ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN CREATING AWARENESS DURING AND IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A FIELD STUDY OF A SAMPLE OF FUTURE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN YEMEN

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ABSTRACT

In light of increasing role of social media and the spread of the COVID-19 worldwide, including Yemen, and the importance of the awareness role in preventing the spread of the virus, the problem of the study focused on identifying the role of social media in raising awareness of COVID-19 risks and its repercussions from the point of view of Yemeni students Future University. The study falls within the descriptive and analytical studies and relied on the method of social survey by sample. The study was conducted on 16% of Future University students (520) students. The questionnaire was used during March and April 2021. The two theories of effective networks and cultural cultivation were relied upon to explain the study issue, and the study reached several conclusions, including: The using hours of social media varied from less than two hours to six hours or more, and less than two hours came in first place with ratio of 31.0%. The importance of social media role in raising awareness of COVID-19 risks, reached 58.6% of those who answered yes and 31.0% of those who answered (somehow). The positives of social media in raising awareness of COVID-19 risks have varied, and the average answers to this field choices range between 2.3678 and 2.0460, and it reflects a high degree from the point of view of the study sample. The confidence ratio in the information provided by social media was little trust 42.5%, and medium trust 27.6%.

Keywords: *Media dependency theory, digital wellbeing, youth and social media, media effects.*

INTRODUCTION

Communication is the focus of human experience, and it means the exchange of ideas and information that includes words, pictures, drawings and various symbols so that individuals can communicate at all times. Technology provides us with many human knowledge's through unlimited possibilities in dealing with information, and hires the capabilities of technology to serve people, especially in communication between individuals in different places and cultures, and the expression of opinions, at the same moment, and the speed of transmission of news and information, whether it is a word, picture or video.

The electronic media has become the backbone of life in our contemporary reality, especially after its widespread in modern societies, especially social media, which have become one of the distinctive phenomena of the modern country. A country's progress is measured by its per capita share of these sites, as is the per capita income, level of health, education, and spending on scientific research. Social media reflect the opinions of individuals and transfer their experiences and contribute to shaping their trends and may work to solve their problems (Abdul-Hameed, 2009, p. 268).

Social media is the most prominent media phenomenon in our world today, as they attract a large segment of society, especially young people, as they are the most users According to the latest statistics, the world's population is 7.3 billion people, 3.17 billion of them use the Internet, 89% of them are young people between 18-29 years old. The number of active users on social media is 2.3 billion, of whom 1.79 billion are Facebook users only. YouTube comes in second place with about 1.5 billion users, followed by Instagram with about 400 million users, followed by the micro-blogging site "Twitter" with about 316 million users, and other media such as Google Plus Snapchat and others follow, respectively.

At the level of the Arab region, according to Arab Knowledge Economy Report 2015-2016 (Mansfield,2016)   published in the first quarter of 2016 by (Orient Planer Research), the number of Internet users in the Arab region has reached more than 181 million users. While the number of users of social media is more than 75 million users of them distributed on all networks, with a clear progress in the number of Facebook users by 91.28%, then YouTube users by 69.93%, then Twitter users by 59.56%.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The interpretation of the study issue was based on two theories:

ACTIVE NETWORK THEORY

It is a social theory developed by Bruno Latour, Michael Callon and John Law during the 1980s. It is distinguished from other social theories in that it is not concerned only with

the human actors, but also with objects and organizations. All are referred to as "active actors".

The basic essence of the active network theory is the idea of the heterogeneous network. The network contains many disparate actors, and includes both social and technological parts at the same time. Rather, both the "social and technological" parts are an integrated whole according to the active network theory. The network mainly aiming to describe a society of human and non-human components, as active, equal and interconnected actors in networks that were built and maintained in order to achieve a specific goal "producing a TV program, for example" (Falix Stalder, 1997, p182).

The idea of social networks has become an active political variable in recent times. Here, a call arose that the theoretical hypotheses put forward in sociology should be used to explain the reality of social networks, taking into account their impact on the reality of political life (Annica, 2008, p497). The theory is based on two basic statements:

The first theoretical statement is the network construction statement:
This statement stems from the fact that the network construction represents a group of social packages that are represented by individuals, groups, or entities such as companies and institutions. The network construction represents the link between individuals and groups. This statement relies on the hypothesis that the actors of the network construction do not overlap. The network construction is not entirely interactive, as in the hypotheses associated with the social construction in traditional theorizing. Social interaction in its default level takes place between individuals with each other or groups and individuals, and it may reach the absence of interaction among some individuals within the network. The network construction is structured in two areas. The first is the global network construction, represented by a global interactive structure that includes topics with a global scope. The second is the local construction, in which the focus is on local issues and policies or that pertain to groups themselves within the framework of internal concern (Garry Robins, 2008, p5-6).

The second theoretical statement is the interdependence statement:
The basic hypothesis of the statement can be crystallized in the following sentence: "Interdependence plays a fundamental role in the exchange of information that affects beliefs, personal and collective decisions, benefits, and even protests and strikes". Taking into account that the formation of interdependence is according to the strength of the bonds between individuals and groups. (David, 2009, p124).
Social media networks are classified under Web 2.0 sites as they primarily depend on their users to operate and feed their contents. The forms and objectives of these social networks are also varied, some of them are general aimed at general communication and forming friendships around the world, while others revolve around the formation of social networks within a specific scope and confined to a specific field such as

networks of professionals, networks of photographers and graphic designers (Christakis, Nicholas A, 2011, p89).

CULTIVATION THEORY

George Gerbner described the cultivation process as a kind of learning that takes place accidentally as a result of intense exposure to mass media, especially TV, because of its impact on the viewer by cultivating and developing ideas, trends, and mental images about the surrounding world (L. J. SHRUM. (2017). The cultivation theory emphasizes that culture is the symbolic process through which the necessary concepts and behavioral patterns are cultivate in the process of human socialization. Likewise, television messages form a coherent system that expresses the prevailing trend in culture, where cultural cultivation is linked, as a cultural process, with a coherent framework of information and meanings of the general concepts, and these general concepts are cultivated through total exposure to the world depicted by television rather than exposure to individual and selected programs (Shrum. L., 2009, pp. 50-73)

The researchers believe that mass communication means have strong effects on people's perception of the outside world, especially those who are exposed to these means for long and regular periods. Therefore, the mental images that prevail in a group are a result of repeated exposure of the members of this group to special types of public messages. These researchers emphasize the power of television in particular, as a way to develop mental images in order to play an important role in the lives of most people, and thus the intense watching helps to develop these consistent images, which make the viewer believes that what he sees on the screen is an image identical to the real world (Morgan, M., 2009, pp. 69-82).

The cultivation theory falls within the moderate model that is characterized by balance so that it does not overestimate the power of the media, does not underestimate the power of this technology and its social effects, and it stems from the hypothesis of accumulation to measure the long-term effects of the media outside the boundaries of the laboratory and industrial conditions. (Nielsen, 2011, p67).

Supporters of the cultivation theory assume that it is a cognitive phenomenon and that the information gained through the media is useful in forming an individual's perceptions of social reality and thus leads to learning and behavior. Cultivation occurs slowly through exposure to consistent, repeated messages of values, ideas, facts and trends, which ultimately leads to the transmission and formation of mental images in the long term for the recipients.

One of the methods of knowing the effect of cultivation according to the theory is to know the opinions and expectations of faculty members about the media message of social media in raising awareness of COVID-19.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There were many studies that attempted to approach the content and objectives of this study, and among these studies:

1)   The study of Najla Ahmed Rajab (2020)

The study aimed to identify the contributions of social media to developing women's awareness of the emerging COVID-19. It concluded that social media in general and Facebook in particular are the best alternative to traditional media that women rely on to a large extent to obtain information about the virus. The study also found that social media have strongly contributed to shaping women's awareness on the emerging COVID-19, cognitive, emotional and behavioral. The study recommended that social media should be taken into account when planning to manage the emerging COVID-19 crisis.

2)   Study of Miloud Murad and Sadeqi Fawzia (2020)

The new means of communication, with their interconnected dimensions, have contributed to changing the patterns of interaction within societies, which raised several overlaps and problems and re-activated the communication mechanisms of all kinds, to be used as means of awareness, education and information dissemination, and the depth of their influence became clear, especially after the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the world at the beginning of 2020. The study reached a set of results, the most important of which are:

During the analysis of the role of social media in raising awareness on the dangers of COVID-19 spread in Algeria, it turns out that it was a double-edged sword, a positive aspect related to clarifying the facts and making the individual constantly aware of the circumstantial developments about the epidemic from official sources, and another negative aspect represented in spreading rumors and misinformation, which was intended to intimidating.

The role of social media during the spread of COVID-19 pandemic cannot be denied in educating, raising awareness, correcting mistakes, and directing public opinion, especially now at a time when the whole world is busy following up the details of COVID-19 spread, its repercussions and effects on human societies, health, psychologically, socially, economically, and commercially.

3)   The study of Enas Mansour Kamel Sharaf (2020)

The study aimed to monitor the role of social media in promoting rumors and presenting the facts about the emerging COVID-19. The study used the social survey method by sample, as the study applied to a sample of 400 individuals from Universities of Alexandria students representing urban universities and Kafr El Sheikh University students representing the regional universities. The study used a questionnaire tool to collect data, and the study was applied during the period March

28, 2020 until April 28, 2020, and reached a set of results, the most important of which are the following:

−   Social media ranked first among the sources of information on the emerging COVID-19, and Facebook was the most used site for that, followed by WhatsApp.

−   It was found that 64.4% of the study sample believed that social media sometimes contribute to promoting some rumors on the emerging COVID-19.

−   It was found that there were statistically significant differences between the average number of females and males depending on social media, as one of the most important sources of information they had about the emerging COVID-19.

−   There is a statistically significant relationship between the study samples depending on social media, as one of the sources of information about the emerging COVID-19, and the extent of social media's contribution to increasing their anxiety and tension towards COVID-19.

4)   Study of Siti Mazidah Mohamad, 2020

The study aimed to identify the role of young people in visualizing the risks resulting from tCOVID-19, through narration from a social dimension through social media. The study found that young people creatively and effectively support initiatives related to social distance, through their use of social media such as: (Instagram - Twitter - TikTok). The youth played a leading role in developing social contributions to reduce the danger of this pandemic through using social media.

5)   Study of Tasnim, Mahbub, Hoimonty, and Mazumder 2020

The study focused on the impact of rumors or misinformation about COVID-19 in social media. The results of the study showed that there are many rumors and misinformation regarding the causes, results, prevention and treatment of COVID-19, which spread through social media. This misinformation and rumors negatively affected on health behaviors and practices, which leads to the spread of the virus, and led to many serious consequences.

6)   Study of Lisa Singha, 2020

The study aimed to identify the impact of social media "Twitter", and spread of awareness among the users about COVID-19, and its effect on spreading misinformation and rumors among the public. The study used a content analysis form to analyze a sample of (64487) tweets, in addition to a questionnaire form to obtain data from (350) from the public in New York City, and concluded a result stated that: The lack of censorship of the content posted on social media, made social media among the main means that spread rumors and misinformation among the public, and these sites also contributed in increasing public awareness regarding COVID-19 pandemic by educating the public about the symptoms of the virus and the preventions ways.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Humanity lives on the impact of a health crisis that is the most severe in the history, and the process of health awareness is not easy as some imagine it to be and it is a process aimed only at disseminating health information through the media. The spread of COVID-19 in the world's countries has led the media to combat it, as there is no medicine for this pandemic so far, except the health awareness.

Individuals' health awareness is the cornerstone of their daily behavior patterns that have an impact on their health in general, and the media are the main sources of health information. The social media is one of the most prominent features and manifestations of the new media produced by the Internet, which depends in its course on new technologies such as: blogs, forums and social media sites, where these media are characterized by being media without a medium so that the using audience becomes the sender, the receiver, the producer, and the distributor at the same time. Unlike the old media that used to play the role of institutional sending "media institutions" and directed to the reception of the masses.

Social media sites have become conducting an important and essential role in transmitting information, drawing pictures and forming trends (Philip N. Howard and M Hussain, 2013, p124). Social media sites have spread in all countries around world, providing many ideas, topics, information, and news in a way that helps in raising awareness and education. Where COVID-19 news and information and its social and economic repercussions topped a large area on social media, which can be highlighted and analyzed in the current study.

Where it has become certain that the impact of social media in forming public opinion, forming a system of awareness and directing behavior has increased, especially with regard to methods of dealing with the spread of COVID-19, whether in the preventive, therapeutic or cognitive side.
Also, social media allow the browser to interact with what is displayed through comments, as they provide an open public space in which dialogue and ideas can be exchanged easily and quickly (Abu Aisha, 2010, p. 15-16), which helps to exchange ideas and information on COVID-19.

Hence, the study problem focuses on a general question: Does social media have a role in raising awareness on the dangers of COVID-19 pandemic or its repercussions?

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
This study attempts to achieve the following objectives:

1.   Knowing that youth in University of Future uses of social media.
2.   Monitoring the pros that the students of Future University see in dealing with social media for COVID-19 pandemic.

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3. Knowing the cons that the students of Future University see in dealing with COVID-19 pandemic through socail media.

4. Knowing the extent of the students of Future University in how they deal with the COVID-19 pandemic by socail media as a news source.

5. Highlighting the social implications of dealing with social media of COVID-19 pandemic.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What are the uses of Future University students for social media?

2. What are the pros that Future University students see in dealing with social media for COVID-19 pandemic?

3. What are the cons that Future University students see in dealing with social media for COVID-19 pandemic?

4. How confident are Future University students in dealing with social media with COVID-19 pandemic?

5. What are the social implications of addressing the social media of COVID-19 pandemic from the point of view of Future University students?

METHODOLOGY

The methodological procedures are as follows:

a. **Type of study**: This study belongs to descriptive and analytical studies to identify the role of social media and the nature of the effects of awareness on COVID-19 pandemic and its social repercussions.

b. **Study methodology:** The researcher used in this study the social survey approach, and this approach is considered one of the systematic methods of social analysis, and it is a method for collecting and analyzing data for the purpose of obtaining information from large numbers of respondents. The survey approach allows collecting information, data and facts about the problem of the study, which could help in reaching correct, more knowledge, and understanding explanations.

c. **Limits of the study:** The researcher has adopted to implement the study on the following limits:

-Objective limits: The study was limited to studying the impact of social media on raising awareness of the dangers of COVID-19 pandemic and its repercussions among Future University students.

-Human limits: The study was limited to a sample of Future University students.

-Time limits: The field study took two months (March and April) of 2021.

d. **Study sample:** The study was conducted on a sample of (87) individuals of Future University students in Yemen. This number represents 16% of Future University students, who are 520 students registered in the academic year 2020-2021 according to statistics issued by the Department of Student Affairs at the university.

e.   Testing the validity and reliability of the study instrument:

-Validity test: The researcher used the method of apparent validity of the tool by presenting it to a number of arbitrators who are experts in sociology and media, and in light of their directives and observations, the necessary amendments were made, as the wording of some paragraphs was amended, some of them deleted, and new ones were added, then the arbitrators judged the validity of the study tool.

-Stability test of the tool: To ensure the tool, the stability was calculated using the internal consistency method according to the Alpha Cronbach formula for the study axes, and it reached 82.6%, as shown in the following table:

Table No. (1) illustrates the stability test for the research choices

	Number of choices	Alpha Cronbach value
Stability test	22	0.826

Table No. (1) shows Alpha Cronbach stability value, which reached to 0.826 (82.6%), which indicates that the answers are consistent, as it exceeded the minimum level of stability, which is 70%. Consequently, the results obtained in the study are sufficiently stable to be interpreted and taken into account.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Demographic variables:

1.   Characteristics of the study sample according to the gender variable:

Table No. (2) the characteristics of the study sample according to gender

Gender	Repetition	Ratio
Male	56	64.4%
Female	31	35.6%
Total	87	100%

We notice from Table No. (2) that the sample consisted of males by 56 with percent of 64.4%, and females, 31 with percent of 35.6%, and the following Chart shows that as follows:
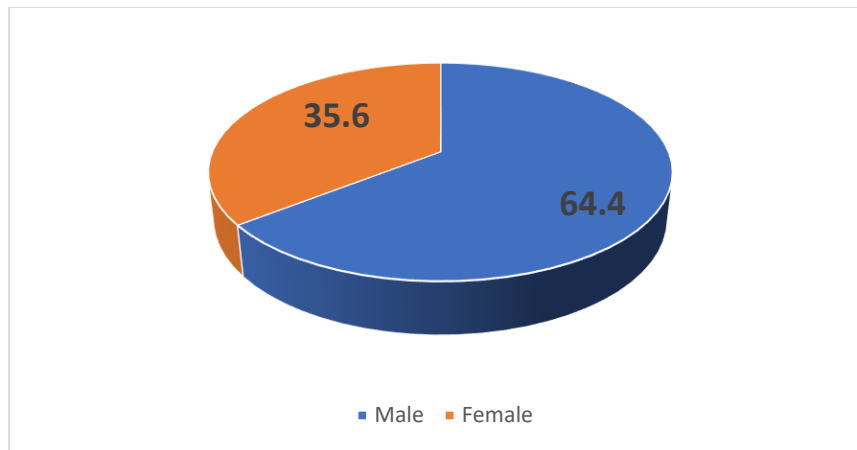
Chart No. (1) shows the distribution of the study sample according to gender

2.   Characteristics of the study sample according to the type of faculty:
Table No. (3) shows the characteristics of the study sample according to the faculty

Faculty	Reptation	Ratio
Humanities faculties	37	42.5%
Applied faculties	50	57.5%
Total	87	100%

We notice from Table No. (3) that the sample consisted of 37 students (42.5%) of humanities faculties, and 50 students (57.5%) of applied faculties, and the following Chart shows that as follows:
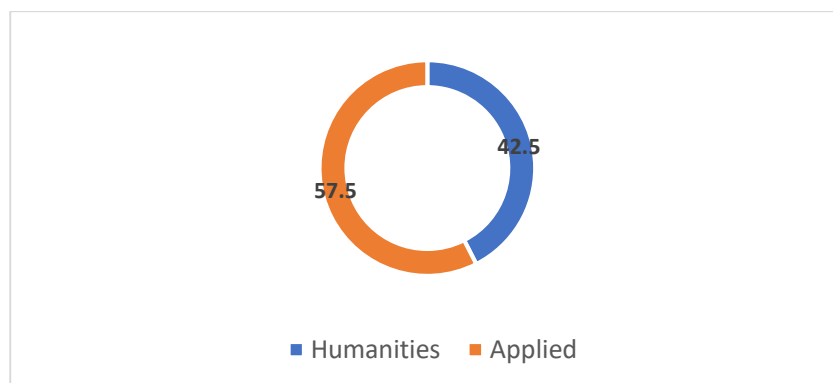

Chart No. (2) shows the distribution of the study sample according to the specialization

3.   Number of using hours of social media.
Table No. (4) shows the number of hours that the sample is using social media

How many hours do you spend in using social media?	Repetition	Ratio
Less than two hours	27	31.0
From 2 hours to less than 4 hours	23	26.4

From 4 to less than 6 hours	19	21.8
6 hours and more	18	20.7
Total	87	100.0

We notice from Table No. (4) that 27 students (31%) of the sample use social media for less than two hours, followed by 23 students (26.4) use the social media from two hours to less than 4 hours, followed by 19 students (21.8) use social media from 4 to less than 6 hours, and finally 18 students (20.7) use social media for 6 hours and more. The following Chart represents this as follows:
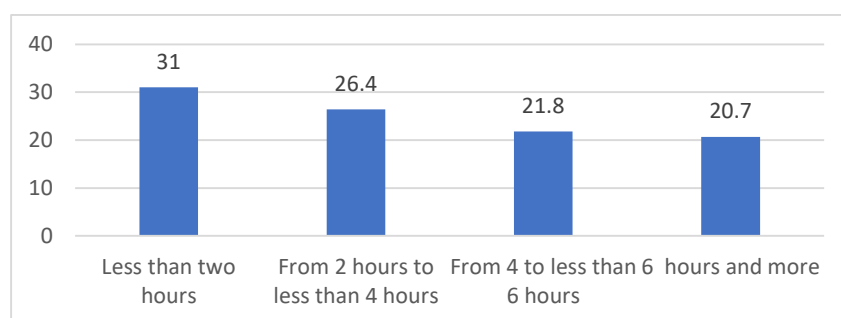

Figure No. (3) shows the characteristics of the study sample according to the number of hours

4.   The importance of the social media role in raising awareness of COVID-19 risks.
Table No. (5) illustrates the responses of the study sample on the role of social media in raising awareness of COVID-19 risks.

Do you think that social media has an important role in raising awareness of COVID-19 risks?	Reptation	Ratio
Almost Always	51	58.6
Somehow	27	31.0
Never	9	10.3
Total	87	100%

It appears from table No. (5) that the most students think that social media has an important role in raising awareness of COVID-19 risks as number of students who answered "Almost Always" is 51 (58.6%), followed by 27 students (31%) answered "Somehow", and number of students who answered "Never" is 9 (10.3). The following Chart represents this as follows:
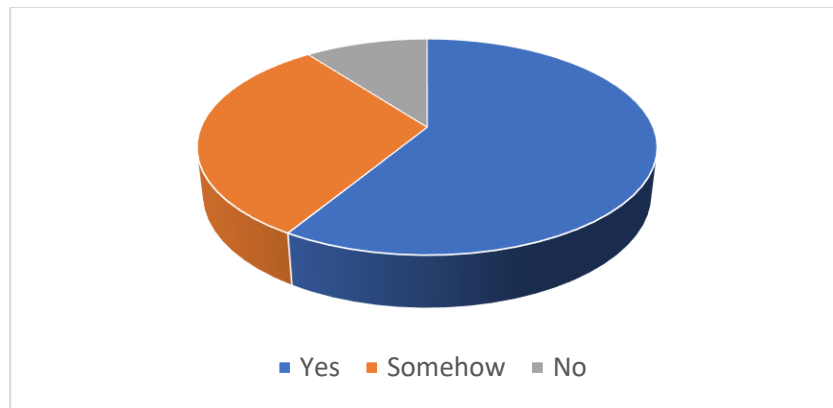
Yes ■ Somehow ■ No

Chart (4) shows the characteristics of the study sample according to the importance of social media

5.   Reasons of using social media during COVID-19 break down.
Table No. (6) shows the answers of the study sample to the reasons of using social media during COVID-19 break down

Reasons of using social media during COVID-19 break down	No. of answers	
	Reptation	Ratio
To know the developments of the virus.	35	22.4%
To know how to deal with virus.	27	17.3%
To know the precautions.	40	25.6%
To learn about preventions methods.	26	16.7%
To discuss others about the virus.	13	8.3%
To know the effect of the virus.	15	9.6%
Total	156	100.0%

It appears from Table No. (6) that majority of sample, 40 students (25.6) answered with "to know the precautions", 35 students (22.4) answered "To know the developments of the virus", 27 students (17.3) answered "To know how to deal with virus", and the minority of sample, 15 students (9.6%), answered "To know the effect of the virus". The following Chart represent the answers as follows:
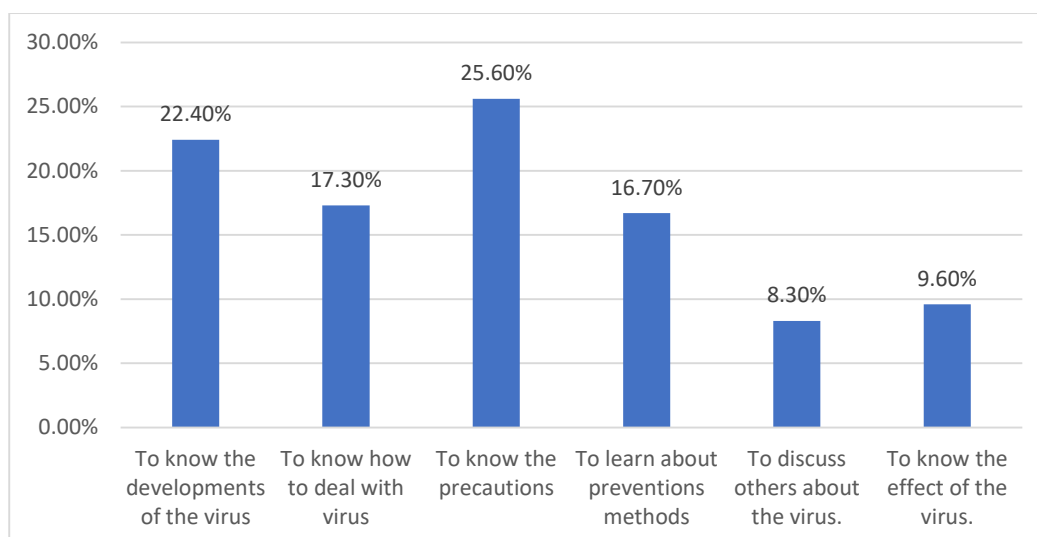
Chart No. (5) illustrates the characteristics of the study sample according to the reasons of using social media

6.   The positives of social media in raising awareness of COVID-19 risks

Table No. (7) shows the average and relative weight of social media positives in raising awareness of COVID-19 risks.

No.	From your point of view, what are the positives of social media during COVID-19 break down?	The average	Standard deviation	Importance ratio	Verbal assessment
6	Awareness on the rapid spread of the virus.	2.3678	0.66673	78.1%	Always
7	Awareness of the virus ways of transmissions.	2.3563	0.69845	77.7%	Always
8	Show the number of infected people locally and internationally.	2.2299	0.75792	73.5%	Sometimes
9	Show the steps and procedures that must be followed when infected with COVID-19.	2.4368	0.72659	80.4%	Always
10	Show the precautions.	2.5632	0.62322	84.5%	Always
11	Disseminating instructions and procedures imposed by the country to protect citizens.	2.1839	0.73972	72%	Sometimes
12	They helped in the safe communication between people during the social distancing.	2.2759	0.77294	75.1%	Sometimes
13	Fight false and misleading news about the virus.	1.9655	0.78427	64.8%	Sometimes
14	They provided a free space for WHO to help fighting the	2.6090	0.77449	68.2%	Sometimes

	virus.				
15	They facilitated work, study and conferencing from home.	2.0460	0.81993	67.5%	Sometimes
	The overall average	2.2494	0.7364	74.2%	Always

Table No. (7) shows that most of the answers "always" were for the fifth and eleventh choices respectively, which said "Show the precautions", where the average answer for each of the two choices was 2.5632 with a standard deviation of 0.62322, respectively, and by 84.5%, which is with verbal assessment.

Where the most answered which shows that the highest choices were an answer to "always." The fifth and eleventh choices, which read respectively, "Presentation of prevention methods," where the choice came with an average answer for both of them amounting to 2.5632 with a standard deviation Respectively 0.62322 and the percentage for this choice to have a positive effectiveness of social media was with a significance of 84.5%, which is when estimating the mean "always".

As for the lowest positive choices, it was the tenth choice, which states: "They facilitated work, study and conferencing from home", where it came with an average answer of 2.0460, a standard deviation of 0.81993, and a significance of 67.5%, which is with the verbal assessment "sometimes".

Also, the overall average of the positives of social media during COVID-19 was at the value 2.2494, with a standard deviation of 0.7364, which is at 74.2%, with a verbal assessment (always). That is, the positives of social media during COVID-19 in general were ranked (always), which is an advanced rank and it means that social media actually has a positive effect with regard to awareness of COVID-19. Although the importance varies from one choice to another, it generally has a positive and effective impact in raising awareness.

7.   The negatives of social media in raising awareness of COVID-19 risks
Table No. (8) shows the average and relative weight of the negatives of social media in raising awareness of COVID-19 risks.

No	From your point of view, what are the negatives of social media during COVID-19 break down?	The average	Standard deviation	Importance ratio	Verbal assessment
1	Spreading false news about the virus risks.	2.5632	0.56447	84.5%	Always
2	Difficulty verifying the validity of the information published through these sites.	2.5057	0.62643	82.6%	Always
3	They contributed to creating panic and fear among people.	2.4598	0.69558	81.1%	Always
4	They were exploited to promote fake medicines for COVID-19.	2.4828	0.71304	81.9%	Always
5	Spreading false information about the virus diagnosis.	2.4598	0.66130	81.1%	Always

6	The overall average.	2.4942	0.6521	82.3%	Always

Table No. (8) shows that the highest negativity degree was represented in the first choice, which stated "Spreading false news about the virus risks," as it came with an average of 2.5632, a standard deviation of 0.56447 and a significance ratio of 84.5%, which is with verbal assessment (always).

The lowest negative choices were the third and fifth choices, as they had the same average answer, which they stated respectively, "They contributed to creating panic and fear among people" and "Spreading false information about the virus diagnosis", as the average was 2.4598 for each of them, with a standard deviation, respectively, 0.69558 and 0.66130 and the significance ratio 81.1%, which is with verbal assessment (always).

As for the overall average, it reached 2.4942, with a standard deviation of 0.6521, at a significance ratio of 82.3%, which is upon verbal assessment (always).

That is, the negatives, in general, have a high degree of agreement in all the studied choices.

8.   How confident is the information obtained from social media.
Table No. (9) shows the degrees of trust in the information obtained from social media.

How trust are you with the information you get from social media during COVID-19?	Reptation	Ratio
I never trust them	26	29.9
Medium trust	24	27.6
Little trust	37	42.5
Total	87	100.0

Table No. (9) shows that the study sample primarily trust information from social media to a low degree, as 37 students (42.5) indicated "little confidence". Then 26 students (29.9%) answered "I never trust". The number of students who trust social media with a medium degree was 24 students (27.6%).

Therefore, we can say that although social media had a tangible effect in disseminating information, their effects in finding conviction in the truth of information is still low and this may be due to various reasons, including the possibility publication on social media by various parties, individuals or institutions. As well as, the post may be supported by evidence or no, so the information becomes low in terms of accuracy confidence. The following chart represents this as follows:
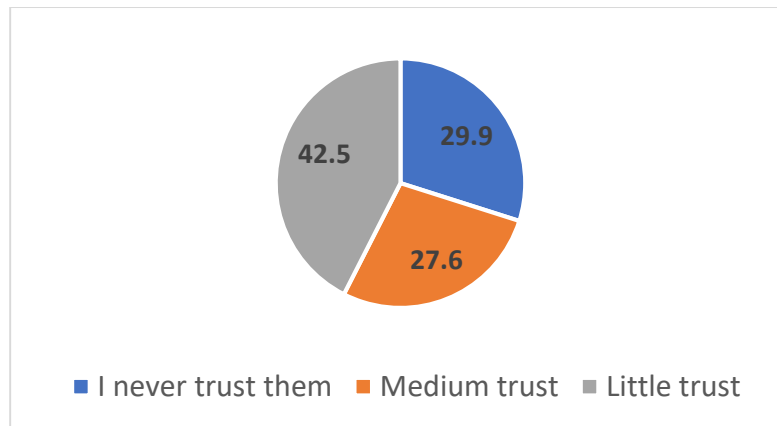
Chart No. (6) shows the degrees of trust in the information obtained from social media.

9. **Reasons for trusting the information presented by social media about COVID-19:**
Table No. (10) illustrates the reasons for trusting information

What are the reasons for your confidence in the information presented by social media during COVID-19?	Repetition	Ratio
Because some news is transmitted from Yemeni Ministry of Health.	15	17.2
Because I am sure the information and news are true.	37	42.5
Because some news is transmitted from WHO websites.	35	40.2
Total	87	100.0

Table No. (10) shows that the reasons for the results obtained in relation to confidence in information are that the respondents in fact have reasons to trust information, and this confidence is at the top in relation to COVID-19 if the respondent himself verifies the accuracy of the information and the news. Where the highest answers were for the choice "Because I am sure the information and news are true" with 37 answers, with a rate of (42.5%), followed by the choice "Because some news is transmitted from WHO websites" which got 35 answers (40.2%) and finally 15 answers (17.2) were "Because some news is transmitted from Yemeni Ministry of Health". The following chart represents this as follows
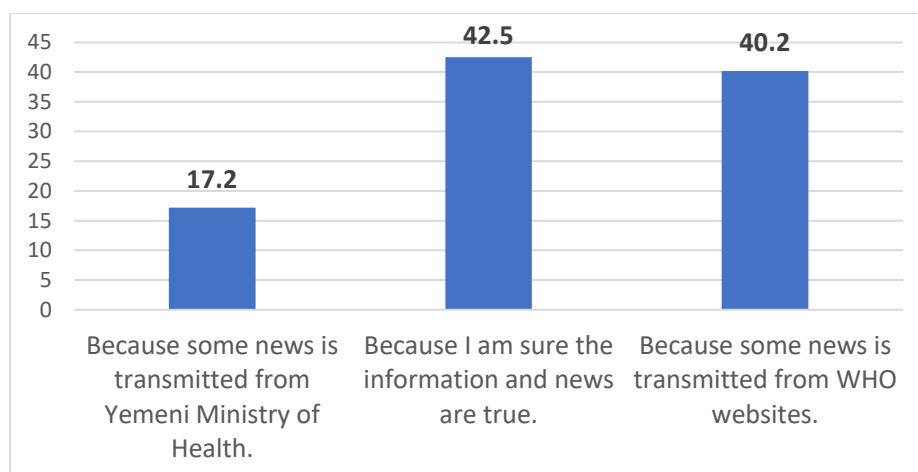
Chart No. (7) shows the reasons for trusting information and arranging percentages for confidence in the information

10.   The social dimensions of COVID-19 risks.
Table No. (11) shows the average and relative weight of social media and the social dimensions of COVID-19 risks.

	Here is a set of social dimensions of COVID-19 risks, please specify the degree of your agreement with it?	The average	Standard deviation	Importance ratio	Verbal assessment
1	Weak direct relationships between relatives and friends.	2.1379	0.80943	70.5%	Neutral
2	The growth of virtual relationships at the expense of real relationships.	2.0345	0.72253	76.1%	Neutral
3	Increased family problems as a result of the spouses staying for long periods at home.	2.3218	0.79963	76.6%	Neutral
4	Depending on social media as a source of news and information about COVID-19.	2.2184	0.75368	73.2%	Neutral
5	The unemployment rate increases as a result of following the precautions.	2.4598	0.78953	81.1%	Supporter
6	Replacing social media for holding conferences instead of direct meetings.	2.2759	0.72641	75.1%	Neutral
7	Depending on social media in distance education.	1.9655	0.85519	64.8%	Neutral

8	Depending on social media for shopping.	2.2529	0.81009	74.3%	Neutral
	The overall average	2.2083	0.7833	72.8%	Neutral

Table No. (11) shows the average answers of the study sample on the degree of approval of COVID-19 risks socially. it is clear that the highest social risk due to COVID-19 is "The unemployment rate increases as a result of following the precautions," as it comes with an average answer of 2.4598 and a standard deviation of 0.78953, which is at the ratio of 81.1% and upon verbal assessment (supporter)

As for the rest of the choices, they were at the average answer of "neutral". The low average was in the choice "depending on social media in distance education", where it had an average answer of 1.9655, a standard deviation of 0.85519, and with ratio of 64.8% and a verbal assessment (neutral).

As for the overall average, it was at the value 2.2083, a standard deviation of 0.7833, and ratio of agreement of 72.8%, which is with the verbal assessment (neutral).

Thus, it can be said that the real risk of COVID-19 from the point of view of the study sample were concentrated in the unemployment rate increases as a result of following the precautions.

As for the rest of the social choices that were studied, the answers differed between support and neutral, so the neutral was in the middle. The focus on the possibility of how to reduce unemployment as a result of COVID-19 in the first place is what must be focused on, and then it is possible to go to the rest of the social choices mentioned in the study.

CONCLUSION

The study data confirmed the importance of social media role in raising awareness of COVID-19 risks, where the ratio of those who answered Almost Always reached 58.6%, and those who answered "somehow" reached 31.0%. There are many reasons for using social media to raise awareness of COVID-19 risks, namely, knowing the developments of the epidemic by 22.45%, learning how to deal with COVID-19 by 17.3%, learning about precautions by 25.6%, and obtaining guidance about the virus by 16.7%, then discuss others about the virus at 8.3%, and knowing the effect of the virus by 9.65%.
The using hours of social media varied, where the choice" less than two hours" comes first, by 31.0%, "from two hours to less than 4 hours", by 2604%, and "from four to less than 6 hours", by 21.8%, and "6 hours and more", by 20.7%. The average answers to the

choices of the social media positives in raising awareness of COVID-19 risks ranged between 2.3678 and 2.0460, meaning that the overall average is 74.2% and reflects a high degree from the viewpoint of the study sample. The average answers to the choices of the social media negatives in raising awareness of COVID-19 risks ranged between 2.5632 and 2.4942, meaning that the overall average is 82.3% and reflects a high degree from the viewpoint of the study sample.

The answers of level of trust in social media was "little trust" 42.5%, "medium trust" 27.6% and "I never trust" 29.9%. There were many reasons for trusting the information about COVID-19 presented by social media, namely, "some news were transmitted from Yemeni Ministry of Health" 17.2%, then "to verify the validity of the information and news" 42.5%, and "because some news was transmitted from WHO websites" 40.2%.

The social dimensions of social media were numerous during COVID-19, and the overall averages ranged between 2.1379 and 2.2083, meaning that the overall average is 72.8%, which indicates its average impact.

RECOMMENDATIONS

− Not to rely on data from unreliable sources, so as not to spread rumors or false information that may affect the behavior of individuals and expose them to risks.

− Paying attention to presenting official data and correct information from official sources helps in raising a correct awareness of COVID-19 risks and precautions.

− Establishing a mechanism to monitor the information spread on these sites to combat rumors and fake news that lead to increased tension in society.

− Enact laws that penalize those who publish false news, information, and rumors that may lead to tension and anxiety among society.

− Social media, healthcare institutions, and social organizations should build strategic partnerships and launch common platforms to spread true public health messages.

− Ensure to spread the culture of dealing with crises among society and raise their awareness in terms of searching for correct information from reliable sources, especially with regard to social media.

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