

# Social Media: A Necessary Evil

## Outline

### I. Introduction:

Social media has changed the dynamics of the world, becoming an essential tool in human life. However, at the same time, it has become a necessary evil for mankind. So, it is dire need to transform this necessary evil into a cherished blessing.

### II. Social media - an overview

### III. Why social media is vital?

A. A guiding light for learning, awareness and education

B. A thriving hub for e-commerce

B. A platform for political awareness

### IV. How social media has become a necessary evil:

A. Becoming a weapon for propaganda, disinformation and fake news

B. Draining of time and money

C. As a tool for harassment and character assassination

- D. Providing a platform for terrorists and extremist.
  - E. As a source of stress and depression
  - G. Igniting political instability in a country
  - I. Accessing masses to 'illegal' content
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- V. Potential steps to transform this necessary evil into a cherished blessing:

A. Effective legislation for content regulation

B. Enforcing cyber acts and online crime prevention laws

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VI. Conclusion:

Social media has become an evil, so, it need to timely address this issue and convert it into a blessing. →

## Essay

The technological advancements of recent years have profoundly altered the dynamics of the world, and revolutionized every aspect of life. One notable invention of modern technology is social media, which has exerted a considerable influence on the world, becoming an indispensable tool for various purposes. It serves as a guiding light for learning, a thriving hub for e-commerce, and a platform for political awareness. However, social media has also evolved into a necessary evil in the modern era due to its abusive usage. It is employed for the propagation of fake news, terrorists activities, the draining of time and money, and the dissemination of illegal content. Furthermore, it has become a source of ignition for political instability.

in many countries. Thus, the social media has undeniably changed the dynamics of the world and become an essential tool in human life, it simultaneously poses challenges as a necessary evil. Addressing these issues becomes crucial to transforming this necessary evil into a cherished blessing.

Social media refers to the means of interaction among people in which they create, share, and exchange information and ideas in virtual communication and network. It encompasses a wide range of online platforms like Facebook, Whatsapp, X, Instagram etc. These platforms are also being used for business, educational and political purpose. Thus, social media has become an integral part of human life.

Social media is a vital part of human life as it is a guiding light for learning, awareness, and education. Through social media, different institutes deliver quality content which boosts the knowledge of individuals in search of information and knowledge. For instance, X Ford University has created its Facebook page, which allows social media users easy access to the university's quality content. Consequently, social media plays a crucial role in leading society towards more creativity and awareness. Hence, social media is a vital part of human lives.

Moreover, social media plays a significant role in human life by becoming a thriving hub for e-commerce. Facebook, with millions of users across the world, and other social media platforms

provide online business opportunities. As a result, many people earn their livelihood. The third world, which has been suffering from high inflation and unemployment, has shifted the masses' intentions towards online earning. Those who work on social media platforms often earn more than those in traditional jobs. For instance, 88% of consumers in urban areas of Pakistan ~~have~~ ~~made~~ who have access to the internet have made an online purchase ~~are~~ (Nielsen). Thus, social media plays a significant role in human life.

Additionally, social media plays a crucial role in human life by providing a platform for political awareness. Media, which has been used by politicians and actors to shape narratives and mold public opinion, has a biased role in society. However, social

media has been out of control for such biased actors. Consequently, social media has become a source of freedom of speech and enabled individual to distinguished between real and fake news. Thus, social media contributes to political awareness among people.

The aforementioned importance of social media proved that it has become an integral part of human life. However, the abusive use of social media has transformed this blessing into a necessary evil.

Social media has become a necessary evil, as it is often used as a weapon for propaganda, disinformation, and fake news. Through fake accounts on social media, false information and debasing content are uploaded to target particular personalities and political figures. For instance, audio and

video recordings of political figures were uploaded on social media with the purpose of undermining their political careers in Pakistan in 2022.

Thus, social media has transformed into a necessary evil by becoming a tool for the propagation of propaganda and fake news.

Furthermore, draining time and money, social media has converted into an avoidable detriment. Those who are unaware of the positive uses of social media consume their time and money by ~~see~~ scrolling through social media. A report from **Data Reportal** states that a man spends 116 minutes on social media every day. So, a major part of the masses in developing countries uses social media unproductively. Pakistan and many other developing countries do



not provide awareness of how to use social media effectively to masses. Consequently, these societies consuming money and time through the unproductive use of social media. Thus, social media has become an inherent dilemma.

Social media, once hailed as a platform for connection and information sharing, has unfortunately evolved into a potent tool for harm and character assassination. Fake accounts, false information, and manipulated images has gone viral and lead to harassment and character assassination through social media platforms. Consequently, individuals, in particular, and society, in general, are witnessing the inhumane use of social media. For instance, in Kohistan, Pakistan, a girl was killed by the community because

of her photo with a boy posted on social media. Thus, social media has evolved into a dangerous platform.

Providing a platform for terrorists and extremists, social media has become an unavoidable drawback. Many terrorist ~~functions~~ outfits use social media for the purpose of safe communication due to the end-to-end encrypt of many social media platforms. To achieve their coward aims, social media has also been used to get necessary details about targetting point by the terrorist groups. For instance, Whatsapp provides end-to-end encrypt communication and Facebook provides all information about an event, when it will be conducted, and where it will be held. Thus, social media has become an essential inconvenience by helping the terrorist for the achievement

of their toward aims.

While initially celebrated as a groundbreaking tool for connecting people, social media has evolved into a significant contributor to depression and stress for many individuals. The constant exposure to curated, idealized lives on platforms like Facebook and Instagram fosters unrealistic expectations, which lead to feeling of inadequacy. The incessant comparison to other's achievements can produce a sense of failure. Additionally, the pressure to conform to societal standards and the fear of missing out (FOMO) contribute to heightened stress levels. Thus, social media, while necessary, has become a double-edged sword by ~~fostering~~ inducing stress and pressure in many individuals.

Moreover, social media ignites political instability in a country by

disseminating misinformation that lodges in the public's mind. Consequently, the opinion of the masses become more entrenched, and lead to massive protests either in favor of or against political parties or ~~figures~~ figures. Pakistan is an example of this phenomenon. When the then Prime Minister, Imran Khan, was ousted from the government, he ran a political campaign through social media and fomented a massive instability across the country. Thus, social media is a necessary evil that contributes to political instability in a country.

Social media provides access to illegal content for the masses. In pursuit of profit, many websites advertise illegal content through social media. Consequently, individuals fall into the trap of these illicit websites and

consume their precious time and mental well-being due to exposure to inhumane content. Such content contributes to their mental weakness. Also, the ease of access to such harmful content raises concerns about the impact on social media values and ethics. Thus, social media has become a double-edged sword for the masses and society.

Last but not the least, social media, considered a must-have bad thing, helps spread racial discrimination. The platforms, meant for connecting people globally, end up supporting unfair ideas. Users may not know they are interacting with biased content, which makes stereotypes and divides attitudes stronger.

The computer programs behind these platforms accidentally help create groups that only similar ideas which makes them biased

view louder. The Network Contagion Research Institute of Rutgers University reported that the use of hateful term surged by almost 500% with a 12-hour period as compare to previous average. So, racial discrimination gets a good place to grow and cause real problem.

The aforementioned evidences proved that social media has evolved into a potent tool for harm. So, it is dire need to take potential steps to transform this necessary evil into<sup>a</sup> cherished blessings.

To make ~~one~~ social media a positive force, there is a need to pass laws that make platforms accountable. Legal bodies should force harmful content platforms to stop. Be clear about how they show information. Check facts and protect people's privacy with strong rules is mandatory for a government, which must fine the social media platforms if they break the rules. This way, social media can become a good thing and a blessing.

Introducing and collaborating on cyber acts and online crime prevention laws is vital for turning social media into a blessing. The international community and <sup>each</sup> country government need to

work together. An article must be added in international law that ensures the privacy of individual and sovereignty of state, which is threatened by cyber attacks. In such a way, social media could be transformed into a cherished blessing.

Last but not the least, embracing truth is key to transforming social media into a cherished blessing.

Positive and factual reporting can counteract the spread of misinformation and negativity. By

encouraging honest content, a digital environment that uplifts and informs <sup>positive content</sup> could be created.

When truth becomes a guiding principle, social media can truly serve as a source of inspiration and connection rather a source of ~~inspiration~~ perpetuating harm.



In conclusion, social media has evolved into a necessary evil by becoming a tool for propaganda separation, draining the time and money of individuals, posing a threat for privacy of people, and challenging a state's sovereignty. However, it also serves as positively by guiding light for learning to the masses, becoming thriving hub for e-commerce and a platform for political awareness. So, the social media platforms' owners, the international community and governments of each state can transform this necessary evil into a blessing for mankind by doing collective efforts. Thus, social media poses challenges as a necessary evil, and at the same time, it has become integral part of human life. Taking potential steps to address this issue, the social media could be convert into a cherished blessing.