



INVESTIGATING THE INFLUENCE OF PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS AND  
INTERNET ADDICTION ON HUMAN BEHAVIOR

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*Abstract*

*The main aim of this research article is to investigate the influence of psychiatric disorders and internet addiction on human behavior given the globalization era. The behavioral analysis and psychological aspects lead the investigation to identify both positive and negative consequences. Moreover, this article aims to analyze the impact of social networking technologies on human behavior based on potential dangers. In recent years, virtual socialization replaced almost entirely ordinary human relationships, especially for young people. Online communication is much easier, more attractive, providing an adjusted image of the concerned person. Thus, the reality can be very deformed in cyberspace but the accessed information significantly increase user vulnerability regarding potential dangers. Cyber reality provides an apparent protection beyond the computer screen, but appearances can be very deceiving. Moreover, the trigger vary depending on human behavior based on the physical dimensions, environmental factor, genetics, past trauma, abuses suffered in childhood or more individualized issues. Cybercrime is a significant threat whether targeting petty crimes or degenerate into extreme violence, and social networks represent a favorable framework for its progress. Nevertheless, social networking sites represent a significant innovation in order to facilitate human relationships but hidden risks should not be ignored, nor that their impact on human behavior.*

**KEYWORDS :** *psychiatric disorders, internet addiction, social networking, globalization, cybercrime, privacy risk, potential dangers, forensic investigations, behavioral analysis, psychological aspects*



## I. INTRODUCTION

The basic idea on social networks aim to facilitate socialization and communication between people who have certain common interests or who have already established some mutual connections. In the recent past, the popularity of social networks has grown exponentially especially in the conditions of globalization. Technically, the impact of social networking is based on a number of influencing factors such as economic, political, social, cultural, religious, environmental, ethnical. Currently, social networks include platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, MySpace, Google Plus, Tumblr, Pinterest, Tagged and many others less representative. Moreover, these social networks are some of most popular social network worldwide. Beyond the obvious advantages, social networking technologies also hold potential dangers to society which should by no means be ignored. Virtual reality provides a very attractive framework, but appearances can be deceiving. Moreover, social networking provides the impression of control and power, ie essential attributes in the virtual world.

Social media addiction is a disease of the 21st century, without a conclusive cure especially among youth. More likely, in a few years everything will become digitized. Increasingly, the Internet replaces human relationships in their very essence. Currently, everything is for sale online, from clothes and food to love and family. Unfortunately, this issue can be exploited unscrupulously in order to achieve certain goals.

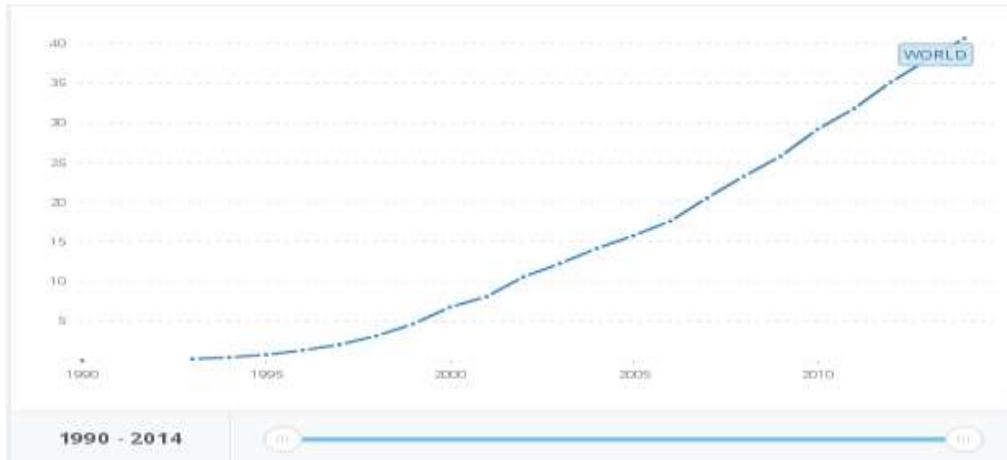
## II. SOCIAL NETWORKING VULNERABILITIES

A general framework on social networking provides insight on the features of this online communication channel. It is impressive how much social networks can influence human behavior. However, this ability is simultaneously terrifying and overwhelming, if taken into consideration the negative implications. Human behavioral deviations can discharge online and the consequences can be dramatic. The access to social networks can be done very easily using fake accounts in order to hide the true identity of the user. Thus acting under anonymity, the user behavior can not be punished by law enforcement. It is quite difficult to track down such acts especially if the user has computer expertise so as to remove traces. Internet access is a perfect opportunity in this regard so that the risk for other vulnerable innocent users to be extremely high and moreover very real.

According to the State of Broadband Report 2015 (United Nation Broadband Commission) countries that have the greatest percentage of individuals using the internet in the year 2014 are the following : Iceland - 98.2 %, Norway - 96.3 %, Denmark - 96.0 %, Andorra - 95.9 %, Liechtenstein - 95.2 %, Luxembourg - 94.7 %, Netherlands - 93.2 %, Sweden - 92.5 %, Monaco - 92.4 %, Finland - 92.4 %, United Kingdom - 91.6 %, Qatar - 91.5 %, Bahrain - 91.0 %, Japan - 90.6 %, United Arab Emirates - 90.4 %, United States - 87.4 %, Canada - 87.1 %, Switzerland - 87.0 % and Germany - 86.2 %. In opposition, the countries that have some of the lowest percentage of individuals using the internet in the year 2014 are the following : Pakistan - 13.8 %, Iraq - 11.3 %, Cameroon - 11.0 %, Bangladesh - 9.6 %, Burkina Faso - 9.4 %, Papua New Guinea - 9.4 %, Cambodia - 9.0 %, Afghanistan - 6.4 %, Ethiopia - 2.9 %, Niger - 2.0 %, Guinea - 1.7 %, Somalia -

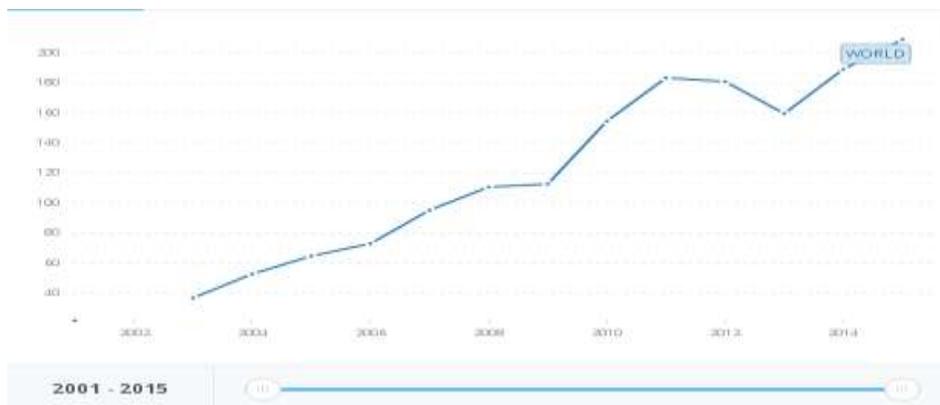


1.6 %, Burundi - 1.4 %. On the other hand, The official website of the World Bank Group provided a very interesting framework regarding the statistics about Internet users (per 100 people) and secure Internet servers, aspects that are highlighted in the figures below :



**Fig.1 Internet users (per 100 people)**

*Source : International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report and database, and World Bank estimates.  
The official website of the World Bank Group*



**Fig.2 Secure Internet servers  
(per 1 million people)**

*Source : Netcraft ( netcraft.com ) and World Bank population estimates  
The official website of the World Bank Group*



The number of active users worldwide reach several billion people and many of them were registered in multiple social networks. In terms of connecting to a social network it is not indispensable owning a computer since given the accelerated penetration of mobile phone industry in this field of entertainment.

UNESCO suggested that the Internet provides “an unprecedented volume of resources for information and knowledge and opens up new opportunities for expression and participation” and is aware of the tremendous potential it holds. The importance of the Internet, and implicitly of social networks is undeniable, but this very issue can be speculated in a very dark sense. Thus, from here to cyber crime is only one step. According to Birău and Antonescu (2014) “cybercrime includes a wide range of illegal activities such as : cyber bullying, cyber terrorism, identity theft, cyber stalking, virtual pornography (via the Internet), cyber espionage (illegally obtaining confidential data), computer hacking, computer fraud, online harassment, phishing, online piracy, blackmailing proceeding, cyber extortion, spam attacks, copyright infringement, computer virus programs (installing malicious software programs such as Trojan horse viruses)”. However, significant differences emerge precisely from the peculiarities of social networks. Seemingly innocuous, the social networks stores a plurality of user's personal data and information. For example, a compromising photo distributed on social networks will be permanently preserved in the online environment, by the very nature of the Internet. The same is true for conversations, private information, preferences, habits. Another aspect seemingly harmless highlights the use of personal data for commercial purposes regarding social networks. Unfortunately, making profit at the expense of personal data protection prevail in many situations. The psychological aspects of deviant human behavior should not be ignored, in particular environmental factor, genetics, past trauma, abuses suffered in childhood or more individualized issues. Discussions through social networks takes place in a virtual space so nonverbal behavior can not be identified at all. There is no privacy online even if the user use all options privacy allowed by social networks. A hacker can crack any account and obtain the necessary information, and this information can then be used in various ways.

### III. CONCLUSIONS

The main objective of this research article is to investigate the influence of social networking technologies on human behavior based on potential dangers. Social networking technologies represent one of the most important challenges but the users should be aware of the potential dangers. The online exposure risks experienced by users of social networking are significant. Users share information with others who also share this information, and the cycle repeats again and again. Moreover, the risk that users' privacy to be violated is extremely high with very unpredictable consequences. Increasingly more users should ask themselves how safe are social networks and how vulnerable they are in the context of very high online privacy risks. Likewise, online privacy and cyberspace security are threatened every second without the possibility of counteracting at the same level. In the virtual world are born very often real threats for people who believe that only communicate with each other. The free access to the internet itself makes it a very dangerous place where the possibilities are immense, and there



are no limits. The vulnerability of people who use social networks is certain and they should use extreme caution to prevent any dramatic events.

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