nation's security. But the behavior of its users can pose a threat to the nation's security. It can be a weapon for those who spread rumors and unreliable information. Terrorist organizations are using social media to recruit young people and are using them for financial assistance. The Naxalists are using social media to reach out to the middle class in the city and gain sympathy from these urban public. Religious fundamentalist organizations are using social media to spread religious hatred. A study of available literature has shown that there is a need to study different dimensions of SM. In the published literature no one addresses social media's utilization in anti-national activities like spreading panic, social rifts and social polarization of the society and its impact. Ignoring this further could be detrimental to national security. It is required to carry out a detailed further study which will focus on social media and its impact over society.

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