**Communication and Information Technology**

Name

Institution

Course

Professor

Date

**Communication and Information Technology**

**Negative Online Interaction**

The modern world is incredibly defined by increased technology and subscription to social media as a way of communication and interaction. The framers and developers of social media platforms intended to craft it as a platform to build individual capacities and relationships through well-equipped skills, knowledge, and trade required to create a utopia for all. However, there are many unintended effects social media has on our mental health that often go unnoticed. Negative social interaction is defined by social aggression and bullying, gossip, sexual coercion, intentional embarrassment, relational transgressions, and negative emotional expressions.

Most communication behaviors, such as gossip, are unique because they contemn some elements of the light and dark side of communication and are subject to controversy. The controversy source from the thought that the determination of moral appropriateness and functionality is a subject of perspective (Jeremy, 2016). For instance, when bloggers gossip or spread rumors on their social platforms, they are more likely to attract many subscribers because a good number of social media users would consider it acceptable to discuss. Under the functional productiveness, gossips can be regarded as a light side of communication. Still, it will be contrasted when addressing it under the moral criterion, which maintains that it is always right to talk about an issue when one has enough evidence (Jeremy, 2016). Such complexities brought out in the dark side of communication are instrumental in cultivating critical thinking and analytical skills that compels those studying communication to be objective in their approaches.

**Gender and Negative Interaction**

The feminine and masculine cultures are a complete contrast in their way of communication. While the feminine individuals communicate with more affection leading to more exposure to their weakness and vulnerability through self-exposure, masculine people do not prioritize communication. They tend to prefer shoulder to shoulder communication such as gaming and watching sports (Kim & Yoo, 2016). Innately, these socially constructed characteristics lead to a disproportion in negative interactions with different genders. The great self-exposure makes females more vulnerable to negative interactions because it exposes their weaknesses through gossips. Besides, feminine individuals tend to communicate with more affection, confidence, and greater intimacy- as such negative social interactions such as social aggression and bullying, gossip, sexual coercion, intentional embarrassment, and negative emotion expressions may weigh heavily on them than on their counterparts.

**The** **Digital Divide**

**The digital divide is a definitive word that highlights the gap between people with regular and adequate digital technology access. Digital divide morphs from several factors, such as access to infrastructure whose inadequacy obstructs broadband access** (Van Dijk, 2017)**. Alternatively, it can be caused by income differences such that more income translates to having faster and more consistent internet access. Information on the digital divide is essential. It sheds light on why there is a gap between internet usages by examining how many people use the internet. The digital divide can also be defined through a more inclusive approach known as digital inequality, highlighting an array of inequality across the diversified population groups regarding differences in technology use and dimensions of technology access** (Van Dijk, 2017)**. For instance, Different ages are affected differently by digital inequality because technology is defined by fast-moving advancements that often cause the usability divide. For example, new technologies require high flexibility in learning which may intimidate age groups that are less flexible to change. People with less tech experience, such as senior adults, may find it daunting to handle simple tasks in new technologies such as laptops.**

**Additionally, older adults may have physical limitations such as seeing and typing that may limit them. This thought highlights why age is a potential factor in access or inequality because there is a correlation between it and flexibility in adjusting to technological advancements. The digital divide is significant because it highlights the economic and social disparities concerning access to the use of or impact of ICT. With the increased proliferation of internet access, there is a relative inequality between those with more or bandwidth or skills** (Van Dijk, 2017)**. Digital divide matters because it explains the new media challenges that affect different people, organizations, societies, and countries.**

**References**

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