

Date: Oct/04/2025

Topic Parents have left youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media themselves

Outline:

1 Introduction

Thesis Statement: The topic of whether parents have left youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media themselves or not have sparked many debates. Some argue that parents have not left youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media themselves. However, ground realities shows that parents have failed to guide the youth, leaving them to confront the dangers of social media themselves.

2 Problems of social media to youth and role of parents

3 Parents have left youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media (Thesis)

a) Parents have provided smartphones and internet without explaining risks, leaving youth to discover on their own

b) Minimal involvement in online life of youth, leaving them unguided

c) Parents have ignored the signs of addiction

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of social media on youth

d) Youth are left unguided on how to deal with cyberbullying and protect privacy

e) Children ^{often} hide online problems and tackle them alone, due to lack of guidance

f) Parents sideline their own role in teaching ethics of responsible online engagement, leaving them alone to grapple with problems of social media

g) Illiteracy of social media ^{among} to parents results in youth ^{being} left unguided

4 Parents have not left youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media (Anti-thesis)

a) Parents impose screen-time on their children

b) Parents have built in restriction on apps to keep eye on children's social media activity

c) Some parents maintain friendly discussions, asking and guiding children about social media problems

5 However, ground realities shows that parents have left youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media (Synthesis)

a) Guidance remains absent, leaving children on their own, to grapple with the problems of social media

b) ~~Children~~ ^{youth} still face harmful content that remains unguided due to evolving social media trends unregulated

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5) Communication gap persist, as youth hesitate to share sensitive issues like harassment or peer pressure, leaving them unsupported

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Conclusion

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In the vast ocean of social media, youth sail their fragile boats without compasses, as parents watch from the shore in silence. This scenario reflects the reality of ~~the present times~~ ^{the present times}, where ~~social media~~ ^{the present times}, youth ~~parents~~ ^{parents} ~~remain~~ ^{guidance} ~~and~~ ^{parents} absent while technology expands unchecked. As a result, the youth have gained easy access to social media and are increasingly exposed to its problems. In short, the topic of whether parents have left youth unguided or not have sparked many debates. Some argue that parents have not left youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media themselves. However, ground realities shows that parents have failed to guide the youth, leaving them to confront the dangers of social media themselves. To validate this thesis, there are several arguments. The most significance among them is that parents have provided smartphones to youth, without guidance, leaving them to discover on their own. They have also ignored the signs of addiction of social media on youth. Parallel to this, there is minimal involvement of parents in online life of their children.

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and left unguided them on how to deal with cyberbullying. Moreover, illiteracy of social media among parents, and ignorance of parents, in teaching ethics of responsible online engagement have left youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media than their own.

Notwithstanding, this claim, there is an opposite view, which claims that parents have not left youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media. This includes imposing screen-time and building in restriction on apps to keep eye on their children's social media activity. Furthermore, some parents ask and guide their children about social media problems. However, by looking at these arguments, one may say that they are not valid and are like making mountain out of molehill.

Before discussing the topic, it is important to highlight the problems of social media to youth and role of parents. The spread of social media usage ^{negatively} affects ~~negatively~~ youth by increasing risk of mental health issues like anxiety, depression, and low

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self-esteem. Moreover, social media platforms are common venue for cyberbullying and addict youth, disturbing their sleep cycle and feeling of hopelessness. A studies by PEW research center (2022) reveal nearly 45% of teens report feeling addicted to social media platforms. Alongside, the United Nation children's fund (UNICEF) report on cyber safety (2021) highlights that millions of young users worldwide face cyberbullying, harassment and online shaming. On the other hand, Parents role in restricting ^{their} children are limited ~~from~~ social media. They have to foster open communication, set boundaries and encourage real-world activities. However, majority parents have left their children unguided, leading to problems related to social media among youth. A report by UNICEF (2021), on digital parenting revealed that only 30% of parents engage in meaningful discussions with youth about online safety, ethics, or privacy. Thus, Parents have left youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media.

One of the key propositions
that validates ^{the argument} ↑ parents have left youth unguided

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to grapple with problems of social media is that parents have provided smartphones and internet without explaining risks to youth. This rapidly leads youth ~~from~~ to inappropriate and harmful content. Parents usually buy smartphones and give access of internet to their children. Youth often use ~~excess~~ ^{social media on} internet and smartphones. Their parents do not guide them about the problems of social media. As a result, youth grapple with the problem of social media themselves. According to the study of Digital Rights Foundation (DRF, 2022), parental guidance on safe digital practices is largely missing, especially in middle- and lower-income households. Hence, parents provide social media gadget to their children without telling their safety and risk.

The other argument that validates parents have left youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media is that minimal involvement in online life of youth contributes to grapple with social media problems. It increases online dangers,

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including hate speech, graphic violence, and misinformation. Parents often give gadgets to their children and do not interfere in the ^{online} life of youth in society. They leave their children on their own. Consequently, children is being left on the crossroads to social media platforms. Therefore, ^{Youth} children ^{grapple} with problems of social media themselves. PEW Research center (2023) study, only 35% of parents actively monitor or discuss, while majority admit having little knowledge of what their children do online. This substantiates that parents engage less in online activities of youth in society.

Another pertinent point of significance that authenticates the premise parents have left youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media is that parents ignore the signs of addiction of social media. This affects the psychology of the youth negatively. Parents usually ignore the signs of addiction in their children. When these signs are

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sidelined, it contributes to insecurity of social media in youth. This lack of attention ~~leads~~ to allowing overuse to escalate and negatively impact youth. This worsens the addiction ~~on~~ youth of social media, leaving youth unguided to grapple with the problems of social media themselves. A Harvard Medical School study (2021) found that excessive use of social networking platforms triggers dopamine due to lack of parents' guidance. This demonstrates that parents ignore the signs of addiction in their children, leaving them unguided ~~in~~ ^{related to} social media problem.

Equally compelling is the argument that corroborates that parents have left unguided to grapple with social media problems is that youth are left unguided on how to deal with cyberbullying and protect privacy. This leads to feelings of isolation and makes ~~them~~ youth vulnerable to deal with social media problems. The parents in society often leave their children unguided related to social media problems. Resultantly,

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youth remain concern on their problems of online platforms, making them vulnerable and of cyberbullying and misinformation. Thus, youth deal with these problems on their own owing to parents lack of guidance. A report of Common Sense Media (2021) highlight, that cyberbullying victimises youth, therefore, they suffer in silence. This is because lack of parental support and guidance about social media apps. This shows that parents have left youth unguided on how to deal with cyberbullying and secure privacy.

Moreover, the thesis remains unassailable in light of the discourse that children often hide online problems and tackle them alone due to lack of parental guidance. The reason behind this is that there is a gap of communication existed between parents and youth. The youth in society often hide their problem of social media and try to solve them on their own. They grapple with problems of

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media themselves. The most important reason is lack of ^{parental} guidance that leaves youth on crossroads due to persistent gap of communication between parents and youth. A survey in META region show that 48% of children aged 11-17 hide their online activities from parents due to lack of guidance and gap of communication between parents and youth. (Kaspersky survey, META region, 2025). This highlights that youth remain unguided due to which they hide their online problems.

A fundamental idea that substantiates the fact ^{that} parents have left youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media is that parents sideline their own role in teaching ethics of responsible online engagement. This is because generational gap in tech use of parents and feelings of shy. In society, parent often depends upon other institutions for the development of moral and ethics of responsible online engagement in their children. They ignore the responsibility

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of guidance regarding to social media use. This ignorance of guidance leaves youth in confusion of what to do in this situation. Therefore, youth ~~grapple~~^{try to} confront the problems of social media platforms themselves. In Pakistan, (DRF, 2024) observed that parents often view social media as a technical issue rather than a moral one, ignoring the importance of teaching digital ethics, respect, and responsibility. This illustrates that youth confront online platform issues themselves due to ignorance of parents' ethical online engagement.

Analogously, illiteracy of social media among parents leaves children unguided to grapple with social media platform issues. The reason is that lack of expertise of parents in social media and knowledge about using social media apps. Youth remain unguided, as their parents are illiterate about the use of social media. There is also lack of expertise among parents. They often do not have knowledge about the problems of

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social media. Thus, parents leave their children unguided to grapple with the problem of social media themselves. As per the research of Pew Research center (2022) on parents' lack of digital literacy, many parents, particularly in developing countries, struggle to understand the evolving digital platforms, algorithms, and online risks, leaving children navigating issues of social media on their own. Ergo, lack of digital literacy among parents leaves adolescent unguided about social media issues.

Notwithstanding, this pretence, there is opposite view ~~that~~ which believes that parents have guided youth regarding ~~to~~ social media issues. One of the major argument among them is parents impose screen-time on their children. This is because they aware of social media issues. When parents buy smartphones for their children and give them, they set screen-time for youth. They tell their adolescent, about the issues related

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to social media, applications. Thus, they control their children and protect them from online application effects. Kids Mental Health foundation's Ipsos survey (2025) ~~they~~ exhibits that 8 in 10 parents say they actively do something to manage their child's screen time. Among effective methods, setting time limits is most often cited by parents for managing screen usage. This proves that parents guide their youth ^{with} problems of social media by imposing screen-time.

Similarly, parents have built in restriction on apps to keep eye on children's social media activity. This constrains youth from doing wrong activities on social platforms. Most of parents often use restriction apps that stops children from doing wrong activity. There is also option in mobile that too hold ~~child~~ adolescent from immoral activities. ~~This~~ As a result, parents keep eye on the social media platforms activities of ~~these~~ youth. Thus, parents

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protect youth from grappling the issues of social media ~~themselves~~ on their own.

According to a Common Sense Media (2023) study, 63% of parents employ built-in parental control features or third-party apps to supervise children's social media behavior. These include privacy filters, time-limit settings, and content monitoring tools, which allow parents to stay informed about online interaction. This proves that parents are not entirely absent, but rather, many use digital tools to monitor their children.

Last but not the least, some parents maintain friendly discussion, asking and guiding youth about risks of social media. This is done in educated families, reducing risks of social media to their adolescents. Most of parents, in society, make friendly discussion ~~about~~ with their children, where they share their thoughts and problems with their parents. In response, parents guide their children about the threats of social media use and try

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to cooperate with their children in solving their issues related to ~~social~~ online apps. Thus, parents ^{do} not leave their children to confront with social media issues on their own. As per the study of Pew Research Center (2024) on digital parenting, 61% of parents say they frequently talk to their teens about what they do online, including topic related to social media issues, guiding them about these issues. This corroborates that parents guide and discuss social media issue with their teenagers.

Nevertheless, the argument presented by the opponent that parents impose screen-time on their children is not valid. As guidance of parents remains absent, it grapples youth with problems of social media on their own. Imposition of limits ~~on~~ social media usage is not fulfill the space of guidance. In guidance, parents often teach and guide youth that how to tackle ~~the~~ issue of social media when they face it. It protects

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youth from confront social media problems alone. On the other hand, imposition cannot guide or teach, rather, it restricts on from social media use. However, this guidance of parents is missing related to social media practices, leaving youth to grapple challenges of online platforms alone. PEW Research Center again shows that only 37% of parents set limit and its imposition remains weak when teenager grows to 15 years age. This certifies the thesis that youth remain unguided on the issues of social media.

Notwithstanding, the claim, made earlier parents use restriction apps to keep eye on ^{their teenagers} the activities of social media. There is a different viewpoint that maintains the idea that ^{youth} ~~children~~ still face harmful content that remains unguided due to evolving trends of social media. Parental control apps does not properly whole inappropriate contents, on social media. Sometimes, it cannot stop, immoral and harmful activities.

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This traps the youth, resultantly, youth grapples with the problems of social media.

~~The~~ Such traps are largely due to evolving and updating trends of online applications, affecting youth negatively, thereby confronting alone with those issues. Over, 70% of adolescents have come across disturbing or explicit material online, despite parental control apps, much of which escapes content moderation due to algorithmic loopholes. This justifies that youth still face harmful content that remains unregulated due to evolving social media trends.

In the same way, the idea ~~parents maintain friendly discussions,~~
about the ~~communication gap persist,~~
asking and guiding children about social media problems is unjustified. As communication gap persist, because youth hesitate to share sensitive issues like harassment or peer pressure, It leaves youth unsupported. Youth often do not share their sensitive issues to their parents, due to fear of confiscation of smartphones. This can be due to peer pressure. ~~of~~ Such hesitation is largely

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because of communication gap. Parents never ask or communicate to their children about their problems. ~~They~~ Resultantly, youth hesitate to share their social media problems. A research ~~article~~ survey revealed that teenagers prefer confiding in peers rather than parents about digital risks. (Pew Research center, 2024, teenagers and digital platforms). This endorse that parent have kept youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media due to communication gap.

To conclude the whole discussion, It is proved that from different arguments that parents have kept youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media. These arguments include parents provide smartphones and minimal involvement in online life without any guidance. Even they ignore the signs of addiction, leaving youth unguided to grapple with issues of social media. In addition to this, there is lack of guidance how to deal with cyberbullying and protect privacy, leaving ^{youth} unguided.

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to confront with social media problem themselves. However, the notion that parents have guided youth how to grapple with problem of social media, as they impose screen time on their children. Furthermore, parents use controller apps to keep eye on children. Nevertheless, parents have left youth unguided to grapple with problems of social media is more persuasive than the counterarguments. Therefore, parents need to focus on the guidance of youth for dealing with social media issues. When parents choose awareness over ignorance and connection over control, social media becomes a bridge, not a barrier, between generation
