

## **A CASE STUDY: THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON THE RELIGIOUS THINKING OF YOUTH**

**\* Nazia Younas**

M.Phil. Scholar, Bahauddin Zakaria University, Multan

\*Email of the corresponding author; nyounas143@gmail.com

### **ABSTRACT**

*The article examines one of the most crucial parts of establishing new social communication through contemporary information technology amongst friends, family, and people is social media. All of humanity was created by Allah, and everything in the world was made with humanity in mind. Allah created all of humanity with the intention that they would worship Him, and one of the most common forms of worship is to assist others. For instance, modern technology will assist humanity in this endeavor. The purpose of this study is to advance social media's place in Muslim culture. The methodology for the study was qualitative. There was employed as a tool for gathering data. Similarly, for the research, sources from books, journals, and the internet were utilized. According to the conversation, social media affects contemporary Muslim community in both beneficial and harmful ways, particularly from an Islamic perspective. The article concludes that Muslim societies around the world use social media exquisitely.*

**Keywords:** Social media, Religious thinking, Youth, Effects.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The following are the effects of the survey reports of University Colleges and Madaris on the religious thinking of the youth.

- Positive effects
- Adverse effects

#### **Positive effects:**

#### **Freedom of expression:**

Social media gives young people the opportunity to express their opinions and thoughts openly, and when a person gives his opinion on many topics and reads the opinions of others, a good thought is created. Different opinions give different angles of thinking to human beings (Kaye 2016).

### **Increase information, provide information:**

The biggest benefit to young people from social media is that there is a huge increase in information and if you want to get any information immediately, you must look for books first and then you can find them. Take out a library and get out of there.

### **Preaching Islam:**

Preaching Islam to young people through social media, ie inviting people, provides information about Islam so that non-Muslims may know about Islam and allay their fears that Islam is not a religion of extremism or extremism but moderation. And it is a religion of coexistence with others.

Similarly, the Qur'an states:

You are the best nation that has been revealed to the people. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong (Imran:3:110- Al).

That is, the Muslims belong to a special ummah so that you people know the goodness that these are their deeds. Stop me from doing more evil deeds. This is the responsibility of the Muslim which Allah has given him. It is the duty of every Muslim to fulfill this.

### **Promoting relations with the United Nations:**

Through social media, the younger generation can stay connected with the world from one place. That is, if there is a businessperson, he can work from home. He can run his business online on the internet. It also sells his time and gets the job done. By maintaining relations with the United Nations, Muslims also move towards progress and can brighten the name of the Muslim nation.

### **Broadening the scope of thinking by combining different views:**

When many ideas come together through social media, the combination of these ideas expands people's thinking that a problem can be solved easily. Then there are those who leave the difficult path and take the easy way. It also provides a new way of thinking and solving problems. Discussions in the social media or on Islamic programs that come up with a lot of views and information.

### **Ease of communication with loved ones and relatives:**

Through social media, a person stays in touch with their loved ones and relatives, no matter where they are in business, they stay in touch with them at home through mobile phones. If someone dies somewhere, they can be easily contacted through social media and the good news can be conveyed to each other immediately.

### **As a powerful industry and institution:**

Social Med or as a powerful organization Annie, a person gets a lot from it, like someone online, if there is a demand for something, they say there, they reach home. This saves a person from going to the market and getting bored in the rush. As well as providing information, it is also a way for people to run their businesses. In addition, based on the information of any organization, they can sit at home. Thus, it has become a necessity.

### **Promoting the spirit of love and brotherhood:**

Due to social media, love is created in a person and intolerance is eliminated. So much so that a person can understand each other's chest and each other's thoughts and tolerance increases. It also breeds brotherhood. Man takes the initiative to help each other.

### **Instant access to Islamic information is always useful:**

Through social media, a person can quickly and easily access a library and carry out his work with timely information. He is very useful because he can do his job anywhere through social media (Wani and Maqbol 2012)

### **The means of spreading and propagating the religion:**

Every newcomer who needs to fulfill this responsibility, that is, to contribute more and more to the propagation and propagation of the religion. Provide information about religion through social media so that non-Muslims are satisfied with it and become attracted to Islam.

Ibn Sa'd writes in Al-Tabqat al-Kubra that during the season of Hajj, the Messenger of Allah (saw) used to go to every tribe who came to visit the Ka'bah. Invite them and say:

“Say La ilaha illa Allah and prosper. The Arabs will be under your control, and you will rule over us”. (Sajjad .M.H1994)

### **To promote Islamic culture:**

Islamic culture can be highlighted through social media. Western culture such as customs, dress has become better remembered among Muslims nowadays. Therefore, social media is used to provide information about Islamic culture and to benefit from it.(Islam 2019)

### **Awareness of current situation always:**

Through social media, a person can be aware of the current situation at home or wherever he is sitting, that is, if there is a hurricane or rain, we can get information about it only through social media.

### **Key roles in improving quality of life:**

The quality of life can be improved through social media because when a person looks at it, it also changes his thinking, and he starts thinking in a new and good way and then in his practical life. He has his own. It changes his way of life.(Chen and Li 2017)

### **Breaking News Source:**

A great way to get the latest news. That is, if there is a ruler in the country about them or any problem, then the news can be obtained immediately. If there are any new inventions, we will be informed about them through social media.

### **Adverse Effects:**

#### **Deprivation of Religious Education:**

The younger generation is moving away from religious education because of social media. Instead of spending time praying and reciting the Qur'an, the TV is on the internet

and mobile. In the same way, they cannot prepare for the Hereafter. The Hereafter needs to be fixed. Instead of social media or even Islamic pages, they keep on fumbling.

#### **Unwarranted criticism:**

There is a lot of unwarranted criticism on social media, that is, if there is a topic under discussion, they tend to criticize it and become intolerant. On the contrary, it is said in Islam that if I discuss a subject, I should do it with patience and tolerance, use a gentle tone. Non-Muslims quickly convert to Islam with soft and polite language. (Pinquart and Sørensen 2000)

#### **Causes of Depression:**

On social media, when a person gets very angry while discussing and increases his blood pressure, or if the person is a little sick and finds out the disease by saying that condition on social media, then even more anxiety will increase.

#### **Waste of time:**

Social media is also a waste of a lot of time for the younger generation because when a person is studying and at the same time a friend's table arrives, they leave it and go to work. However, this is not the case with reading books, but one can read with one mind.

#### **Decreased spending time with parents:**

Spending time on social media does not allow children to spend time with their parents or family members. Even when living together, they come a long way. Sometimes there is a situation where parents are also engaged on social media or ie mobile. And children don't talk or talk to each other in the same room. This is how children's thoughts become different.

There is a lot of nonsense about religion and a lot of nonsense about religion. This leads the youth to be misled about the van and to distance themselves from religion. All this is a ploy of the West, but the Muslim nation will not allow it to succeed.

#### **Distance from extracurricular activities:**

Due to social media, the youth are far removed from the extracurricular activities. They are lagging in sitting and exercising all the time or participating in sports. However, sports strengthen the bones of the body and increase strength. The same bags have been introduced by the youth on social media and due to this health is also declining day by day.

#### **Increased resentment:**

Relationships are declining in many places due to social media. That is, if someone made a post and if they liked it or gave an opinion on it, then it will be rejected and it increases resentment among them. There are many misunderstandings in the heart for each other.

#### **Promotion of unverified (news, hadiths, sayings) content:**

Content is sent on social media or without verification. Most content is uncertified and similar content that is sent with verification. These materials contain hadiths and sayings. Islamic scholars are here to confirm this.

#### **In the Qur'an, Allah says:**

“O you who believe! If a wicked person brings you any news, do good research.”

**Adding to the moral shame:**

Due to social media, there is a lot of moral immorality and shamelessness. As a result, the youth is moving towards evil instead of development and all this is interfering in the process of the West. Muslim students are intelligent by one God but when the West saw it, they wanted to divert students from the path of progress in this way but if a person has good intentions and knows how to cure it then he stays away:

**Loss of education for the younger generation:**

Due to social media, the education of the youth is wasted a lot. In addition, the attention of Nalat fans will turn to novels. Distance from education is a negative sign, but a conscious young person never wastes time.(Khan, Abdulsatar, and Alsamarai 2019)

**Obstacles to the future of the young generation:**

When the young generation finds the place of social media or education in a negative thing, it will become a big obstacle in its future and thus the youth of Pakistan is the development of a country from the youth, then it will stop, and the country's industry and trade suffer greatly.

**Decrease in moral values, violation of ethics:**

Due to social media, the morality of the youth has decreased a lot, i.e., if a person will not only connect with his parents but also give more time to mobile and internet, then morality will also be included in his personality to this extent. When there is something wrong or immoral on social media or WhatsApp and Facebook, etc., people of emotional nature go too far and forget about ethics.(Alshare, Alkhalwaldeh, and Eneizan 2019)

**Medical Disadvantages:**

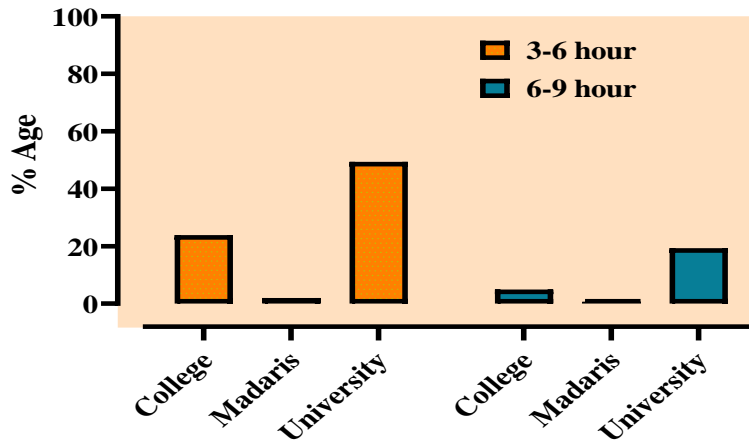
Obesity, osteoporosis, eye disease, headache, fatigue, irritability are the most common causes of adolescents sitting on social media. Obesity causes many other diseases.(Smith and Christakis 2008)

**Data Source:**

Primary data is used in this study. Data is collected from 306 numbers Of persons.and the obtained results is shown with the help of following .From the above questionnaire it has been concluded that there are both positive and negative effects in the society due to social media. There are advantages and disadvantages.

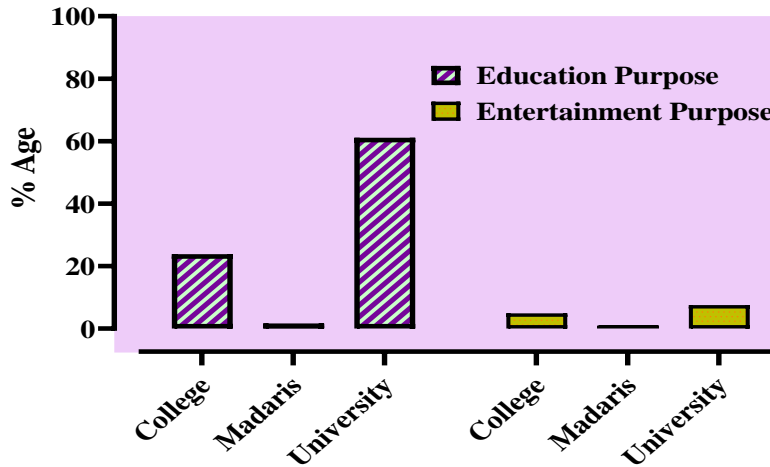
The survey looks at the psychology of young people and reveals many aspects of it. It is stated that all people are psychologically different from each other. The survey also found that most young people are declining from development to social media. Waste of time is the biggest reason. The biggest reason is that Islamic links are not known. Because the youth of the university city class use it usefully but most of the young students in the madrassas are not used to social media at all and the students in college are not yet aware then because of this they use social media or but waste time-

### How much time social media is used?



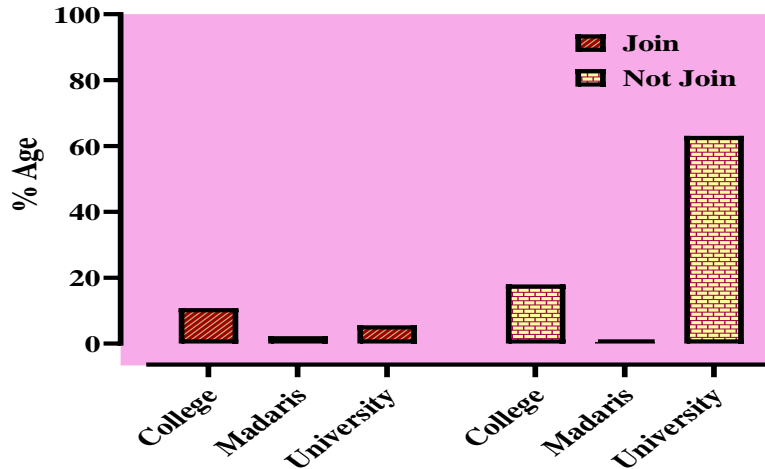
49% university, 24% colleges and 2% madaris students spent 3-6 hr on social media. 19% university, 5% colleges and 0.6% madaris spent 6-9 hr. It is observed that mostly university students spent more time than other youth must use it but don't waste time on it.

### Purpose of Social Media Use?



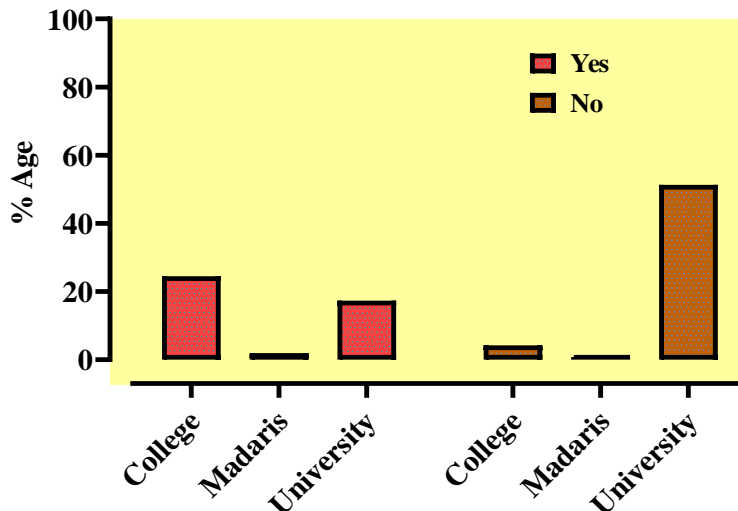
Mostly 61% university students use social media for education purposes it is a good thing that indicates student use it for increasing information and knowledge. The young people of the university city class use social media because it is useful, but the majority of the young people in madrasahs are not familiar with it at all, and the college students are not yet aware, so as a result they utilise it or just waste time.

### Students Joining Islamic Groups on Social Media?



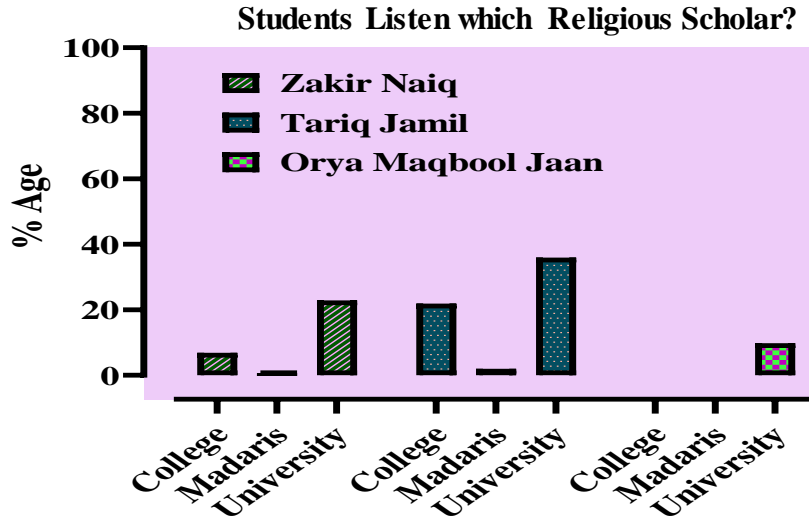
It is shown that there is very low percentage of students that use social media for joining Islamic groups. Students using social media for gaming but they lack Islamic education. Youth are very far away from Islam due to social media that is drastic effect of social media. It has come to light that most of the people do not join religious groups and therefore are moving away from Islam because religious groups have some verse or hadith which is very beneficial in our practical life.

### Students Watching & Listening Religious Videos?



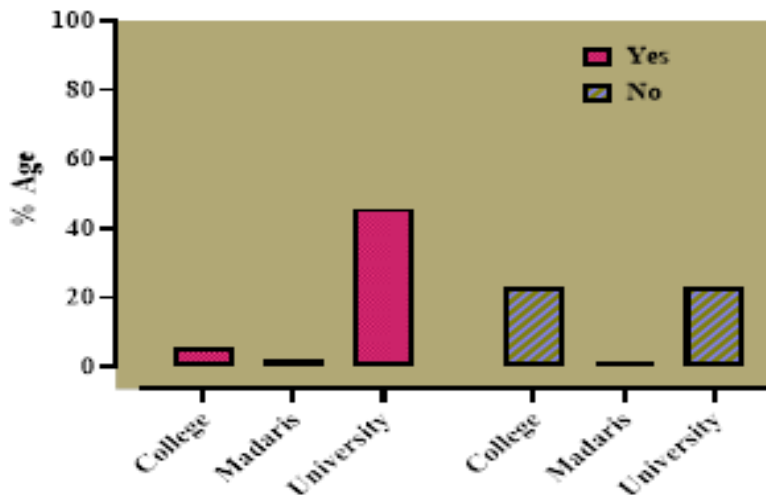
24% of colleges, 2% madaris and 17% university students indicates that, Now a days, Young generation is away from listening and watching Islamic relation videos and

knowledge lack of Islamic knowledge many lead to no moral values and ethics in students. There is also a view that very few people listen to the videos of scholars and ten percent of them try to act on it. That is why the new generation is moving away from religion due to social media



Right Islamic scholar provide right information about Islam. This graph is showing students of university are more listening to Tariq Jamil. It is clear that the public is affected by polite language and the way Lyle is treated.

**Have student ever participate in a debate with Religious Scholar?**

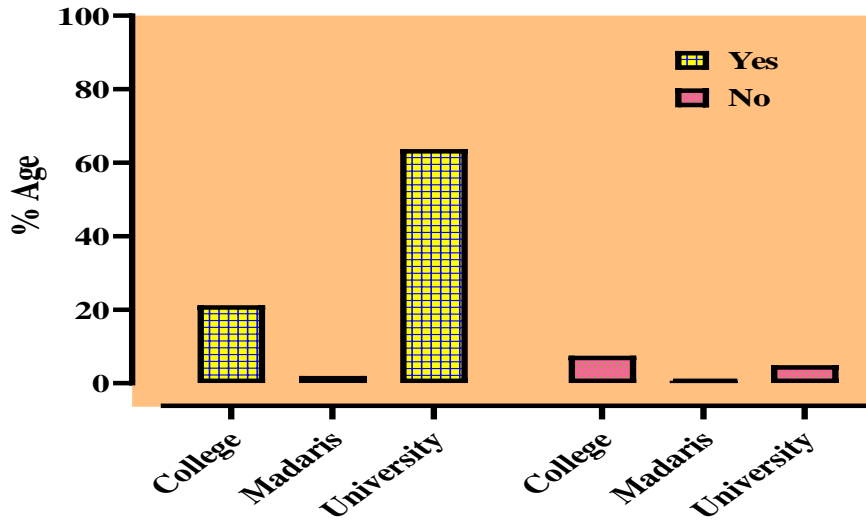


It has been observed that 46% of university students participate in debate with religious scholar as compared to college and madaris. It is a positive thing because more participation lead to more information. By this social media students promote Islamic



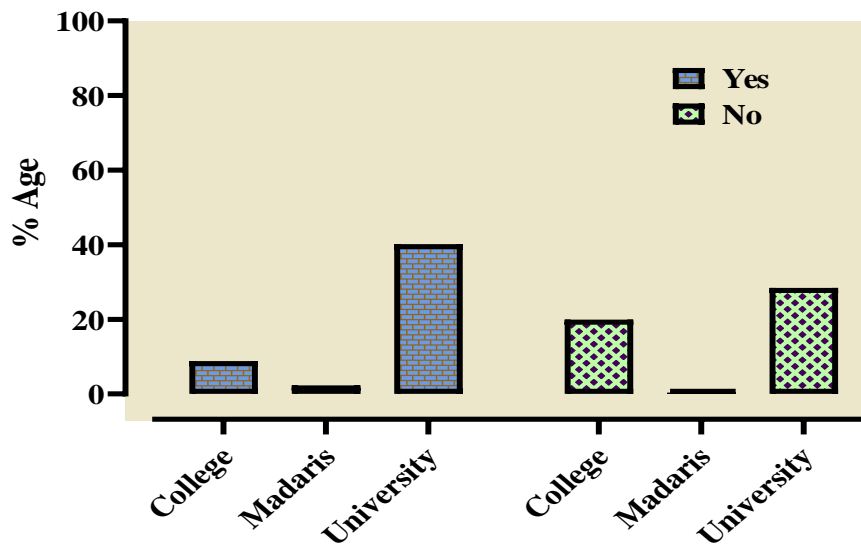
culture, values and education. There are more people who participate in the practical discussion and try to take advantage of it.

**Time Spent on social media is useful or not?**



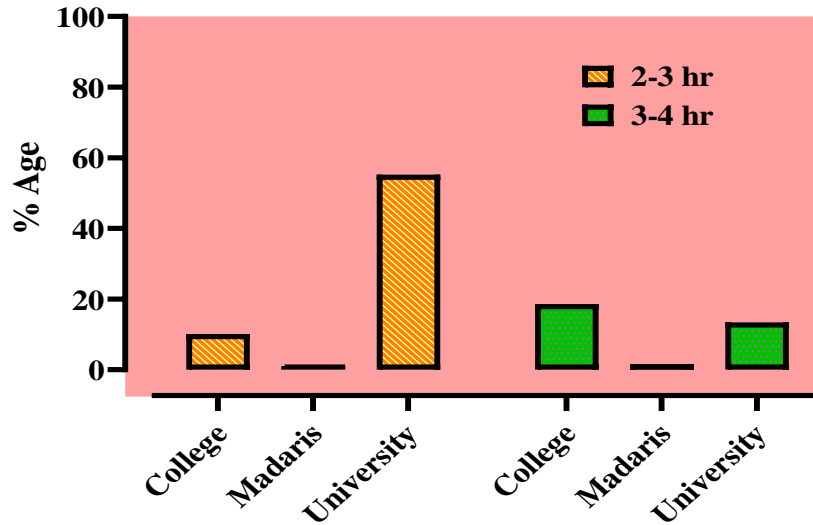
64% of university, 21% of college and 2% of madaris students using social media for useful purpose indicate that students are using social media for gaining knowledge, doing a job, promoting Islam, for improving life. A user can quickly and easily access a library through social media and work with up-to-date material. He is incredibly helpful because he can conduct business through social media from any location.

**Students Reading the sayings of Scholars on Social Media with Interest?**



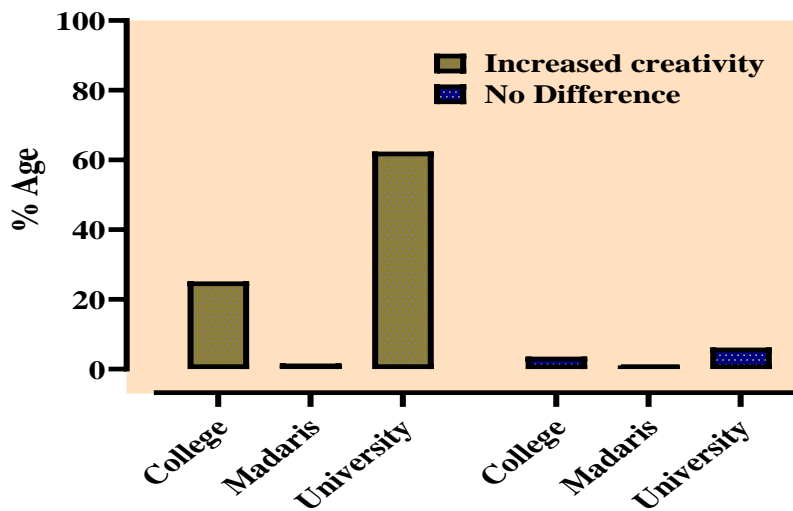
These results are showing that students are gaining interest for reading and verifying Islamic scholars sayings.40% of university , 9% of colleges and 2% of madaris students are using social media for reading sayings and quotations. There is a middle opinion that people both listen and don't listen. Their percentages are equal.

### Lack of Time for Family due to social media?



55% of university, 10% of colleges and 1% of madaris students using 2-3 hr social media. 13% of university, 19% of colleges and 2% of madaris students using 3-4 hr social media. Respectively children who spend time on social media are unable to spend time with their parents or other family members. They have advanced considerably, even while cohabitating. Parents may occasionally be using social media or a mobile device as well. Children also don't converse or speak to one another in the same space. Children's thoughts develop differently in this way.

### Influence of Creativity due to Social Media?



University students are more creative than others. The percentages indicates that student are using social media for positive purpose, its open the students mind and make them more creative, critical thinker and hard work. People get new ideas by using social media. With these ideas, you can take advantage of your skills by making old things in new ways.

This research is not only for the youth of Bahauddin Zakaria University but for all the universities and all the people.

## **Recommendations, Suggestions**

These are just some of the goal setting sharewares that you can use.

- Promoting Islamic teachings with affirmation is the first duty to create awareness among the people about how to use social media while remaining within the bounds of Islam.
- Content or anything else that spreads sectarian strife on social media websites should be removed and promoted to be one nation.
- To bring about change in the society, one should live with good manners and love and give a message of maximum tolerance and patience.
- Attempts should be made to immediately eliminate any misleading statements or statements made on social media.
- The government should take steps to dispel any misgivings about religion on social media.
- The government should take steps to clarify the religious pages. For this, a team of some people should be formed so that they are always online on social media for help.
- The government should form a committee of scholars to use the media to promote Islamic values and teachings and the culture of the Muslim Ummah, to promote Islam and to address the objections of the Western world. -
- For the promotion of Islamic media, the anti-Islamic Western media should now give politely and bring out the positive and correct aspects of Islam.
- The role of Islamic media is one of invitation and preaching. Therefore, the government should spread the message and call of Islam through scholars.
- The government should take steps to promote Islamic culture and customs, Islamic values through Islamic media.
- People should be trained through the media so that they can identify right and wrong.(Al-Rahmi, Othman, and Musa 2014)(Alvarez and Olivera-Smith 2013)(Lu, Newman, and Miller 2014)

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