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Effects of OSNs on Digital Citizens

“We watch a film on YouTube while checking an email that has just popped up, and Internet shopping. We answer a call on Skype and check our RSS feed while talking. We Google a question, and end up on a site via a string of links about an unrelated topic. We head to Twitter, and scan some tweets, while IMing and emailing at the same time” (Booth 16). This is known as the ‘busy life’ of today. In trains, buses, offices, schools, shopping centers, one common thing to notice in every place is people staring at their phones or computers. Most of the people are busy on “Online Social Networking Sites”, also abbreviated as OSNs. OSNs such as Instagram and Facebook are very popular among many others that claim that they help to ‘connect people’. ‘Do you have a Facebook account?’ is one of the most common questions asked by people during their first meeting to retain communication with other people, probably to replace face-to-face communication. At the first meeting between two people, this is the first question asked so that they can remain in touch beyond that single meeting. The essence of in person communication is

19-year-olds who spent an average of 10 hours a day in front of a screen, showed that excessive use of the Internet is associated with shrinkage of certain parts of the brain. The changes were in the parts of the brain that control attention and emotional processing” (Booth 15). Though they have made communication easier for those who cannot meet their loved ones, as was their original purpose, they have replaced in person communication with online interaction. They hesitate to talk to people who are right in front of them and talk to someone who might be far and

is the new private: young people often realize that their blogs and homepages are public and accessible, but they trust that only their peers are interested enough to view them. Adults are supposed to know where they are not welcome and act accordingly” (James et al. 38). Natural as it may seem, most people using online sites are not mature enough to understand the real life consequences of the steps they take to become popular and what they make available to the public. Furthermore, there is no way to verify if the people with whom users form relationships and create emotional attachment, share every aspect of their lives and get closer to than others are even real. “Services such as text messaging, instant messaging, and e-mail provided stalkers with additional avenues of contact, often with the benefit of anonymity, while data brokers sold personal information for a nominal fee” (Stalking 2). Since people have replaced traditional in person communication and telephonic conversations with text messaging, many of these incidents have started to increase as people lose information to strangers or even known people with harmful intentions. “In the United States, one-fourth of stalking victims reported that they had been the target of cyberstalking” (Stalking 2). Many people have been and are becoming victims of stalking and leaking out their personal information to strangers just because they misunderstood those people due to no physical interaction or because the people faked someone else’s identity.

Besides stalking, many criminals even use people’s pictures, alter them using photo editing techniques and post them on social networking sites to tarnish innocent peoples’ images. Users post countless number of images every day to their profiles which can be downloaded

either, as they have become more indulged in technology and try to compete against the modern generation to become more exposed to OSNs. Unfortunately, they fail to rescue their children and end up being victims of this giant trap. As a result, kids become so dissolved in the river of

public attention will be buried under thousands of other pictures of the like. The user's level of

thinking who might use them for wrong purposes. They find these applications so reliable that they post their day-to-day activities on these sites, follow people of their interest. OSNs have cognitively impaired people and brought down their levels of judgment, self-esteem and confidence as they rely on OSNs to decide their looks. They have further changed the principle of communication as have connected unknown people and have separated known people from each

