



Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
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Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
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To omit

**The Relationship between Instagram Use and Criminal Behavior: A Survey
Study among Teenagers in Bourdj Bou Arreridj, Algeria.**

**A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master in Media and Communication Sciences**

Specialization: Communication and Public Relations

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Abstract:

This study examines the relationship between Instagram use and criminal behavior among teenagers in Bordj Bou Arreridj City. It investigates whether exposure to violent or deviant content on Instagram can influence adolescents' attitudes and behaviors. The research is based on Cultivation Theory, which suggests that repeated media exposure shapes individuals' perceptions of reality. A descriptive approach and questionnaire were used to collect data from a purposive sample of teenagers. The study explores personal characteristics that increase susceptibility to harmful content and identifies common forms of criminal behavior promoted online. It highlights the role of Instagram algorithms and influencers in normalizing risky behaviors. Previous studies indicate that social media can affect values, self-esteem, and social relationships. Findings suggest that excessive exposure to criminal or violent content may reduce awareness of its consequences and encourage imitation. The research emphasizes the importance of digital supervision and media literacy. Overall, it concludes that Instagram can significantly influence teenagers' perceptions and potentially contribute to the normalization of criminal behavior.

Key words : Instagram , Social media , Teenagers (Adolescents) , Criminal behavior , Media influence

المخلص :

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى بحث العلاقة بين استخدام تطبيق إنستغرام والسلوك الإجرامي لدى المراهقين في مدينة برج بوعريريج. وتبحث فيما إذا كان التعرض المستمر للمحتوى العنيف أو المنحرف عبر المنصة يؤثر في أفكار وسلوكيات المراهقين. اعتمدت الدراسة على نظرية الغرس الثقافي التي تقترح أن التعرض المتكرر للمحتوى الإعلامي يساهم في تشكيل تصورات الأفراد للواقع. كما استخدمت المنهج الوصفي والاستبيان لجمع البيانات من عينة قصدية من المراهقين. وركزت على الخصائص الشخصية التي تجعل بعض المراهقين أكثر قابلية للتأثر بالمحتويات الإجرامية. وتناولت أكثر الأنماط الإجرامية انتشاراً عبر وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي. وأظهرت أن خوارزميات إنستغرام والمؤثرين الرقميين قد يساهمون في تطبيع السلوكيات الخطيرة. كما بينت الدراسات السابقة أن وسائل التواصل تؤثر في القيم والعلاقات الاجتماعية والصحة النفسية للشباب. وتشير النتائج إلى أن التعرض المفرط للمحتوى العنيف قد يقلل من إدراك خطورة الأفعال غير القانونية ويزيد من احتمالية تقليدها. وتخلص الدراسة إلى أن إنستغرام يمكن أن يكون عاملاً مؤثراً في تشكيل تصورات المراهقين وقد يساهم في تطبيع بعض السلوكيات الإجرامية، مما يستدعي تعزيز التوعية والرقابة الرقمية.

:الكلمات المفتاحية

إنستغرام، وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي، المراهقون، السلوك الإجرامي، التأثير الإعلام

INTRODUCTION

The world has seen amazing advancements in information technology and communication over the last few decades, which have fundamentally altered how people connect, communicate, and obtain information. Digital communication is now a necessary component of daily life due to the Internet's and social media platforms' explosive expansion, which has completely changed modern society. Because of its visual material, interactive features, and broad accessibility, Instagram has become one of the most popular social networking applications among these platforms, especially among teenagers.

Instagram has developed into a potent communication tool that affects attitudes, behaviors, beliefs, and lifestyles in addition to being a platform for sharing images and videos. Teenagers are more impacted by the themes, trends, and social norms presented on the platform due to their constant exposure to different types of information. As a result, researchers and communication experts are becoming more interested in studying how social media affects the behavior and social development of young people.

However, criminal activity continues to be a major social problem that has drawn the interest of scholars from a variety of fields. Teenagers' criminal behavior is influenced by a variety of elements, such as media exposure, peer connections, psychological states, and home environments. As digital media has grown in popularity, worries have surfaced about how social networking sites can encourage violence, normalize delinquent behavior, and expose teenagers to damaging content that could influence their attitudes and behavior

This study focuses on the connection between youth criminal conduct and Instagram use. In this case, criminal activity is the dependent variable while the platform is the independent variable. The goal of the study is to determine whether exposure to particular kinds of content, interactions, and experiences on Insta may help adolescents develop or reinforce criminal tendencies and deviant behaviors.

Additionally, this study is based on the Cultivation Theory, which contends that constant exposure to media content can affect people's attitudes, behaviors, and perceptions of reality. The theory is still applicable in the context of social media,

where users are continuously exposed to a variety of messages, images, and narratives that may affect their comprehension of social norms and appropriate behavior, even though it was first developed to explain the effects of television.

Teenagers' increased usage of Instagram and growing worries about the possible negative effects of heavy or illegal social media exposure make this study crucial. By investigating the connection between criminal activity and Instagram, this study seeks to advance the fields of communication and public relations by offering a more profound comprehension of the ways in which digital platforms impact teenage conduct and societal growth.

There are two primary chapters in this work. The research topic, research questions, hypotheses, objectives, study significance, essential concepts, theoretical framework, research methodology, population, sample, and data collection techniques are all presented in the first chapter. Through data presentation, analysis, and discussion of findings, the second chapter concentrates on the study's practical component. It then tests hypotheses, addresses research issues, and ends with suggestions and broad conclusions

**chapter one:
the methodological framework**

Research Problem :

With the rapid development and widespread adoption of digital technologies, social media has become a central force in shaping thought patterns, behaviors, and social norms. No longer limited to platforms for social interaction or information exchange, these digital spaces now function as cultural and intellectual hubs, influencing communication, self-expression, and societal values. Social media plays a major role in education, entertainment, relationship-building, and even in creating trends in behavior, fashion, and individual interests, granting it significant power to shape collective perceptions and social consciousness.

This influence is particularly pronounced among adolescents, a group at a critical stage of psychological and social development. Teenagers rely heavily on social media to explore their identities, seek role models, and validate their opinions. Their need for social acceptance and belonging makes them especially susceptible to the messages conveyed through these platforms.

Among social media, Instagram stands out due to its reliance on visual content—images and short videos that capture attention, evoke emotions, and shape behavior more powerfully than text-based media. Teenagers spend considerable time browsing content that ranges from everyday activities to depictions of violence, risky behavior, and even criminal acts, often presented attractively or glamorized through high-quality visuals and concise narratives suggesting success, power, and distinction.

The danger lies in how such content normalizes deviant and criminal behaviors. which would normally be considered unacceptable—violence, theft, substance abuse, and other illegal acts—can be presented in ways that make them appear desirable or socially rewarding. Adolescents, with their limited cognitive and emotional maturity, may imitate these behaviors without understanding the risks. Algorithms that repeatedly expose users to content aligned with their interests amplify this effect, creating a cumulative influence on attitudes and behavior.

CHAPTER ONE: THE METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Digital influencers further reinforce these trends by modeling lifestyles and behaviors that teenagers often aspire to emulate, blurring the line between entertainment and real-life conduct. Consequently, continuous exposure to such content can facilitate the adoption of criminal or risky behaviors, influencing not only attitudes but also actual practices among youth.

Given the increasing prevalence of social media use among adolescents, it is critical to investigate its potential role in encouraging criminal behavior and to understand whether platforms like Instagram act as catalysts in normalizing illegal acts and risky conduct.

This leads us to ask:

1. Can immersion in content that normalizes risky or criminal behavior encourage adolescents in Bourdj Bouarerdj to adopt these behaviors ?

1. Research Questions

- * Does Instagram play a significant role in shaping attitudes that may lead to criminal behavior among teenagers?
- * How do personal characteristics affect how easily adolescents are influenced by content that promotes criminal behavior on Instagram ?
- * Are there specific patterns of offenses (such as theft, verbal violence, or serious traffic violations) that are circulated and normalized more than others via the Instagram platform?
- * How does excessive use of Instagram affect the adolescent's perception of the risks and legal consequences of their actions?

ResearchHypotheses :

- ❖ A significant exposure to content that normalizes criminal behavior on platforms like Instagram is directly leading teenagers to adopt these bad behaviors
- ❖ Teenagers experiencing a high degree of identity exploration and a need for social acceptance are more likely to adopt the criminal behavior they watch on Instagram
- ❖ Instagram algorithm system that shows content repeatedly to users makes the teenagers desire to try this risky behavior much stronger
- ❖ There is no significant relationship between excessive Instagram use and teenagers' awareness of the consequences of illegal behaviors.

4. Justification for the Study :

A. Objective Justification

* The need to study the phenomenon of criminal behavior normalization, which threatens social security and increases Teenage misbehavior in the digital age.

* Analyzing how Instagram acts as a catalyst for normalizing criminal behavior among adolescents through its visual content and algorithms, which necessitates urgent preventative intervention to protect youth.

B. Personal Motivation (Subjective)

* The personal drive to understand how modern digital communication environments, like Instagram, affect the development of youth identity and behavior during a critical stage.

* The desire to understand how the criminal mindset, influenced by social media, operates.

3. Significance of the Study

Social media platforms, particularly Instagram, play a central role in shaping adolescent behavior by normalizing dangerous and criminal acts. This influence relies on the power of visual content and algorithms that amplify exposure to these behaviors, making them appear socially desirable. Therefore, it is essential to understand the psychological and social mechanisms of this normalization to develop effective strategies for protecting this vulnerable group.

2. Research Objectives :

The primary goals of this study are:

- * To measure and analyze the role of Instagram content in shaping social attitudes and positions considered a precursor to the adoption of criminal and dangerous behaviors among adolescents.
- * To identify the personal characteristics and psychological vulnerabilities (e.g., low self-esteem, sensation-seeking, or impulsivity) that act as moderating factors in increasing adolescents' susceptibility to be influenced and mimic content normalizing criminal behavior via Instagram.
- * To classify and document the most common patterns of criminal and dangerous behaviors clearly circulated and normalized through Instagram content, and to determine the prevalence of certain patterns (such as verbal violence and serious traffic violations) compared to others.
- * To explain the mechanism by which excessive use or immersion in Instagram content leads to changes in adolescents' perception of potential risks and reduce their awareness of the serious legal consequences resulting from the dangerous acts they observe.

5. Conceptual Definitions

1. Instagram

* **Linguistic Definition**: Derived from "Insta" (instantaneous) and "Gram" (referring to a camera or telegram), it means immediate photography and sharing¹

* **Conceptual Definition**: Instagram is a photo sharing application that can be accessed through mobile devices or desktop computers. The application, created in 2010 by Mike Krieger and Kevin Systrom, was originally released exclusively on the iOS operating system. By the end of 2012, the app was available on Android devices and desktop computers²

* **Operational Definition**: Instagram is a social media platform where teenagers interact and share visual content, making them susceptible to negative influences through exposure to criminal behaviors being promoted. Continuous exposure to such content increases the attraction to mimic these behaviors, potentially leading to the adoption of risky attitudes and actions.³

2. Criminal Behavior

* **Linguistic Definition**: Any act or omission that constitutes an offense and is legally punishable.⁴

* **Conceptual Definition**: Criminal behavior is a complex phenomenon that encompasses a wide range of actions violating societal norms and laws. Understanding why individuals engage in criminal acts is important for developing effective prevention strategies and interventions.⁵

* **Operational Definition**: Criminal behavior is a conscious act that violates legal norms, leading to criminal liability. On Instagram, teenagers may be exposed to content that normalizes risky or criminal acts, which can influence them to adopt similar behaviors. This aligns with the definition of criminal

¹Cambridge Dictionary , 2026

². Etienne Musonera, 2018, p 01

³Charu Falwaria, "The Unseen Consequence: How Instagram Affects Teenager's Perception of Self," International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews 5, no. 6 (2024)

⁴The Oxford English Dictionary

⁵Lindner Brajac. "Examining Criminal Behavior: Theories, Causes, and Consequences." Sociology and Criminology Open Access 12, no. 3 (2024).

CHAPTER ONE: THE METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

behavior, as the platform can shape their actions, making them perceive such acts as acceptable or desirable.¹

3. Teenagers

* **Linguistic Definition:** a young person between 13 and 19 years old.²

* **Conceptual Definition:** Adolescence is the phase of life stretching between childhood and adulthood. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations (UN) define an 'adolescent' as any person between the ages of 10 and 19 years³. Early adolescence occurs from the ages of 10-14 years while late adolescence encompasses the latter part of the teenage years between the ages of 15-19 years³. It is important to realize that all 'adolescents' are not children. Teenagers who are 18 and 19 years of age belong to the category of 'youth'.

* **Operational Definition:** Individuals included in the research sample, whose ages

fall precisely between 13 and 19 years at the time of data collection, and who are selected to represent the target population.³

¹Gherma Daouia, "Metaphysical Interpretation of Criminal Behavior," Herodotus' Journal of the Human and Social Sciences 9, no. 2 (2025)

² ¹ Cambridge Dictionary, s.v. "teenager," accessed december 21, 2025, [Cambridge Dictionary](#)

³Child, Adolescent and Youth: Definitions" (2023), p. 135

Literature Review :

Cultivation Theory

Cultivation theory emerged from, or became associated with, the study of the cumulative and pervasive effects of television on the way audiences perceive the world in which they live, rather than with the study of targeted media effects¹

Cultivation theory is based on a set of assumptions, which can be summarized as follows:

- . Television is considered a unique medium for cultural cultivation compared to other mass media, due to its widespread presence in homes.
- . Television presents a relatively homogeneous world of messages and mental images that reflect the dominant trend.
- . Analyzing the content of media messages provides indicators of the cultivation process.
- . Cultivation analysis focuses on reinforcing social stability and cohesion, as television works to promote stable cultural orientations.
- . Individuals who are exposed to heavy television viewing are more likely to adopt beliefs about social reality that correspond to the mental images presented on television²

¹ Terri ann Baily ,2006

ص13, اتجاهات الطلبة حول دور مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي في نشر الجريمة في ضوء نظرية الغرس الثقافي , طرودي راوية ماسنتراضية²

Methodology of the study :

Descriptive method is necessitated by this study which aims to measure and analyse the role of Instagram content in shaping criminal and risky adolescent behaviors, as it is the most effective tool for examining social phenomena

The tools :

The Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a set of diverse questions that are interrelated in a way that achieves the objective the researcher seeks through the problem addressed in the study. The questionnaire can be sent by mail or by any other method to a group of individuals or institutions selected by the researcher for the study, to be filled out and then returned to the researcher

I divided it into the following sections:

- ❖ Demographic Questions
- ❖ The Role of Instagram in Shaping Criminal Behaviors
- ❖ Personal Characteristics and Susceptibility to Criminal Content
- ❖ The Role of Instagram in Adopting Criminal Behaviors and Diminishing Their Perceived Seriousness
- ❖ Impact of Excessive Instagram Use and Awareness of the Consequences of Illegal Behaviors

Study Population and Sample

Definition of the Study Population:

It includes all individuals, events, or observations that are the subject of the research or study. In our research, the study population consists of the media, from which we selected our focus.

Definition of the Sample and Its Determination:

A sample is defined as a subset of the study population that is selected using a specific method. Accordingly, our study falls under a purposive sample of adolescents.

Previous Studies

Title :The Role of Social Media in Influencing Juvenile Delinquent Behavior . YUYIN CAI

OECS, Shenzhen Oriental English College, Shenzhen, China

1. Main Research Question

How social media, particularly platforms like Instagram, influences juvenile criminal behavior

The psychological, social, and behavioral mechanisms by which social media use may increase adolescents' susceptibility to delinquency.

Essentially: Does social media contribute to juvenile delinquency, and if so, how ?

2. Methodology

Research methods included:

1. **Comprehensive Literature Review:** analyzing prior studies on social media and juvenile delinquency.

2. **Case Study Analysis:** examining specific instances where social media contributed to delinquent behavior.

Comparative and Synthetic Analysis: used to understand how social media spreads criminal information, motivates delinquent behavior, and exacerbates youth criminality.

3. Tools:

The study primarily relied on:

Secondary data from journals, reports, and statistical datasets (e.g., China Internet Network Information Center).

Content analysis of social media platforms to identify posts or behaviors that could incite criminal or anti-social conduct.

4. Significance of the Study:

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The study is significant because:

- Social media is deeply embedded in adolescents' lives, with over 95% of teens globally active on these platforms
- It addresses juvenile delinquency prevention , identifying the pathways through which social media can negatively affect youth behavior.
- Provides practical recommendations for social media platforms to regulate harmful content and reduce exposure to misinformation, cyberbullying, and privacy violations.
- Helps policymakers, parents, and educators understand risks associated with social media usage among teenagers

5 Results:

The study found that:

1. Social media can precipitate juvenile delinquency through:

- Exposure to misinformation.
- Cyber bullying incidents.
- Harmful content that encourages anti-social or criminal behavior.

2. Psychological impacts on adolescents include:

- Social anxiety.
- Crises of self-identity.
- Negative effects on self-esteem.
- Distorted self-concept due to upward social comparison.

3. Social media offers both risks and benefits:

- Risks: Encourages deviant behavior, increases exposure to harmful content.
- Benefits: Provides social interaction, emotional support, and information exchange.

4. Recommendations : Emphasizes the importance of:

- Stronger content governance on platforms.
- Policies to prevent dissemination of harmful information.
- Education for teens on responsible social media use

Study number two :

Title : The Effect of Using Social Media Platforms on Values Among Algerian Youth: A Field Study on a Sample of Young People , Khaldi Mohammed ;
Salmi Djilali

1. Research Main Question:

What is the effect of using social media platforms on the values of youth users?

2. Significance of the Study:

- The study is important because it addresses the widespread use of social media across all segments of society.
- It focuses on the impact of excessive use of social media platforms on young people's values.

3. Methodology:

- Due to the nature of the study, the researcher used a descriptive survey method, which is a branch of the descriptive approach.
- This method involves collecting information and data about a phenomenon to identify its status, strengths, and weaknesses without manipulating variables.
- Surveys are considered one of the most widely used methods in educational and social research because they provide objective information about specific phenomena, incidents, or groups.

4. Tools of the Study:

The study used a questionnaire

5. Results:

- Social media usage directly affects the value system of youth.
- Negative effects on social values were observed, especially:
 - Weakened family relationships and reduced family visits.
 - Increased conflicts between youth and their parents.
 - Social media addiction leading to wasting time, weakening personal skills, and promoting anti-social behavior.
- Religious values were also affected:
 - Neglect in performing religious duties (e.g., delaying prayers).
- Weakening of religious identity.

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- Exposure to misleading or extremist religious ideas, partly due to gaps in religious education at home and school.
- Social media became a tool facilitating criminal behavior, online crimes, extremist ideas, and undermining traditions and societal norms.

Chapter Number Two :

Theoretical Part

Section One : The Concept of Instagram :

Instagram is a social media platform launched in 2010 that allows users to share photos and videos and interact through likes, comments, stories, and messages. Due to its popularity among adolescents and young adults, it has become an important space for communication, entertainment, and information sharing. Its interactive features enable users to create, consume, and engage with various types of content.

CHAPTER TWO : THEORETICAL PART

Subsection One : Instagram Definition :

Instagram is a mobile social network software that allows users to share images and videos based on their location. With the help of this service, users can publish their images and videos on various social media platforms and networks.¹

There are two types of Instagram user accounts: public and private. While anybody can view images in public accounts, those in private accounts can only be viewed by individuals who have been granted permission to do so. Instagram's asymmetric network allows users to "follow" other accounts, but they are not required to be followed back by the page they follow.

Instagram has given its users tools to improve their social media experience and expand the audience for their posts. Instagram users can create stories about particular themes that vanish from their profile after 24 hours and post photos and videos by using a hashtag (#) to make them more accessible. Instagram posts, are more carefully chosen and upbeat, these stories are typically more casual or vulnerable.²

Mike Krieger and Kevin Systrom launched Instagram in late 2010. They said that the necessity to employ uncomplicated methods, mostly concentrating on images exchanged via mobile devices, gave rise to the concept of developing a social application. They claimed the release of a brand-new app called Instagram, which is a combination of the words "Instant," which means camera, and "Telegram," which means communication.³

• ¹Ines Amaral , "The SAGE Encyclopedia of Economics and Society" , CA:SAGE, Thousand Oaks, California, 2015, P.01.

² Liezel Cilliers and Kim Viljeon , *Insights into Instagram use by Technical and Vocational Education and Training colleges*, AOSIS, 2023, P. 02.

بن ا حميدة امنة , "تأثير مصداقية المؤثر عبر إنستغرام في تفعيل النية الشرائية لدى الشباب الجزائري: دراسة ميدانية على عينة من الطلبة الجامعيين", مجلة الابتكار و التسويق , جامعة الجزائر 3 , (كلية علوم الإعلام و الاتصال) , 2023 , ص 75 .³

CHAPTER TWO : THEORETICAL PART

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¹ Ines Amaral , "The SAGE Encyclopedia of Economics and Society" , CA:SAGE, Thousand Oaks,California, 2015, P.01.

² Liezel Cilliers and Kim Viljeon , *Insights into Instagram use by Technical and Vocational Education and Training colleges*, AOSIS, 2023, P. 02.

Subsection Two: The Origins of Instagram :

When Instagram was launched, it was only compatible with iPhones, iPads, and iPod Touches. Its main goal was to make sharing images on cell phones easy and creative. Because of its strong emphasis on visual content and ease of use, the program quickly acquired popularity among Apple users during this early stage. The introduction of version 2.2 of the program for the Android platform in April 2012 was a significant milestone in its development. Instagram is now available to a far larger global audience thanks to this growth. The distribution of the app through the Google Play and iTunes stores greatly boosted the number of downloads in a short amount of time.

Instagram launched a new feature in June 2013 that let users record and share segmented short videos. The user experience became more dynamic and captivating as a result of this update, which gave the platform a new interactive dimension. Instagram's standing among social media platforms was strengthened by these frequent updates. As a result, Instagram's user base grew significantly, particularly once it was made available on Android devices. As a result of the platform's broad appeal and quick global expansion, the number of users increased to almost 15 million.¹

عبابدية سمية , غلوم جيهان , يوسف وسام, فعالية الانستغرام في التسويق للمؤسسة الناشئة بالجزائر , دراسة تحليلية لحساب مؤسسة "يسير", جامعة
8 ماي 5491 قالمة , ص 75

SbusectionThree : Instagram Features

In addition to its essential functions, which include posting images and videos, the Instagram app offers a wide range of unique features that are aimed at satisfying users' demands in digital content sharing, communication, and connection. Instagram has developed into a combined platform that blends media, digital marketing, and entertainment as a result of its ongoing development.

These qualities consist of:

Instagram Stories: One of the most popular features on Instagram is Instagram Stories, which lets users submit short-lived content that vanishes after a day. Photos, brief videos, text, and even connections to other websites may be included in this content. Additionally, the feature provides interactive elements like polls, questions, countdowns, and stickers to increase user involvement and create a more dynamic experience.

Instagram Filters: One of the main factors related to the app's success, filters allow users to quickly alter images and videos by adding different visual effects, such as enhancing lighting, changing colors, or adding artistic touches. Additionally, the app offers augmented reality (AR) filters that enhance faces or environments with creative interactive features.

Direct Messages (DM): This feature enables instantly, private communication via text, audio, photo, and video messages. It is a complete communication feature within the app, including audio and video calls, group chats, and sharing posts and stories within conversations.

Instagram Live : It allows users to stream live videos in real time. Through likes

CHAPTER TWO : THEORETICAL PART

and comments, followers may observe and engage. Additionally, users can invite others to participate in the live session, which makes it beneficial for webinars, interviews, and real-time audience interaction particularly for influencers and content producers.

Explore: This function offers specific content according to users' interests and app activities. It helps users find new content and engage with people outside of their follower list by displaying articles, accounts, and videos that could be of interest

Because of these combined tools, Instagram has developed into a full platform that integrates social networking, creative, and digital marketing, which explains why it is so popular across a wide variety of age groups.¹

ص 76 , المرجع السابق ذكره بن / حميدة امنة ¹

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Subsection Four : Glossary of Instagram terms:

Wall: A person, business, or organization's personal page where their images and videos are shown.

Story: A image or video that may be viewed by clicking the profile picture or at the top of the feed and is only visible for a single day.

Mention/Tag: To mention someone on Instagram, write @ and then their username. A notification is sent to the individual. Additionally, users can be tagged in images or posts.

DM (Direct Message): Users who follow one another can send each other private messages. These communications are only visible to the participants.

Hashtag (#) : is a word or phrase that comes before "#" and is used to organize postings under the same topic and make them searchable.

Like: An interaction in which a user taps a post to express gratitude, usually by double-tapping the picture.

Reels: Short vertical movies featuring music, effects, and editing capabilities that let users make and distribute amusing or instructive content. Reels are intended to be viewed by more people via the Explore page.

Explore Page: A part where users can find new videos, accounts, and content according to their activity and interests.

Live: A feature that lets users post video in real time and engage viewers with replies and comments.

Instababe: A colloquial name for someone who attracts attention on Instagram because of their model-like beauty. ¹

¹ Université de Sherbrooke , Instagram . PDF. Accessed 20 april 2026. <https://sante-mentale-jeunesse.usherbrooke.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Instagram.pdf>

Section Two: Introduction to Criminal Behavior:

One of the most crucial facets of researching social relationships is human behavior since it captures the essence of social interactions. It encompasses all of a person's daily activities, which can be either deviant behaviors that go against societal stability and established regulations or sound behaviors based on conformity to social values and norms.

Given its detrimental implications on both the individual and society, it is now essential to thoroughly investigate this topic through research and analysis due to the apparent rise in the prevalence of such deviant behaviors, especially among teenagers in recent years. This increasing frequency is regarded as a sign that needs careful consideration and further research into its different aspects.

Tracing the origins of these behaviors and trying to comprehend the influencing factors—whether social, psychological, environmental, or even digital—has gained attention as a result of this reality. In order to provide a more precise understanding of this phenomena and prevent its future escalation, this approach also seeks to identify the underlying causes that may influence criminal activity among some delinquent teenagers.

Subsectionone : The Concept of Criminal Behavior:

The *Al-Muhit Dictionary* defines criminal behavior as derived from the verb “to commit a crime,” meaning to sin; thus, a person who commits a crime is a criminal, and the act committed or omitted is considered a crime, with the plural being crimes.

Criminal behavior is defined as any behavior that is anti-social and directed against the public interest, or it is a form of violating the moral standards accepted by a given society and punishable by law.¹

It can also be defined as behavior that is anti-social; therefore, criminal behavior is nothing but a type of deviant pathological behavior that needs treatment just as mental illnesses require care and treatment.

It has also been defined as the external activity that constitutes the crime and is responsible for producing the harmful result, whether its harm is general to the structure of society or specific, limited to the victim, whether the offender intended to cause the result or it occurred accidentally.

Thus, criminal behavior may be considered a relative social phenomenon that is changeable and subject to modification and substitution. Behavior, by its nature, is capable of adjustment, change, adaptation, and development according to external influences or the effects resulting from that behavior.²

مجلة العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة سطيف 2، الجزائر، "غدقة، شريفة." الجريمة كحل للصراعات النفسية أم كأسلوب من أساليب التوافق الاجتماعي¹ العدد 7، الجزء 2 (جوان 2017): ص. 861

862.

لشاوي، سميرة، بنحامد، مسعودة. "دوافع السلوك الإجرامي لدى المراهقين الجانحين: دراسة عيادية ثلاثية المراكز المتعددة الخدمات لرعاية الشباب بورقلة".² مذكرات لنيل شهادة الماستر أكاديمي، تخصص: علم النفس العيادي، شعبة علم النفس، كلية العلوم الإنسانية والاجتماعية، جامعة قاصدي مرباح - ورقلة، السنة الجامعية 2019-2020، ص. 12

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Behavior is the manifestation through which the material element begins to exist in the external world as a physical entity. It is well known that the criminal idea is the first thing that arises in an individual's mind, and this idea is merely a psychological activity that cannot be described as behavior. However, once this idea begins to materialize in the external world through a positive action or a negative attitude, it is considered behavior.¹

Or, it may be a legitimate phenomenon restricted by the provisions of Islamic law, in order to ensure social justice. In light of the characteristics of these standards, both legal and religious, it is possible to arrive at a precise and comprehensive definition of criminal behavior.

Thus, in its legal sense, it refers to any behavior that violates a legal rule, and in its religious sense, it refers to the violation of the commands of Islamic law, meaning any act that contradicts the provisions of criminalization in the Qur'an and Sunnah. It also refers to the existence of a religious text that prohibits this behavior and specifies the punishment resulting from it at the time it occurs.

It is necessary to distinguish between it and deviance, as the latter is a departure from the usual social behavior and requires guidance rather than punishment.²

Criminal behavior refers to a set of actions and conducts carried out by an individual that involve the violation of laws or deviation from established social norms and standards. It may occasionally coincide with antisocial behavior, which isn't usually classified as a crime. The psychological, social, and environmental elements that surround the person and impact their life path and

الطبعة الثانية، عمان: دار الثقافة. الموسوعة الجنائية (1): شرح قانون العقوبات - القسم العام، الحديثي، فخري عبد الرزاق، الزعبي، خالد حميدي¹ للنشر والتوزيع، 2010م - 1431هـ، ص. 87.

الشاوي سمية بن حامد مسعودة، مرجع سبق ذكره، ص 12²

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behavioral patterns combine in a complex and interconnected way to produce this kind of conduct

Criminal behavior is viewed as a process that develops and changes throughout the course of a person's life rather than as a single, isolated act. It develops gradually as a result of the collection of encounters, experiences, and influences that mold an individual over time. As a result, depending on the individual's unique circumstances, surroundings, and life routes, it may range from petty infractions and low-level deviant acts to more significant and complicated types of criminal conduct.

Therefore, rather than being seen as a fixed act or an isolated incident isolated from the larger developmental course of human behavior, illegal behavior should be understood as a dynamic and changing phenomenon that is closely linked to the individual's life context and ongoing interaction with their psychological and social environment.¹

“Bouzaoubnaïl” identifies the criminal as the individual who carries out the illegal act. From a legal standpoint, a criminal is someone who, in accordance with the law, commits a crime and is convicted by the court; this conviction is final and cannot be challenged.

However, experts in the field of criminology feel that the legal definition of criminal does not adequately fulfill the goal of their research. As a result, within the parameters of their study, they also include defendants during the trial phase and individuals detained during the investigation phase.

By examining the "real criminal," or the person who has actually committed a crime, whether or not they are incarcerated, some criminologists expand the definition of the criminal.²

¹Bartol, Curt R., and Anne M. Bartol. *Criminal Behavior: A Psychological Approach. 11th ed. Global Edition.* Pearson.p 19.

مجلة المقدمة للدراسات الإنسانية والاجتماعية، جامعة وهران 2، المجلد 06، "معنصر، مسعودة." مفهوم السلوك الإجرامي وأساليب التكفل به العدد 01 (2021): ص. 12.

First : Characteristics of Criminal Behavior :

For a behavior to be classified as criminal, seven requirements must be met. These qualities include:¹

•**Harm:**

Criminal behavior results in harm to individual or social interests, or both together, and this constitutes the material element of the crime.

•**Prohibition:**

The criminal behavior must be legally prohibited and explicitly stipulated in the penal code.

•**Coercion:**

There must be coercion leading to the occurrence of harm, whether positive or negative, intentional or unintentional.

•**Existence of Criminal Intent:**

Criminal behavior must involve full awareness on the part of the offender for him to be held responsible. This does not apply to behavior committed by a child or an insane person.

• **Consistency Between Conduct and Criminal Intent.**

•**Existence of a Causal Relationship Between the Legally Prohibited Harm and Misconduct:**

The offender is not held responsible for the result of his act unless there is a causal link between the act and the result. This relationship connects the offender's conduct to the crime for which he is held accountable.

•**Legal Provision of a Penalty for the Prohibited Act:**

This reflects the principle of legality, which states that there is no crime and no punishment except by legal text.²

Deviation is defined as deviating from a particular line or standard or failing to conform to or comply with the dominant social standards in society.

Delinquency, on the other hand, is the term used to describe legal transgressions by children or young adults. These are seen as less serious, and the term "delinquency" is typically reserved for juvenile delinquency.

Secondly: Types of Criminal Behavior :

A criminal engages in criminal activity when they commit a crime, and criminal behavior includes both good and negative acts.¹

¹ الشاوي بسمية بن حامد، مسعودة، مرجع سبق ذكره، ص. 13

² بارش، سليمان، مبدأ الشرعية في قانون العقوبات الجزائي، دار الهدى، عين مليلة، الجزائر، 2006، صص 9-10-2

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1. Positive Conduct: A voluntary movement of a body part is considered a positive act. According to this description, there are two components to this act: the voluntary nature and the physical movement.

1-1. Bodily Movement: The motions of the offender's bodily parts with the intention of producing certain material effects constitute positive conduct, which is a palpable or perceptible material reality. It is obvious how important bodily movement is to positive behavior because without it, the act loses its material nature, making it impossible to envisage any illegal outcome or violation of legally protected rights. There are significant ramifications when physical mobility is viewed as a component of positive behavior:

A -It is not illegal to just think and prepare. Since there is no physical movement in either situation, positive behavior does not only result from the desire or resolve to violate the rights of others.

B. The term "body movement" is more inclusive and encompasses the movement of any part of the human body, not only the hand. False testimony (Articles 232 to 235 of the Penal Code) and defamation (Article 296 of the Penal Code) are two examples of crimes where the movement of the tongue represents a bodily movement. Therefore, bodily movement encompasses all body parts without difference, yet unless it is voluntarily, it has no legal significance in proving positive behavior.²

1-2. Voluntary Nature: Good behavior is a physical action that results from free will. Since this refers to the moral aspect of the crime, it is not required to

look at how the will was directed or toward what it was directed because conduct does not include the direction of the will itself among its elements. Additionally, as this relates to the legal aspect of the crime, it does not include the legal qualification or judgment regarding the bodily movement or the direction of the will. Therefore, the reason governing the body movement must be the voluntary character, both as a prerequisite for bodily movement and as a

وادي، عماد الدين. "السلوك الإجرامي عند المرأة". مذكرة لنيل شهادة الماجستير في العلوم القانونية، تخصص: علم الإجرام وعلم العقاب، كلية الحقوق والعلوم السياسية، قسم الحقوق، جامعة الحاج لخضر - باتنة، السنة الجامعية 2010-2011، ص. 19.

قانون العقوبات، القسم السابع: شهادة الزور واليمين الكاذبة، الأمر رقم 66-156 المؤرخ في 18 صفر عام 1386 الموافق 8 يونيو سنة 1966،² المتضمن قانون العقوبات، المعدل والمتمم، ص. 68.

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component of positive conduct that constitutes one of the material parts of the crime.¹

A. The Voluntary Nature (Cause of Bodily Movement): Will is a psychological force that is conscious. Positive behavior is determined by a physical movement that comes from a certain source—the will—rather than by any physical movement at all. The act's criminality is eliminated when there is no volition.

B. The voluntary nature must regulate and steer every aspect of the body's movement in a particular way. The intentional intention must encompass every aspect of the body activity, and every material component of the crime that makes up the act must be directed toward a specific goal decided by the will.²

2-1- Refraining from Performing a Positive Act: Abstention is passive in connection to a particular positive deed, not just any passive posture. This indicates that the legislator views certain situations as imposing a duty on an individual to carry out a specific affirmative act necessary for the defense of a right. In legal terms, the person is said to be abstaining if they do not carry out that particular act. For instance, the crime of denial of justice presupposes that a judge refrains from doing anything other than following the legal processes for hearing a case. Therefore, reviewing the matter and declaring it inadmissible does not constitute withdrawal from justice. Therefore, abstention must involve a constructive action mandated by a legal obligation.

2-2. Existence of a Legal Duty: Unless the individual refraining from executing the positive act was legally required to do so, abstention has no legal existence. For instance, since the accused is not required by law to speak, their reluctance to do so during an investigation or trial is not seen as a crime.

2-3- Voluntary Nature of Abstention: Absence is performed by an individual with the intention of accomplishing a certain goal since, like positive acts, it is a form of human conduct. By abstaining, the individual tries to exert

¹ قانون العقوبات، القسم الخامس: الاعتداءات على شرف واعتبار الأشخاص وعلى حياتهم الخاصة وإفشاء الأسرار، الأمر رقم 66-156 المؤرخ في 18 صفر عام 1386 الموافق 8 يونيو سنة 1966، المتضمن قانون العقوبات، المعدل والمتمم، ص. 80

² وادي عماد الدين، السلوك الإجرامي عند المرأة، مرجع سبق ذكره، ص ص 21-22

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control over outside variables and situations to steer them in the direction of accomplishing that goal. Because abstention is voluntary, the will must be its source; that is, there must be a tangible connection between the will and the abstention. The

individual chooses not to carry out the legally mandated positive deed even when they are capable of doing so. It cannot be legally classified as abstention if it is demonstrated that the abstention was not voluntary, such as in situations involving physical coercion or unconsciousness.¹

Subsection Three : Causes of Criminal Behavior :

First : Internal Causes

These are the causes related to the deviant individual, whether from the religious, psychological, or mental aspect. These factors may be innate within the person or acquired after birth. They can be explained as follows:²

وادي، عماد الدين ، ص. 19¹.

د. عبد الهادي فرياح القيسي "الانحراف الأخلاقي وأثره على المجتمع"، *مجلة الباحث في العلوم الإنسانية والاجتماعية*، العدد 32، جامعة بغداد – 83 كلية العلوم الإسلامية، جانفي 2018، ص. 83².

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Heredity: This implies that a person may inherit certain features from their parents through genes, which imprint particular traits that are evident in a person's development. Hereditary impact is still flexible, though, since children may receive some of their parents' characteristics rather than all of them.

Age : One of the most significant variables that researchers look at as a primary cause of deviance is age. Adolescence stands out as a crucial time when a person may lose their direction and go through emotional transformations. Humans go through several stages of life. This has a direct impact on conduct and could steer the individual in the wrong direction.

Gender : Gender refers to the differences between males and females. Numerous academics have demonstrated that, depending on the individual's environment, the rate of deviation among females is lower than that of males.

Secondly: Outside Causes :

Whether these factors are social, cultural, or economic, they relate to the environment and upbringing of the deviant person. The person and their actions reflect each of these elements. The following are some of the most significant causes:¹

Social Causes:

The family, school, and friends serve as symbols for these since they have an impact on one another. The family is the basic building block of society; if its members are moral, society will likewise be moral, and if corruption arises among them, society will suffer. As a result, education and upbringing are crucial in maintaining a person's behavior.

Modern Communication Methods:

This is a reference to contemporary communication tools including media outlets, cell phones, and the internet. These methods may have a significant impact on a child's upbringing and cause them to pick up bad habits that mold their personality and behavior. As a result, this could push them away from their upbringing's societal values and toward deviation.

Therefore, these means have a significant impact on the deviation of many young people from proper teachings due to their misuse. This is attributed to

١. عبد الهادي فرحان القيسي، المرجع نفسه، ص. 84

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incomplete maturity, fertile imagination, and weak critical thinking among youth. As a result, they are quickly drawn to these tools and use them continuously without supervision from either the family or the state. Although the internet, mobile phones, satellite channels, newspapers, and magazines play an important and effective role in society, their improper use may lead to the corruption and destruction of young people's thinking. Thus, a person may deviate from goodness toward evil and become a destructive force in society after having been a means of development and progress.

Economic Causes:

These are economic shifts that impact a person and impact their propensity for deviation and straying from the correct path, regardless of whether these circumstances are personal or familial. Poverty and unemployment are two of the primary causes, which might lead someone to look for illegal ways to meet their requirements and meet the expectations of their peers. Therefore, in order to satisfy their needs and aspirations, some people may turn to criminal activity, stealing, and deviance as a result of family poverty.¹

Subsection Four : Theories Explaining The Criminal Behavior :

First : Biological Theories :

A. The Biological School (Lombrosian School) :

The biological school, led by Lombroso and his Italian anthropological school (1836–1909), emphasized the importance of biological causes in explaining criminal behavior, arguing that the nature of the criminal rather than the nature of the crime should be taken into consideration when explaining the motives of

¹. المرجع نفسه، ص 84

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criminal behavior. Lombroso explained that humans are born with criminal traits that make them more likely than others to be driven toward committing crime.¹

Lombroso's main assumptions and theory in explaining criminal behavior can be summarized as follows:

A. Criminals form a hereditary pattern.

B. The criminal pattern can be identified through certain anatomical, mental, and temperamental traits, which he called degenerative traits, found in criminals, especially in crimes.

C. The criminal is characterized by certain physical and psychological traits such as: irregular skull shape, protruding cheekbones, dental deformities, narrow forehead and large jaws, noticeable increase or decrease in ear size, deviation or narrowing of the nose, dense hair, excessive wrinkles of the skin, defects in the chest cavity, and increased length of arms, legs, and fingers.

B. Goring's Theory:

The English physician Goring rejected Lombroso's findings regarding the idea of the born criminal. In 1901, he conducted comparative statistical studies on approximately (3000) dangerous criminals sentenced to more than three years in prison, and on a large group of non-criminal individuals such as students, hospital patients, and officers in the British army.

He examined their skulls, weights, heights, ear shapes, and foreheads, and concluded that there were no significant differences between criminals and non-criminals. He also found no clear differences between both groups in terms of physical characteristics.

Goring concluded that some criminals suffer from physical or mental weakness compared to ordinary people, and that they are characterized by social conflict

that prevents them from achieving social adjustment, making them more easily emotionally excitable and more likely to commit crime.

Regarding height and weight, he found that criminals are generally characterized by shorter stature and lower weight.²

From this, Goring explained criminality according to the theory of social selection, where physically and mentally strong individuals are able to earn their living easily and therefore do not commit violent crimes. They are also able to

ص 14 الشاوي سمية بن حامد مسعودة، مرجع سبق ذكره،¹

الشاوي سمية بن حامد مسعودة، المرجع نفسه، ص. 14.²

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marry and satisfy their sexual needs in legitimate ways, which keeps them away from committing crimes against morality.

As for physically or mentally weak individuals, they are unable to adapt to society, which leads to weak social adjustment, and this weakness is considered a criminal factor

Secondly : Social Theories ¹:

A. Social Disorganization Theory:

The concept of social disorganization includes many social and cultural phenomena. Shaw hypothesized that the largest concentration of criminals and delinquents is found in areas characterized by social disorganization, where the society of these areas becomes disorganized, social control weakens, and the integration of social systems disappears.

Therefore, it is expected that criminal patterns become widespread and easily transmitted from one person to another. These communities, compared to those with low social mobility, experience continuous crime rates.

They also experience high levels of cultural interaction between traditional and more liberal societies, which leads to the disruption of social control mechanisms such as good reputation, neighbors' rights, fear of public opinion, family expectations, and traditions and customs.

Since these factors hinder social cohesion, they contribute to increased criminal behavior.

B. Cultural Conflict Theory: The founder of this theory is Walter Miller, and cultural conflict refers to conflicts between different cultural elements in terms of values, customs, and traditions.

Forms of this conflict include class conflict within the same society, conflict between group values such as immigrant groups and local groups, and conflict between successive generations.

Thus, the criminal activities carried out by some adolescents reflect the values of their social class, which are consistent with certain behaviors that differ from the values of other generations.

Third : Psychological Theories :

¹ نفس المرجع. ص. 15

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Freud's psychoanalytic theory of crime:

developed by Sigmund Freud (1856–1939), explains human behavior through the relationship between the three components of the psychic apparatus: the id, ego, and superego.

If instincts and innate desires (the id) dominate, behavior becomes deviant and the personality becomes immature. If moral values and ideals dominate and conscience (the superego) controls behavior, then behavior is normal and the personality is mature.

Freud believed that all human behavior is driven by conscious or unconscious motives. Criminal behavior is attributed to two causes:

The first is the dominance of the id due to the weakness of the superego or its inability to perform control and restraint.

The second is repression, meaning the suppression of instinctual drives into the unconscious, leading to psychological complexes.

Fourth : Integrative Theory in explaining Criminal Behavior :

The integrative theory: It emerged as a result of criticisms directed at previous theories, as no single theory is sufficient to explain criminal behavior, whether biological, social, economic, or psychological.¹

Therefore, the accepted explanation is the integrative approach, which combines different factors explaining criminal behavior, considering that crime is not due to a single cause but rather to the interaction of biological, psychological, and social factors.²

Section Three : The role of instagram in chapping teens thoughts about criminal behavior :

Instagram plays an important role in shaping teenagers' thoughts and perceptions through the content they are exposed to daily. As a highly interactive platform, it influences how young users understand social issues, values, and behaviors.

Continuous exposure to certain types of content may affect their attitudes and beliefs, including their perceptions of criminal behavior. Through posts, reels,

¹ الشاوي سمية. بنجامدمسعودة، مرجعسبقذكره، صص16. 15

² الشاوي سمية بنجامدمسعودة، مرجعسبقذكره، صص16.

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stories, and interactions with other users, Instagram can contribute to the formation of opinions and behavioral tendencies among adolescents.

Subsection one : The Dissemination of Criminal Practices and Techniques on Social Media :

The spread of criminal tactics in the shadowy world of social media is happening with little notice and has emerged as a new phenomena in adolescent delinquency that should not be disregarded. An analysis of the research on teenage internet behavior shows that a substantial

More than one-third of the teenagers polled reported having come across conversations or educational videos about criminal tactics on social media. These

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activities include both traditional theft and fraud techniques as well as more complex and difficult-to-identify cybercrimes like identity theft and hacking.

A case study demonstrates how a group of young offenders used social media to spread methods for getting around bank account passwords, which made a number of distant crimes possible. The criminals obtained the necessary information to get around the security measures.¹

established at financial institutions by using educational movies that are shared on social media. They then went on to commit fraud against numerous victims, which led to money being embezzled. This event illustrates the substantial impact that This particular incident serves as a warning about the need for increased supervision and guidance of online behavior among the younger population while also demonstrating the substantial influence that social media has in the spread of illicit information. On the other hand, several short film narration videos have presented the substance of foreign television movies for narration, describing in detail the violent acts and purposeful injuries that are portrayed in the movie plots, along with the precise methods and techniques used to carry them out. These movies may unintentionally serve as "instructional videos" about illegal

tactics, appealing to teenagers who are already active on social media. Teenagers frequently relate to people on social media sites, frequently imitating their actions. Some teenagers blindly imitate the "big sisters" or "gangster brothers" who bully others in TV shows and films. As a result, gangs are formed and bullying is committed against people who are thought to be weak. Such copying is made possible by social media's affordances. Adolescents might imitate violent behavior shown in films

¹ "مصطفى خالد الوالديو الجبال ليسالمي"، أثر استخدام منصات التواصل اجتماعي على القيم لدى الشباب بالجزائر: دراسة ميدانية على عينة من الشباب، 1 عدد 1 (2026): 6235 مجلة الأكاديمية الدولية للعلوم النفسية والتربوية والأرطونيا

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or photographs and spread them to other users of the same platforms by using social media and video-sharing sites. Teenagers' imitation leads to an increase in this behavior. Similar to a viral phenomena, criminal strategies and techniques spread quickly and widely. When a criminal tactic is found to be very successful, it quickly spreads among young people. This system of distribution poses a serious threat to the upkeep of social security in addition to aggravating the grave problem of adolescent delinquency.¹

SubsectionTwo :The Impact of Deviant Content on Social Media on Criminal Behavior Among Adolescents :

In line with Walter Lippmann's conception of the "pseudo-environment," the proportion of the "virtual environment" has been steadily increasing as a result of the rapid development of social media. This environment can be classified as an indirect environment and defined as a symbolic reality. Consequently, the spread of violent content on social media leads to a distorted understanding of real-world reality, which in turn results in significant inaccuracies in the public's perceptions of society.

¹Cai, Yuyin. 2024. "The Role of Social Media in Influencing Juvenile Delinquent Behavior." Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Interdisciplinary Humanities and Communication Studies.p. 4/5.

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In the contemporary era, the emergence of social media has led to diversification in the methods used to produce and distribute violent content online, while also expanding its reach and influence. Some users have begun to exploit live-streaming features on social media platforms in order to attract attention and gain engagement or rewards from audiences.

It has been observed that some users transfer their followers to private groups on other platforms, where violent or disturbing content is shared indirectly. Forms of “digital trade in violent content” have also emerged across social media platforms.

The virtual nature of these platforms makes it difficult for regulatory authorities to track and control such content. In addition, some content creators resort to publishing violent or shocking material to increase views and engagement.

Due to weak regulation, content specifically designed to display exaggerated or indirect forms of violence has emerged, often accessible only through searches or specific accounts rather than appearing on main pages.

This type of content has had a negative impact on digital culture and social values, as it contributes to changing patterns of thinking and behavior and affects individuals’ perceptions of reality, values, and moral standards.

Moreover, continuous exposure to such content may have harmful effects on adolescents, increasing aggressive behavior, altering their perception of

violence, and potentially contributing to the normalization of certain criminal behaviors such as assault, fraud, or cyber extortion, thereby posing a threat to their psychological and social stability.¹

Subsection Three :Exposure to Violence and Criminal Behaviour on Instagram :

Given its widespread use in the daily lives of teenagers and young adults, Instagram can be considered a distinctive medium for cultural cultivation when compared to more conventional forms of mass media. The platform plays a vital role in modern social interaction, allowing users to constantly interact with interactive chat, short movies, and visual information. In contrast to traditional media, Instagram enables users to replicate and spread messages to larger

¹Cai, Yuyin. 2024. “The Role of Social Media in Influencing Juvenile Delinquent Behavior.” Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Interdisciplinary Humanities and Communication Studies.p. 5.

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audiences in addition to consuming information. As a result, the platform serves as an important means of fostering and normalizing criminal and violent values in teenagers.

Additionally, Instagram offers a rather homogeneous environment of messages and mental pictures that often mirror prevailing online patterns linked to antisocial behavior, aggressiveness, and criminality. Users are frequently exposed to depictions of physical violence, cyberbullying, vandalism, gang-related activities, and the exaltation of illegal behavior through reels, tales, and viral content. Instagram's algorithmic design exacerbates this process by consistently suggesting related content based on past interaction, which reinforces repeated exposure to violent imagery and criminal lifestyles.

The analysis of media content on Instagram provides significant indicators regarding the cultivation process among adolescents. The repetitive circulation of violent videos, confrontational interactions, and criminal behavior contributes to the formation of mental images that shape teenagers' perceptions of social reality. As these forms of content become increasingly visible and normalized within digital environments, adolescents may gradually perceive aggression and delinquency as ordinary components of everyday social interaction.

¹Consequently, prolonged exposure to such media messages influences the cognitive and behavioral orientations of young users.²

Cultivation analysis additionally emphasises the reinforcement of cultural orientations and patterns of social behaviour through continuous media exposure. Within the context of Instagram, repeated interaction with violent and criminal content may contribute to the development of stable attitudes that tolerate

¹Cai, Yuyin. 2024. p5.

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aggression, reduce sensitivity towards violence, and encourage imitation of risky behaviour. Teenagers who seek social acceptance, recognition, or popularity within online communities may become increasingly susceptible to adopting behavioural patterns that correspond with the dominant representations promoted on the platform.

Additionally, people who use Instagram extensively are more likely to develop social reality beliefs that align with the mental representations that the platform frequently presents. Teenagers who consume a lot of violent and illegal content may come to believe that such behavior is common, socially acceptable, or essential for gaining influence, power, and prestige. In this way, Instagram serves as a tool for cultural cultivation, influencing teens' perceptions of social standards and helping to normalize crime and violence in youth culture.

Subsection Four :Influence of Content Exposure on Instagram

First One :Exposure to Violent and Criminal Content:

Teenagers are regularly exposed to violent and criminal information on social media sites, which can have a big impact on their views and actions. They could have trouble completely weighing the dangers and repercussions of particular behaviors since their cognitive capacities are still growing. The more of this kind of stuff they are exposed to, the more likely it is that they will be influenced by it or want to emulate it, particularly if such actions are presented

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as normal, appealing, or acceptable.

Adolescents who are repeatedly exposed to violent or criminal content may also become less sensitive to the gravity of these acts, which may lead to the formation of more accepting attitudes toward deviant behavior.

Secondly :Normalization of Harmful and Criminal Behaviors :

Social media's capacity to mainstream dangerous and illegal actions is one of its most worrisome features. By enabling them to be extensively viewed and shared, social media platforms like Instagram have the potential to normalize behaviors like violence, cyberbullying, and some unlawful activity.

Due to their high degree of impressionability, young users may start to view such activities as normal or even desirable if they witness peers or influencers engaging in them without incurring obvious repercussions. As a result, actions that go against the law or social norms may eventually be recognized as normal social interactions.¹

Third : Peer Influence Dynamics:

- *Amplification of Deviant Behavior Through Online Interaction*

Adolescence is a developmental stage strongly influenced by peer relationships, and social media significantly extends the reach of these influences. Through online platforms, adolescents interact not only with friends but also with broader online communities.

¹Aarzo Vishwakarma and Aditya Awasthi, p 5 (2025):

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These interactions may reinforce deviant behavior when peer groups encourage actions they consider acceptable or popular. For example, if a peer group promotes vandalism, aggressive behavior, or drug use, adolescents may feel pressured to engage in these activities in order to gain acceptance and a sense of belonging.

The continuous flow of likes, comments, and messages further strengthens peer influence and contributes to the spread of deviant behavior among young people.

- **Seeking Validation Through Social Media :**

Teenagers are encouraged by social media to look for acceptance through likes, shares, and encouraging remarks. Some teenage users may engage in dangerous or illegal attention-seeking actions because to their need for affirmation.

Teenagers who equate their value with being popular online may be more inclined to engage in abnormal behavior to win approval from their peers.

Third : Psychological Factors :

- **Lack of Legal Awareness and Guidance :**

The consequences on the law of some internet conduct are not well known to many teenagers. Many young people are unaware of the potential legal ¹

repercussions of engaging in activities like cyberbullying, distributing damaging content, or engaging in online harassment.

Adolescents may make judgments based on peer pressure or not enough details in the absence of good direction from parents, teachers, or mentors, which raises the possibility of engaging in illegal activity.

- **Effects on Emotional Health and Self-Esteem**

Teenagers' self-perception can be greatly impacted by social media. Feelings of inadequacy, low self-esteem, anxiety, and loneliness may be exacerbated by

¹Aarzo Vishwakarma and Aditya Awasthi, same reference , p 5.(2025)

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continual comparison with others and the pressure to uphold an ideal online person

Some teenagers may turn to violent or abnormal activities as a coping mechanism or a means of attracting attention when these bad feelings continue. Additionally, teenagers may become more emotionally unstable and more susceptible to risky conduct due to the emotional highs and lows connected with online approval and rejection or criticism.

- **Social Media as a Channel for Criminal Activities**

Teenagers now have more chances to come across illicit content and be influenced by deviants because to the rise of social media. These sites might give users access to illegal activities, content about gangs, and content that encourages drug usage.

Adolescents may develop more positive attitudes about criminal activity as a result of gangs using social media to recruit members, plan events, and promote their identities.¹

¹ Aarzoo Vishwakarma and Aditya Awasthi, "The Impact of Social Media on Juvenile Delinquency," International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews, p 6, no. 1 (2025): 3899.

Chapter Three:

The Practical Part

-Demographic Information:

1-Gender

Table (01) shows the distribution of the study sample according to the variable Sex

Percentage	Frequencies	Sex
%48.8	39	male
%51.3	41	feminine
100%	80	Total

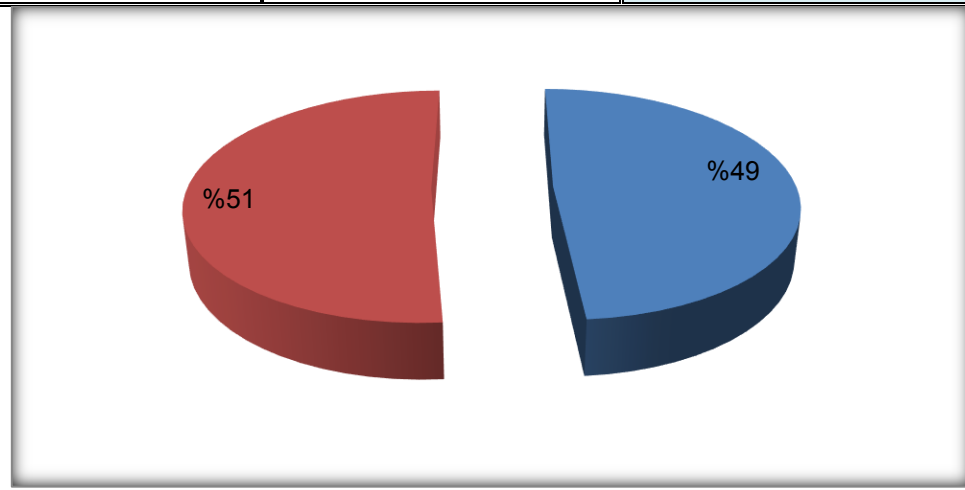


Figure (01) shows the distribution of percentages of the study sample according to the variable Sex

Based on the table above and considering the frequencies of the study sample members, whose total size is 80 individuals, we note that the number of males is 39, representing 48.8%, while the number of females is estimated at 41, representing 51.3%, which is the highest percentage.

Table (02) shows the distribution of the study sample according to the variable Age

Percentage	Frequencies	Age
%41.3	33	from13to16 yearsold
%58.8	47	from17to19 yearsold
100%	80	Total

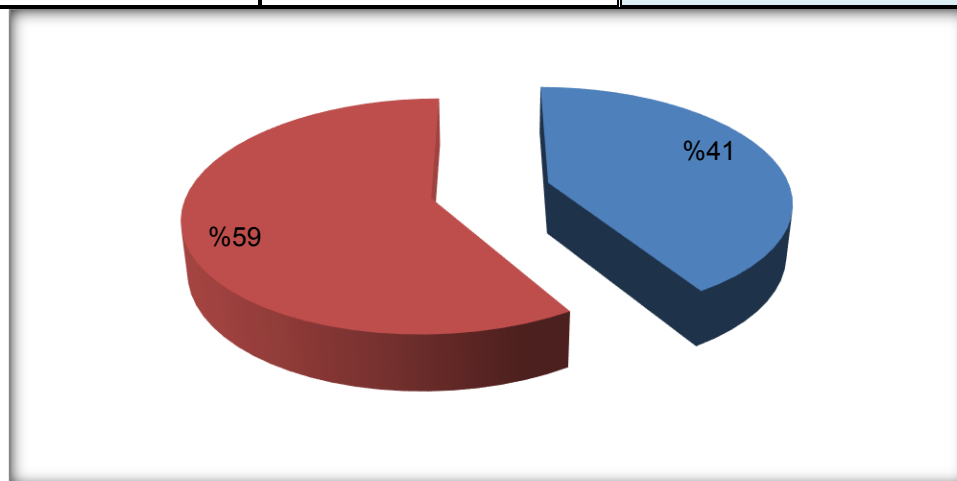


Figure (02) shows the distribution of percentages of the study sample according to the variable Age

Based on the table above and considering the frequencies of the study sample members, whose total size 80 individuals, we note that Number of individuals who Their ages range from 13 to 16 years old Estimated by 33 individuals In proportion 41.3%, While we note that the number of individuals whose age ranges between 17 to 19 Year of destiny 47 individual What is its percentage 58.8% They are the highest percentage.

Table No. (03) shows the distribution of individuals sample the study Basic According to the variable Academic level

Percentage	Frequencies	Academic level
%48.8	39	secondary
%37.5	30	middle
%13.8	11	primary
100%	80	Total

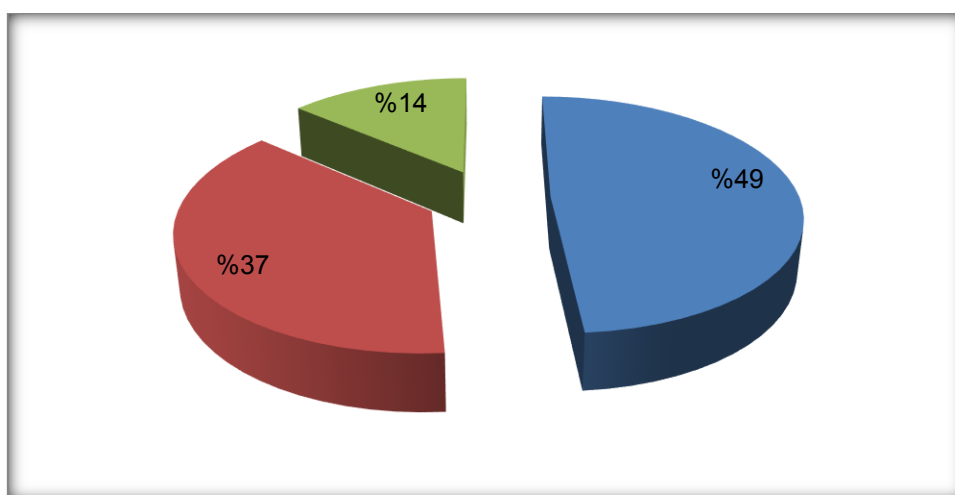


Figure (03) shows the distribution of the percentages of individuals in the study sample according to the academic level variable.

From the table above, and considering the frequencies of the individuals in the basic study sample, which consists of 80 individuals in total, we note that the number of individuals with a secondary level was estimated at 39, representing 48.8%, which is the highest percentage.

Meanwhile, the number of individuals with a middle (average) level was 30, representing 37.5%. As for individuals whose educational level is primary, their number was estimated at 11, representing 13.8%.

4- Family status

Table (04) shows the distribution of the study sample according to the variable Family situation

Percentage	Frequencies	Family status
%78.8	63	Withboth parents
%17.5	14	With one parent
%3.8	3	With relatives
100%	80	Total

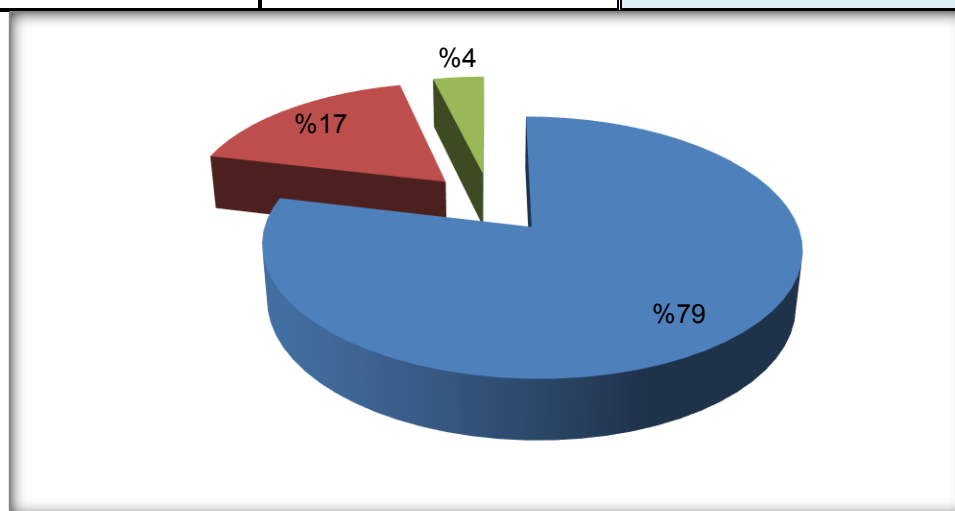


Figure (04) shows the distribution of percentages of the study sample according to the variable Family status

Based on the table above and considering the frequencies of the study sample members, whose total size is 80 individuals, we note that the number of individuals living with both parents is approximately 63, representing 78.8%, which is the highest percentage. Meanwhile, the number of individuals living with one parent is 14, representing 17.5%. As for individuals living with relatives, their number was estimated at 3, representing 3.8%.

Table (05) shows the distribution of the study sample according to the variable The Foundation

Percentage	Frequencies	The Foundation
%92.5	47	generality
%7.5	6	especially
100%	80	Total

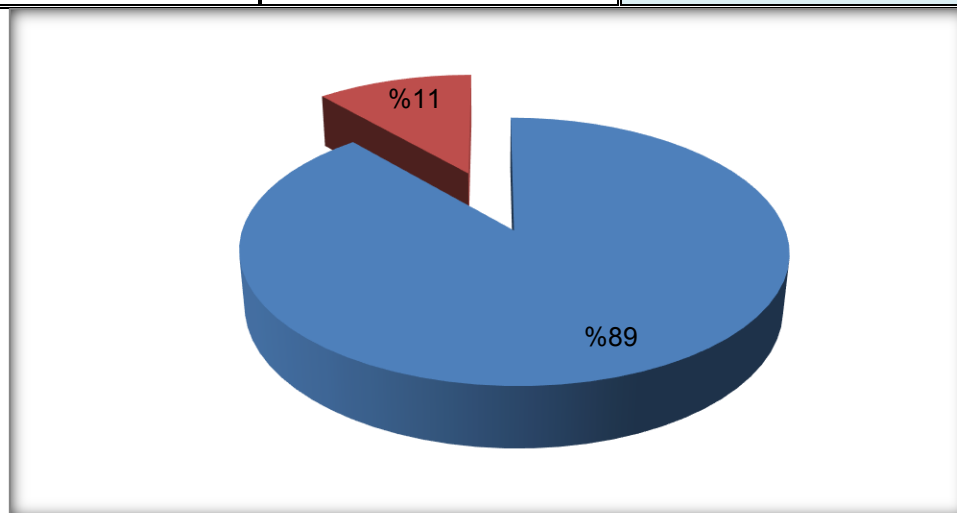


Figure (05) shows the distribution of percentages of the study sample according to the variable The Foundation

Based on the table above and considering the frequencies of the study sample members, whose total size is 80 individuals, we note that the number of individuals who are studying or have studied at a public institution is estimated at 74, representing 92.5%, which is the highest percentage. Meanwhile, the number of individuals who are studying or have studied at a private institution is estimated at 6, representing 7.5%.

Question01 Instagram displays illegal activities As its something normal

Table No. (06): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (01)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
32.5%	26	Yes
21.3%	17	No
46.3%	37	Sometimes
100%	80	Total

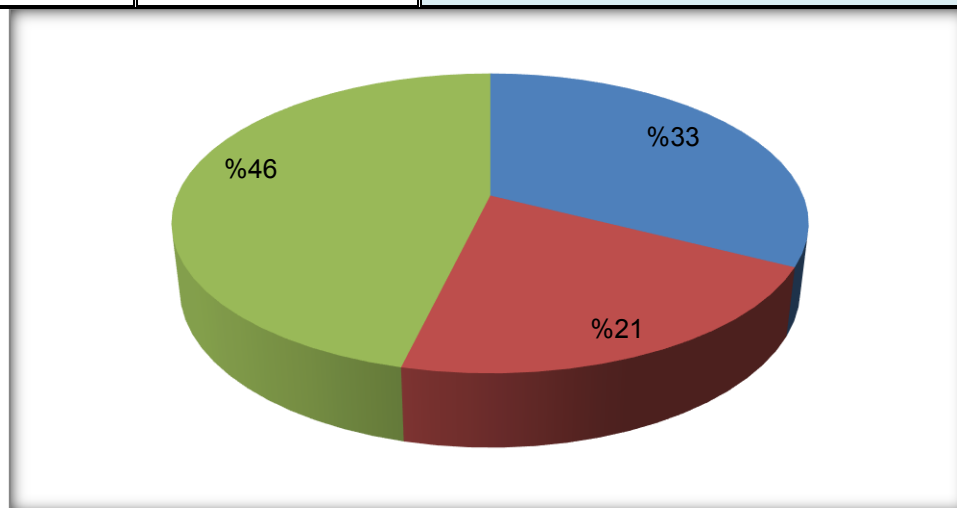


Figure (06) shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (01).

From Table (06) and Figure (01) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling 80 individuals, are divided into three groups. The first group consists of individuals whose answers to question number (01) were “Yes,” representing 32.5%. The second group consists of individuals who chose the alternative “No,” representing 21.3%. Meanwhile, the third group consists of individuals who chose the alternative “Sometimes,” representing 46.3%, which is the highest percentage.

The previous results indicate that the majority of the study sample believe that Instagram sometimes presents illegal activities as normal behavior. This may be attributed to the frequent exposure to such content and the way it is displayed on the platform, which can reduce the perceived seriousness of certain deviant behaviors.

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Question 02: Following certain accounts makes violence seem acceptable. Table No. (07): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (02)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
61.3%	49	Yes
25%	20	No
13.8%	11	Sometimes
100%	80	Total

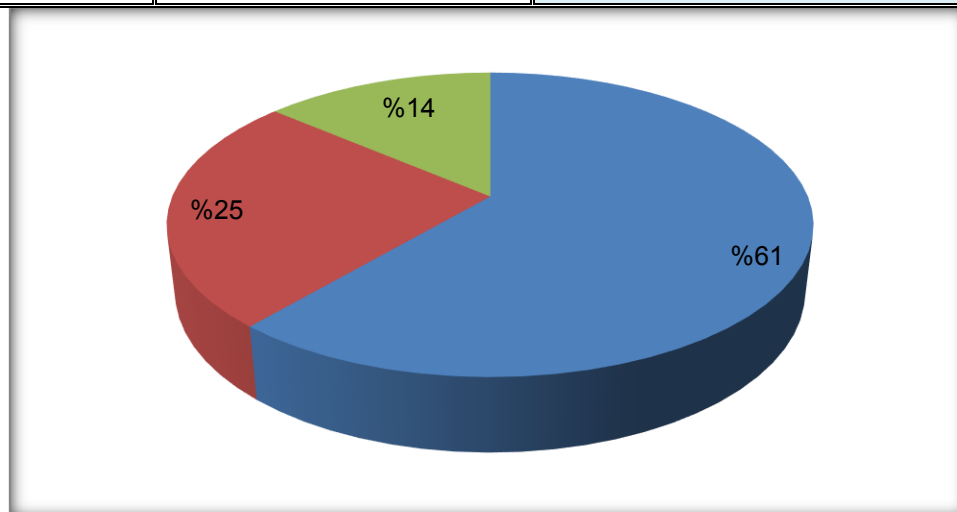


Figure (07) shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (02):

From Table (07) and Figure (08) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling 80 individuals, are divided into three groups. The first group consists of individuals whose answers to question number (02) were “Yes,” representing 61.3%, which is the highest percentage. The second group consists of individuals who chose the alternative “No,” representing 25%. Meanwhile, the third group consists of individuals who chose the alternative “Sometimes,” representing 13.8%.

The results indicate that most respondents are repeatedly or occasionally exposed to violent or criminal content. This increases the likelihood of a cumulative influence on their perceptions. Repeated exposure is not a neutral process; it can gradually create familiarity with such content and reduce adolescents’ sensitivity toward it. It also strengthens the presence of these materials in their digital experience and integrates them into their everyday online environment.

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Question03 Interacting with this type of content affects my perspective.For health The mistake

Table No. (08): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (03)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
40%	32	Yes
46.3%	37	No
13.8%	11	Sometimes
100%	80	Total

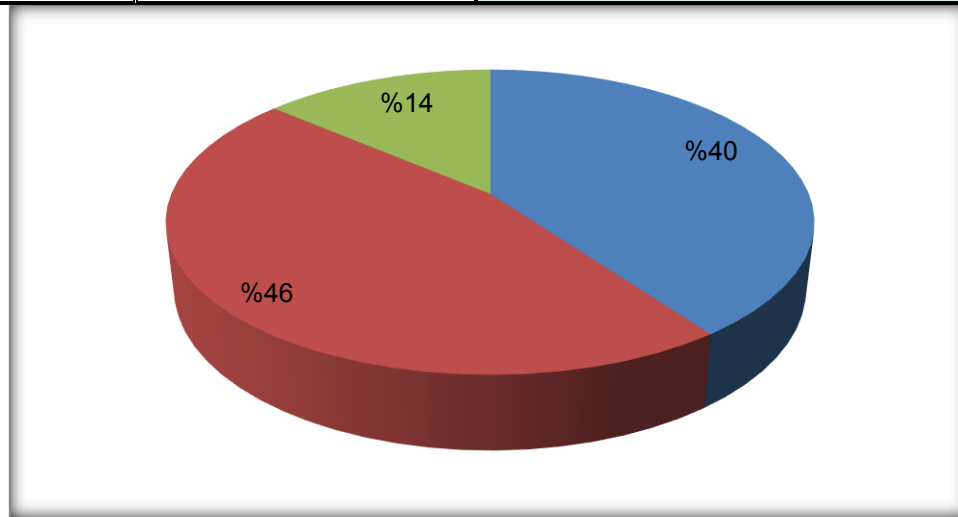


Figure (09) shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (03).

From Table (08) and Figure (09) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling 80 individuals, are divided into three groups. The first group consists of individuals whose answers to question number (03) were “Yes,” representing 40%. The second group consists of individuals who chose the alternative “No,” representing 46.3%, which is the highest percentage. Meanwhile, the third group consists of individuals who chose the alternative “Sometimes,” representing 13.8%.

In conclusion, we can infer from the previous results that most members of the study sample believe that interacting with this type of content (accounts that spread violence) does not affect their perception of right and wrong.

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The previous results reveal that most participants believe that following certain Instagram accounts can make violence appear more acceptable. This can be explained by the repeated exposure to violent content and the influence of content creators who present such behaviors in an attractive or entertaining manner.

Question 04: The large interaction (likes and comments) makes the wrong behavior seem natural.

Table No. (09): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (04)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
43.8%	35	Yes
33.8%	27	no
22.5%	18	sometimes
100%	80	Total

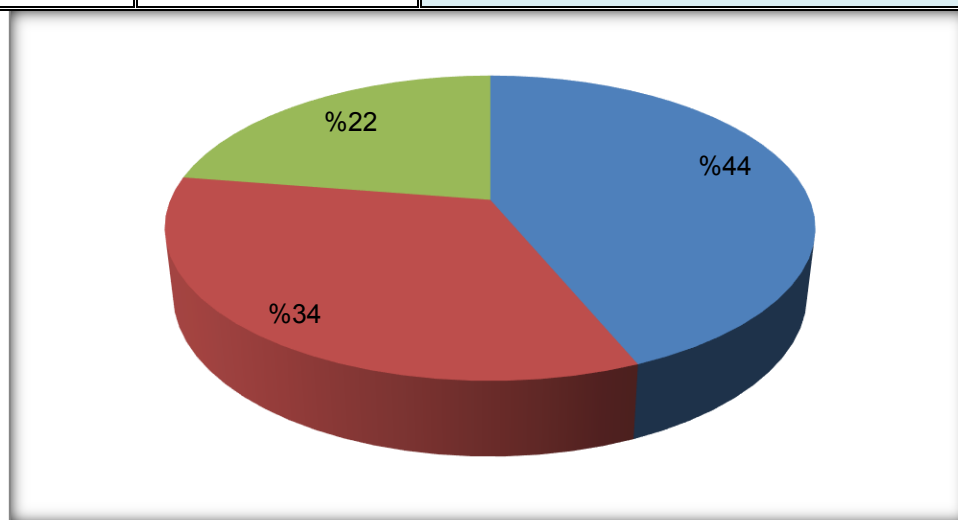


Figure (11): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (04).

From Table (10) and Figure (11) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling 80 individuals, are divided into three groups. The first group consisted of individuals whose answers to question number (04) were “Yes,” representing 43.8%, which is the highest percentage. The second group represents individuals who chose the alternative “No,” at an estimated percentage of 33.8%, while the third group represents individuals who chose the alternative “Sometimes,” at an estimated percentage of 22.5%.

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The results indicate that several respondents believe adolescents may imitate behaviors they observe on Instagram, particularly when such behaviors are presented in an appealing form or associated with popularity and visibility. This highlights the mechanism of social imitation, which is reinforced within digital spaces through continuous exposure to influential content.

Question 05: Some of the content makes me think that breaking the law isn't a serious matter.

Table No. (10): Shows the answers of the study sample to question number (05)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
32.5	26	Yes
38.8%	31	no
28.8%	23	Sometimes
100%	80	Total

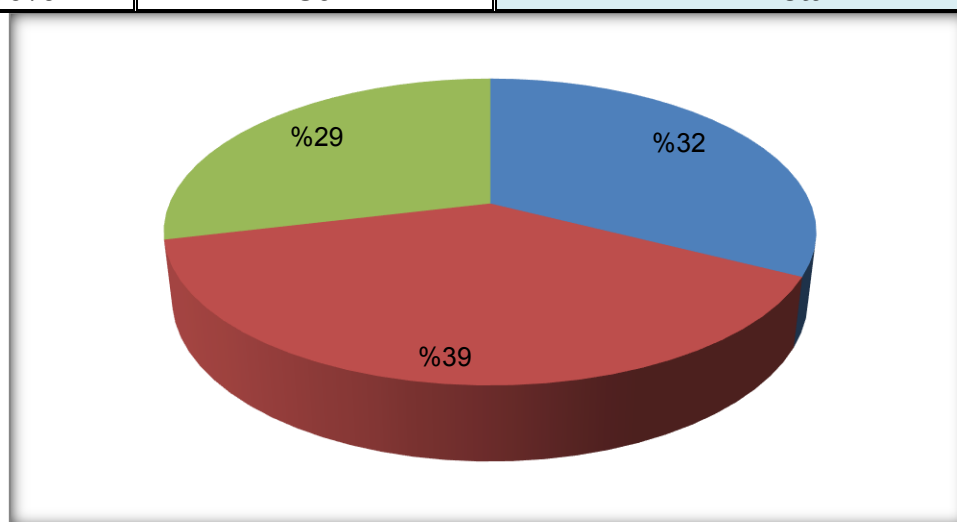


Figure (13): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (05).

From Table (11) and Figure (13) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling 80 individuals, are divided into three groups. The first group consisted of individuals whose answers to question number (05) were “Yes,” representing 32.5%. The second group represents individuals who chose the alternative “No,” representing 38.8%, which is the highest percentage, while the third group represents individuals who chose the alternative “Sometimes,” representing 28.8%.

The findings show that most respondents agree that influencers and content creators have a strong ability to shape adolescents' thoughts and attitudes,

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especially when their content is associated with attractiveness factors such as fame, success, or social acceptance. This reflects the growing role of influencers in shaping opinions and behaviors within digital environments.

Second axis: Personal characteristics and influence of criminal content

Question 06: I like to imitate the behaviors I see prevalent among my peers on Instagram .

Table No. (11): Shows the answers of the study sample to question number (06)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
12.5%	10	Yes
51.3%	41	no
36.3%	29	sometimes
100%	80	Total

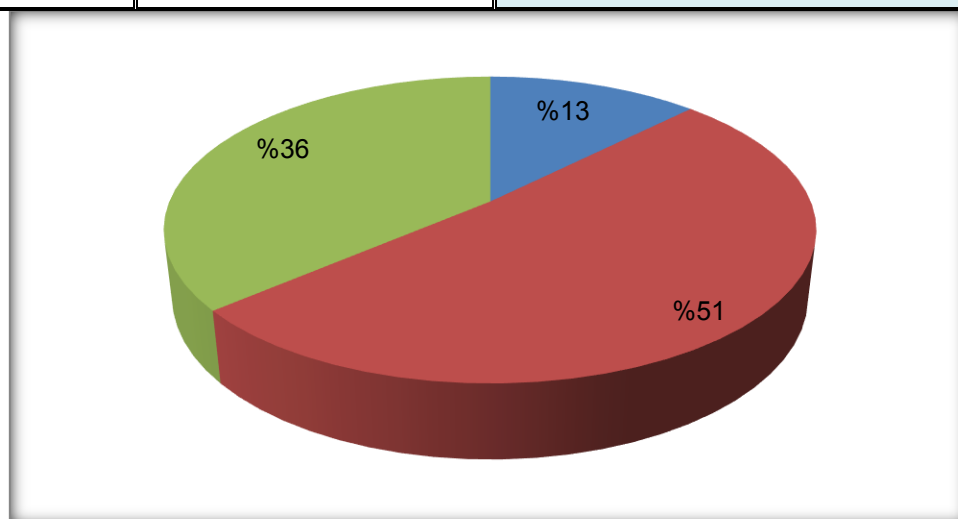


Figure (15): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (06).

From Table (12) and Figure (15) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling (80) individuals, are divided into three groups. The first group consisted of individuals whose answers to question number (06) were “Yes,” reaching a percentage of 12.5%. The second group represents individuals who chose the alternative “No,” with a percentage estimated at 51.3%, which is

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the highest percentage. Meanwhile, the third group represents individuals who chose the alternative “Sometimes,” with a percentage estimated at 36.3%.

The results suggest that interaction with friends and followers on Instagram plays an important role in reinforcing certain ideas and behaviors circulating within digital groups. Virtual peer groups have become influential in shaping attitudes, as individuals tend to adapt to what is shared within their online social circles.

Question 07: I seek social acceptance even if it requires imitating wrong behaviors.

Table No. (12): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (07)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
13.8%	11	Yes
76.3%	61	no
10%	8	sometimes
100%	80	Total

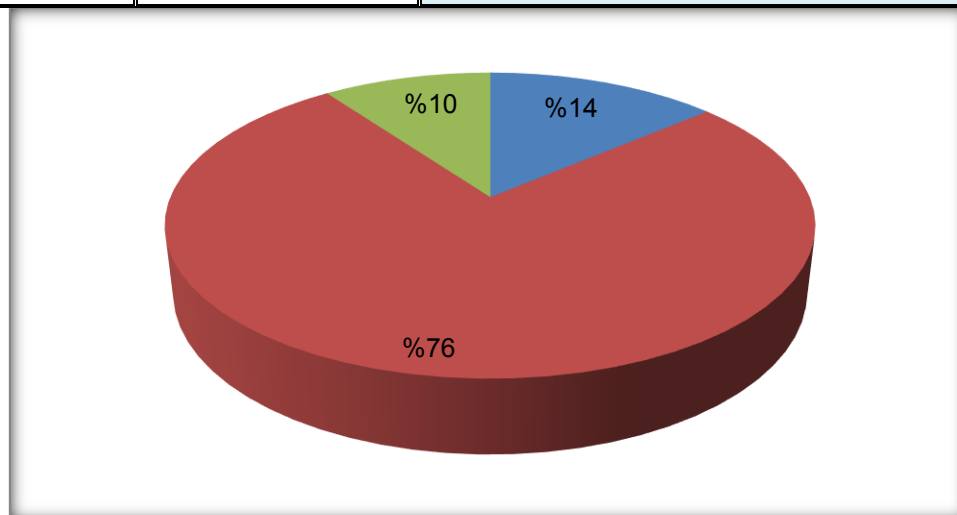


Figure (17): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (07).

From Table (13) and Figure (17) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling (80) individuals, are divided into three groups. The first group consisted of individuals whose answers to question number (07) were “Yes,” reaching a percentage of 13.8%. The second group represents individuals who chose the alternative “No,” with a percentage estimated at 76.3%, which is

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the highest percentage. Meanwhile, the third group represents individuals who chose the alternative “Sometimes,” with a percentage estimated at 10%.

The results indicate that most respondents are aware that Instagram’s algorithms recommend content similar to what users previously engaged with, leading to repeated exposure to the same types of posts. This mechanism contributes to the continuous visibility of similar content, including violent or deviant materials.

Question 08: I am curious about content that depicts illegal behavior on Instagram.

Table No. (13): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (08)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
28.8%	23	Yes
53.8%	43	no
17.5%	14	sometimes
100%	80	Total

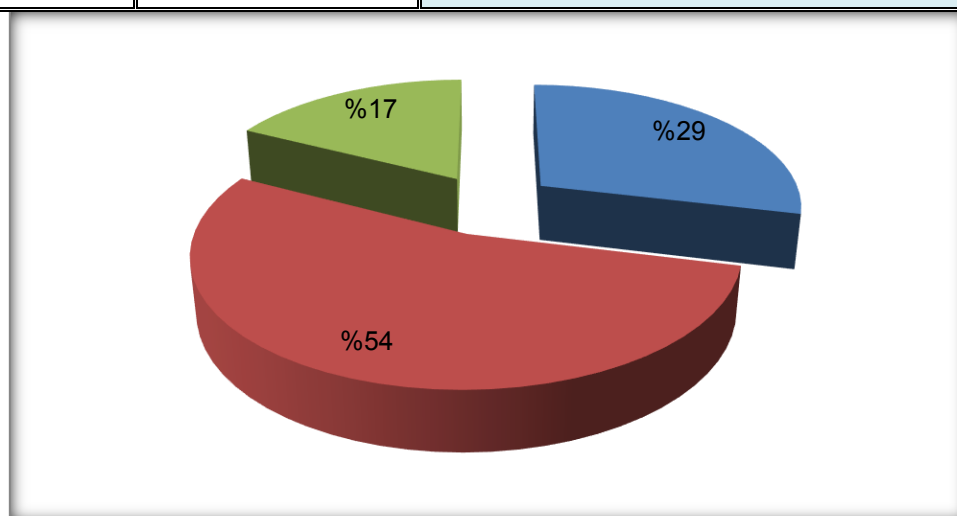


Figure (19): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (08)

From Table (13) and Figure (19) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling (80) individuals, are divided into three groups. The first group consisted of individuals whose answers to question number (08) were “Yes,” reaching a percentage of 28.8%. The second group represents individuals who chose the alternative “No,” with a percentage estimated at 53.8%, which is the highest percentage. Meanwhile, the third group represents individuals who chose the alternative “Sometimes,” with a percentage estimated at 17.5%.

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The findings show that the need for social acceptance and the desire for likes and interaction represent important factors influencing adolescents' susceptibility to online content. The pursuit of digital recognition may lead some individuals to adopt or imitate what is popular on the platform.

Question 09: Adolescence contributes to increased susceptibility to this type of content.

Table No. (14): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (09)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
55%	44	Yes
25%	20	no
20%	16	sometimes
100%	80	Total

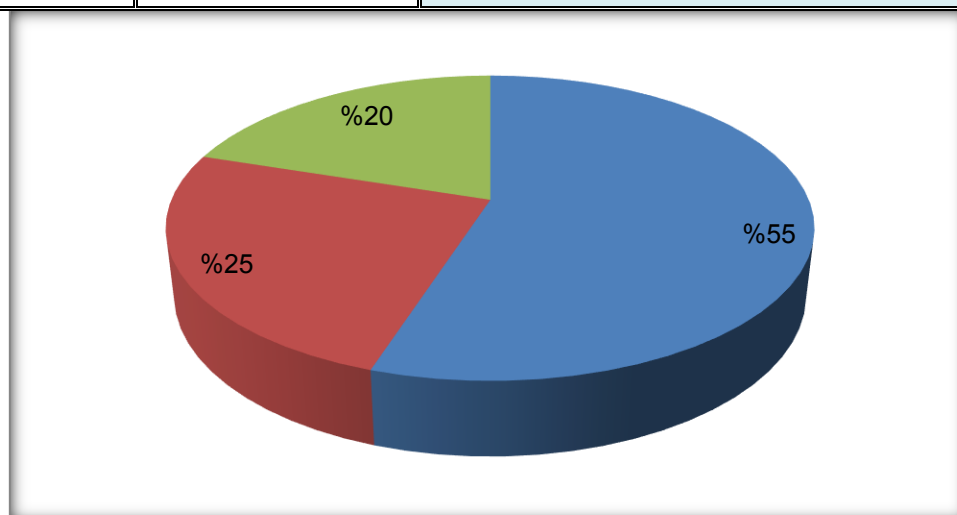


Figure (21): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (09).

From Table (14) and Figure (21) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling (80) individuals, are divided into three groups. The first group consisted of individuals whose answers to question number (09) were “Yes,” reaching a percentage of 55%, which is the highest percentage. The second group represents individuals who chose the alternative “No,” with a percentage estimated at 25%. Meanwhile, the third group represents individuals who chose the alternative “Sometimes,” with a percentage estimated at 20%.

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The results suggest that repeated exposure to criminal content may partially influence adolescents' perception of the seriousness and consequences of such behaviors. It may also lead to a form of visual or psychological habituation that reduces the intensity of rejection toward these actions.

Question 10: Teenagers react to the criminal content they watch on Instagram using different methods depending on the user's personality, environment, and the nature of the content itself.

Table No. (15): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (10)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
73.8%	59	Yes
10%	8	no
16.3%	13	sometimes
100%	80	Total

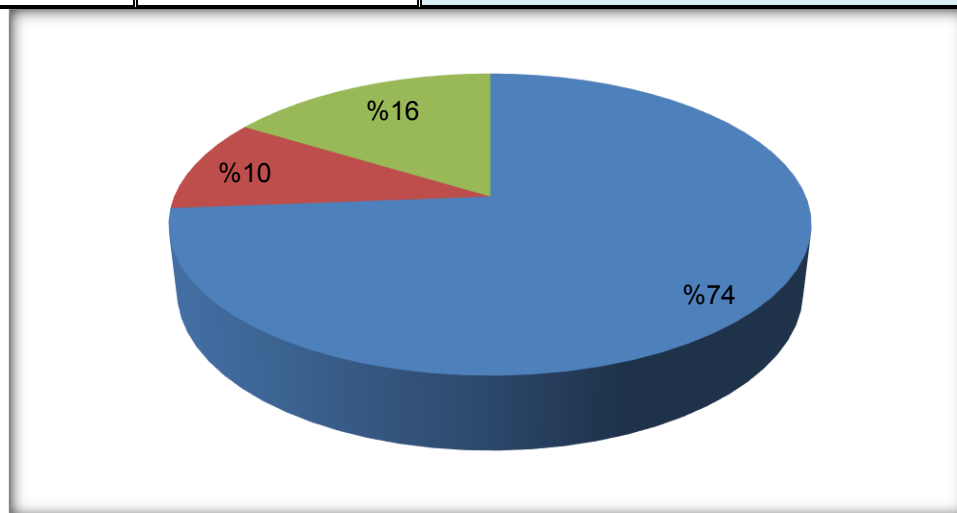


Figure (23): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (10)

From Table (15) and Figure (23) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling (80), the individual has split into three groups. The first group consisted of individuals whose answers focused on question number (10). Alternatively, "Yes," and it has reached their percentage 73.8%. They are the highest percentage. The second group represents individuals who chose the alternative "No," a percentage estimated at 10%, while the third group represents individuals who chose the alternative "Sometimes," a percentage estimated at 16.3%.

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The results show that most respondents acknowledge that Instagram has an influence on shaping certain perceptions and ideas related to criminal behavior, although this influence remains relative and indirect. It interacts with other factors such as family, social environment, and educational background, making digital influence part of a broader system of determinants.

Question 11: There are several factors and personal characteristics that can protect a teenager from being influenced by content that promotes criminal behavior.

Table No. (16): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (11)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
72.5%	58	Yes
8.8%	7	no
18.8%	15	sometimes
100%	80	Total

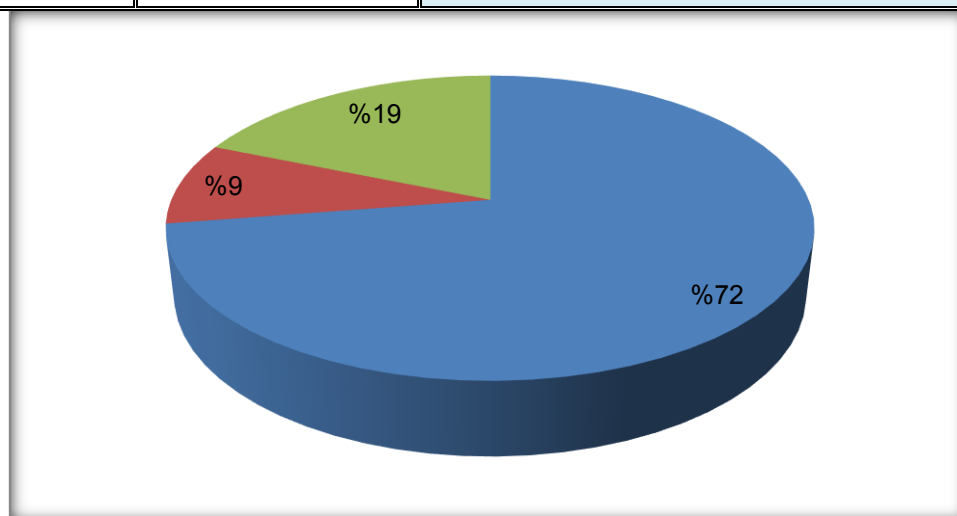


Figure ()24: Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (11)

From Table (16) and Figure (24) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling (80), the individual has split into three groups. The first group consisted of individuals whose answers focused on question number (11). Alternatively, "Yes," and it has reached their percentage 72.5%. They are the highest percentage. The second group represents individuals who chose the alternative "No," a percentage estimated at 8.8%, while the third group represents individuals who chose the alternative "Sometimes," a percentage estimated at 18.8%.

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We conclude from the previous results that most study sample members said that there are several factors and personal characteristics that can protect a teenager from being influenced by content that promotes criminal behavior.

Third axis: The role of the Instagram platform in adopting criminal behaviors and to reduce its danger.

Question 12: Road filming content (music, humor, fame) contributes to making crimes more prevalent. Acceptance among followers.

Table No. (17): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (12)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
20%	16	I agree severe
38.8%	31	I agree
26.3%	21	neutral
12.5%	10	NoI agree
2.5%	2	NoI strongly agree
100%	80	Total

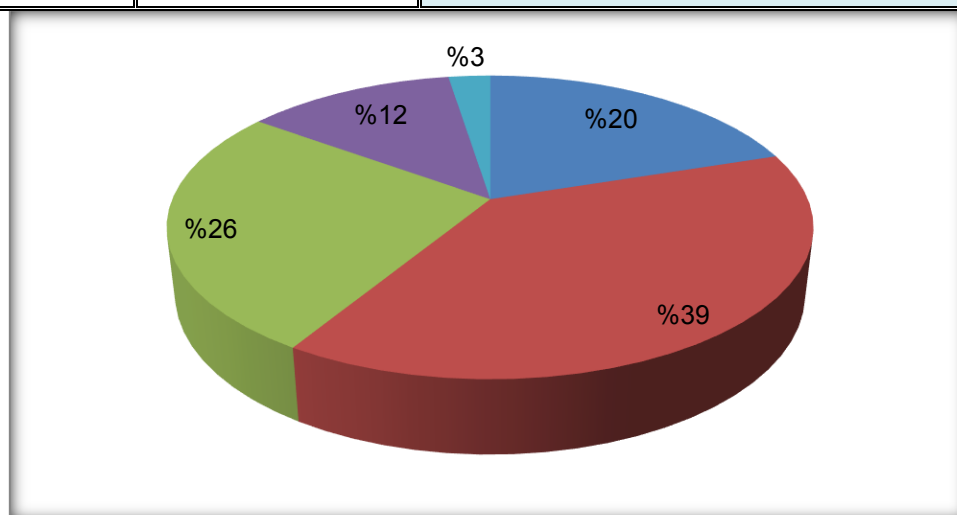


Figure (25): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (12)

From Table (17) and Figure (25) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling (80), have split into five groups. The first group consisted of individuals whose answers focused on question number (12), alternatively, "I strongly agree," and it has reached their percentage 20%. The second group represents individuals who chose the alternative "I agree," with a percentage

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estimated at 38.8%. They are the highest percentage, while the third group represents individuals who chose the alternative "neutral," with a percentage estimated at 26.3%. As for the fourth group, it represented individuals who chose the alternative "I disagree," with a percentage estimated at 12.5%. Finally, the fifth group represents individuals who chose the alternative "I strongly disagree," with a percentage estimated at 2.5%.

The findings indicate that a majority of the study sample perceive road-filmed content (such as music, humor, and fame-oriented videos) as a contributing factor in the increased normalization and social acceptance of criminal behaviors among audiences.

Question 13: Instagram helps reduce the risk of some crimes through the way it is presented.

Table No. (18): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (13)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
23.8%	19	I agree severe
57.5%	46	I agree
13.8%	11	neutral
3.8%	3	no I agree
1.3%	1	no I strongly agree
100%	80	Total

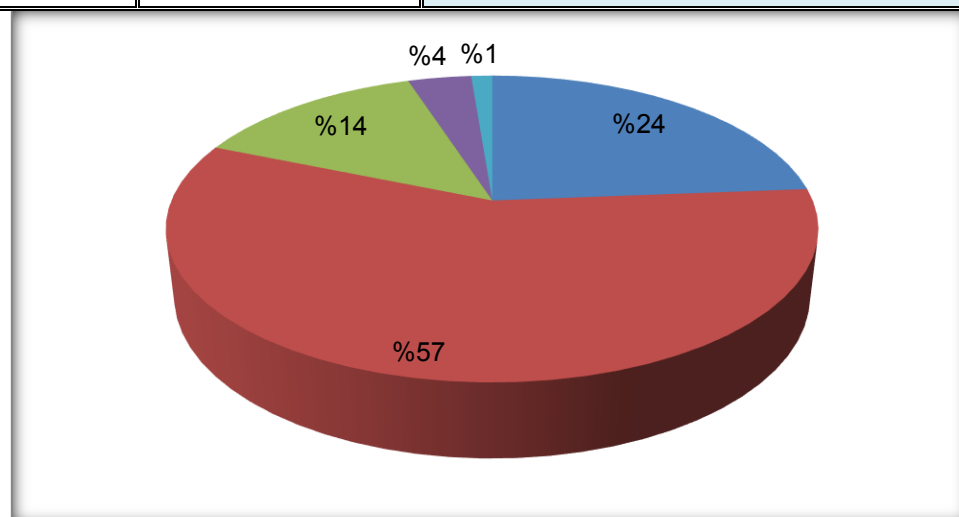


Figure (26): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (13)

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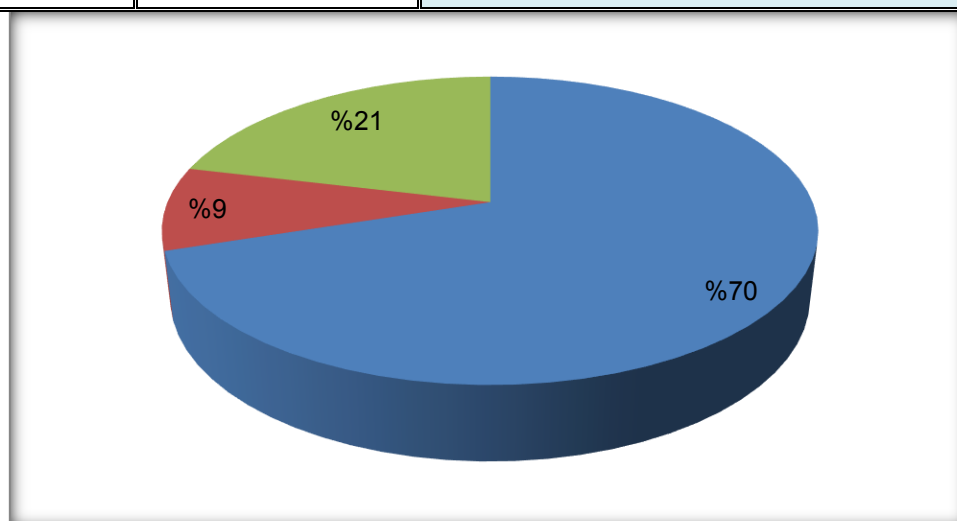
From Table (18) and Figure (26) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling (80), have split into five groups. The first group consisted of individuals whose answers focused on question number (13), alternatively, "I strongly agree," and it has reached their percentage 23.8%. The second group represents individuals who chose the alternative "I agree," with a percentage estimated at 57.5%. They are the highest percentage, while the third group represents individuals who chose the alternative "neutral," with a percentage estimated at 13.8%. As for the fourth group, it represented individuals who chose the alternative "I disagree," with a percentage estimated at 3.8%. Finally, the fifth group represents individuals who chose the alternative "I strongly disagree," with a percentage estimated at 1.3%.

We conclude from the previous results that most study sample members said that Instagram helps reduce the risk of some crimes through the way it is presented.

Question 14: Do you think watching criminal content may encourage others to imitate these behaviors?

Table No. (19): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (14)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
70%	56	Yes
8.8%	7	no
21.3%	17	sometimes
100%	80	Total



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Figure (27): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (14)

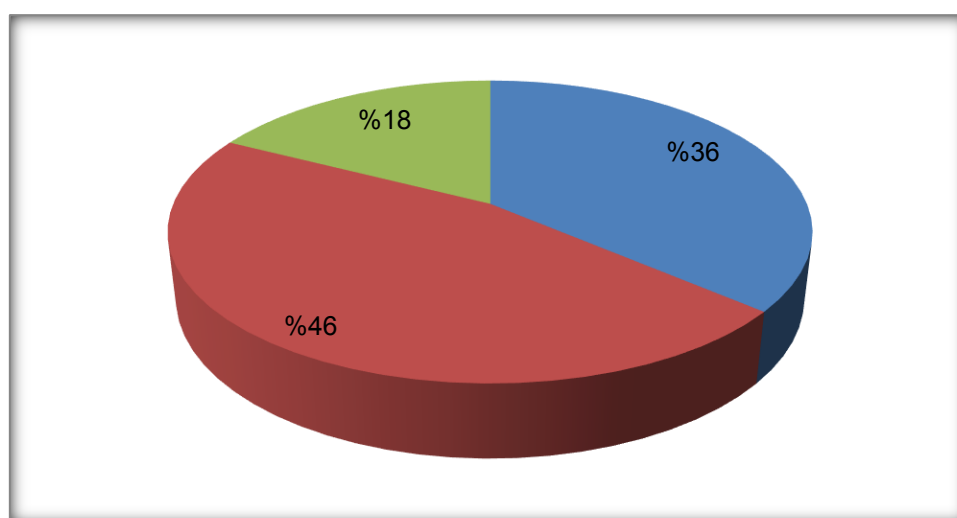
From Table (19) and Figure (27) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling (80), have split into three groups. The first group consisted of individuals whose answers focused on question number (14), alternatively, "Yes," and it has reached their percentage 70%. They are the highest percentage. The second group represents individuals who chose the alternative "No," with a percentage estimated at 8.8%, while the third group represents individuals who chose the alternative "Sometimes," with a percentage estimated at 21.3%.

The findings indicate that a majority of the study sample perceive exposure to criminal content as a potential factor that may encourage imitation of such behaviors among individuals. This reflects the possible role of digital media in shaping behavioral tendencies through repeated exposure and normalization of deviant actions within online environments.

Question 15: Has any content you've seen on Instagram ever changed your perspective on the seriousness of inappropriate behavior?

Table No. (20): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (15)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
36.3%	29	Yes
46.3%	37	no
17.5%	14	sometimes
100%	80	Total



CHAPTER THREE : PRACTICAL PART

Figure (28): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (15)

From Table (20) and Figure (28) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling (80)The individual has split intothree groupsThe first group consisted of individuals whose answers focused on question number (15)Alternatively, "Yes" And it has reachedTheir percentage36.3%The second group representsIndividuals who choseAThe alternativeno"B"A percentage estimated at46.3%They are the highest percentage,While the third groupRepresentsIndividuals who choseAThe alternativesometimes"B"A percentage estimated at17.5%.

The findings indicate that a majority of the study sample reported that the content they were exposed to on Instagram did not alter their perception of the seriousness of criminal behavior. This reflects a level of cognitive resistance among respondents, suggesting that media exposure alone may not be sufficient to reshape deeply held attitudes toward deviant acts.

Question16 Do you think Instagram is dealing strictly enough with this type of content??

Table No. (21): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (16)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
20%	16	Yes
45%	36	no
35%	28	sometimes
100%	80	Total

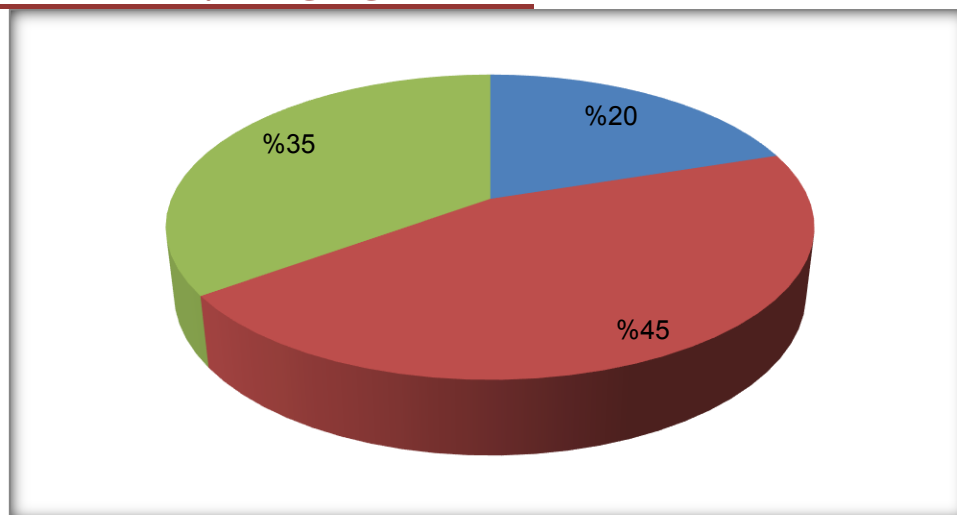


Figure (29): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (16)

From Table (21) and Figure (29) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling (80), have split into three groups. The first group consisted of individuals whose answers focused on question number (16), alternatively, "Yes," and it has reached their percentage 20%. The second group represents individuals who chose the alternative "No," with a percentage estimated at 45%. They are the highest percentage, while the third group represents individuals who chose the alternative "Sometimes," with a percentage estimated at 35%.

The findings suggest that a majority of the study sample consider Instagram's handling of this type of content to be insufficiently strict. This reflects a general perception of limited platform enforcement and raises concerns about the effectiveness of content moderation policies in restricting harmful or inappropriate material.

Fourth axis:The impact of excessive Instagram use and their awareness of the consequences of illegal behaviors.

Question 17: How many hours a day do you spend using Instagram?

Table No. (22): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (17)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
46.3%	37	From hour toT wo hours
28.8%	23	From 03 to5 hours
25%	20	6 hours or more
100%	80	Total

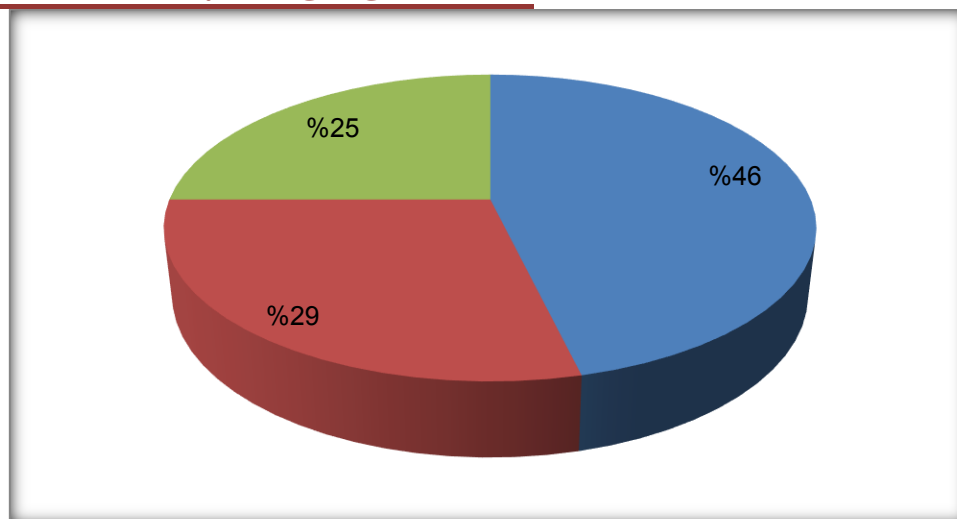


Figure (30): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (17)

From Table (22) and Figure (30) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling (80), have split into three groups. The first group consisted of individuals whose answers focused on question number (17), alternatively, "Yes," and it has reached their percentage 46.3%. They are the highest percentage. The second group represents individuals who chose the alternative "No," with a percentage estimated at 28.8%, while the third group represents individuals who chose the alternative "Sometimes," with a percentage estimated at 25%.

We conclude from the previous results that most study sample members spend daily from one hour to two hours using Instagram.

Question 18: Unmonitored Instagram usage influences the way teenagers adopt risks.

Table No. (23): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (18)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
70%	56	Yes
16.3%	13	no
13.8%	11	sometimes
100%	80	Total

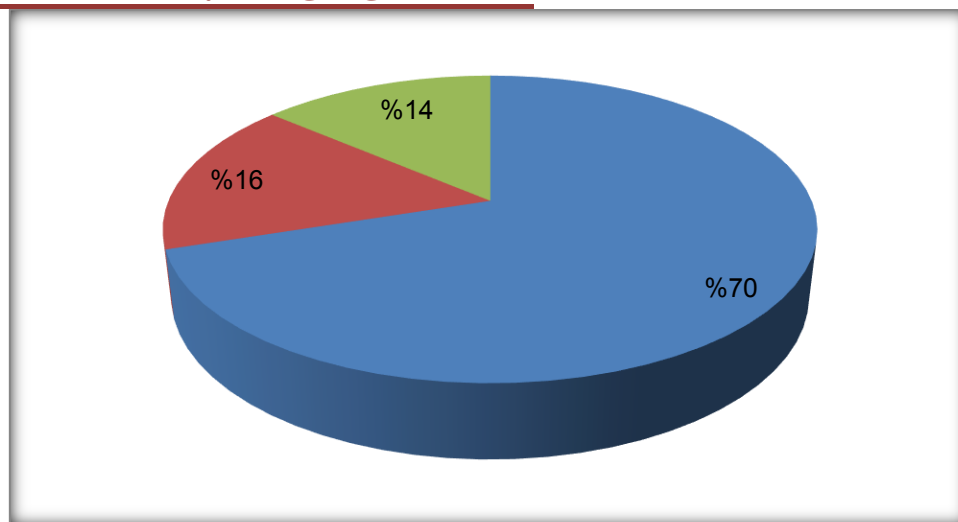


Figure (31): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (18)

From Table (23) and Figure (31) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling (80The individual has split intothree groupsThe first group consisted of individuals whose answers focused on question number (18Alternatively, "Yes"And it has reachedTheir percentage70%They are the highest percentageThe second group representsIndividuals who choseAThe alternativeno"B"A percentage estimated at16.3%,While the third groupRepresentsIndividuals who choseAThe alternativesometimes"B"A percentage estimated at13.8%.

We conclude from the previous results thatmostStudy sample membersIt is said thatThe use ofUnmonitoredInstagram influences the wayadoptionteenagersFor risks.

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Question19: The teenager is focused on fame.and admirationMore than his thoughts on legal penalties

Table No. (24): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (19)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
62.5%	50	Yes
17.5%	14	no
20%	16	sometimes
100%	80	Total

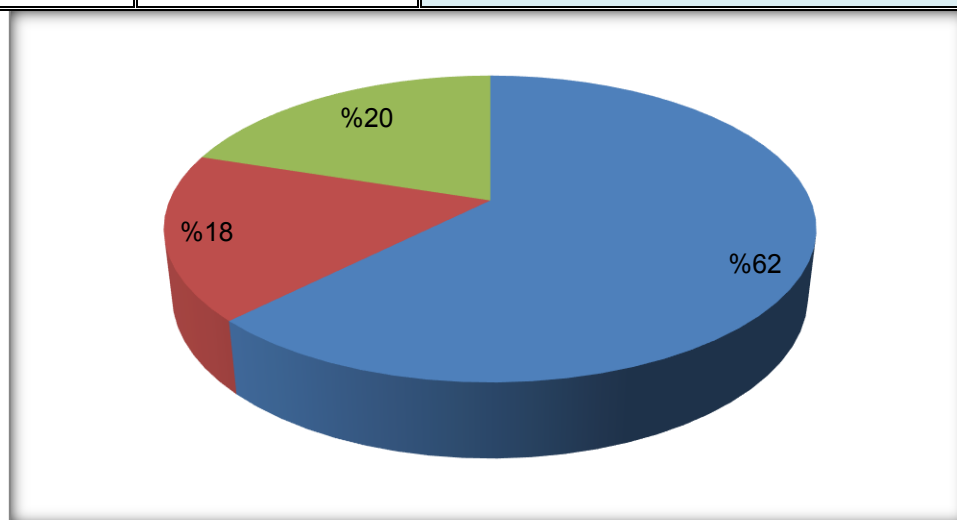


Figure (32): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (19)

From Table (24) and Figure (32) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling (80), have split into three groups. The first group consisted of individuals whose answers focused on question number (19), alternatively, "Yes," and it has reached their percentage 62.5%. They are the highest percentage. The second group represents individuals who chose the alternative "No," with a percentage estimated at 17.5%, while the third group represents individuals who chose the alternative "Sometimes," with a percentage estimated at 20%.

The findings indicate that a majority of the study sample perceive that teenagers are more influenced by the pursuit of fame and admiration than by reflections on legal penalties. This highlights the strong role of social validation in shaping adolescent priorities, often overshadowing considerations of legal and disciplinary consequences.

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Question 20: Do you consider yourself an excessive Instagram user?

Table No. (25): Shows the answers of the study sample to question No. (20)

Percentage	Observed repetition	Answer alternatives
36.3%	29	Yes
41.3%	33	no
22.5%	18	sometimes
100%	80	Total

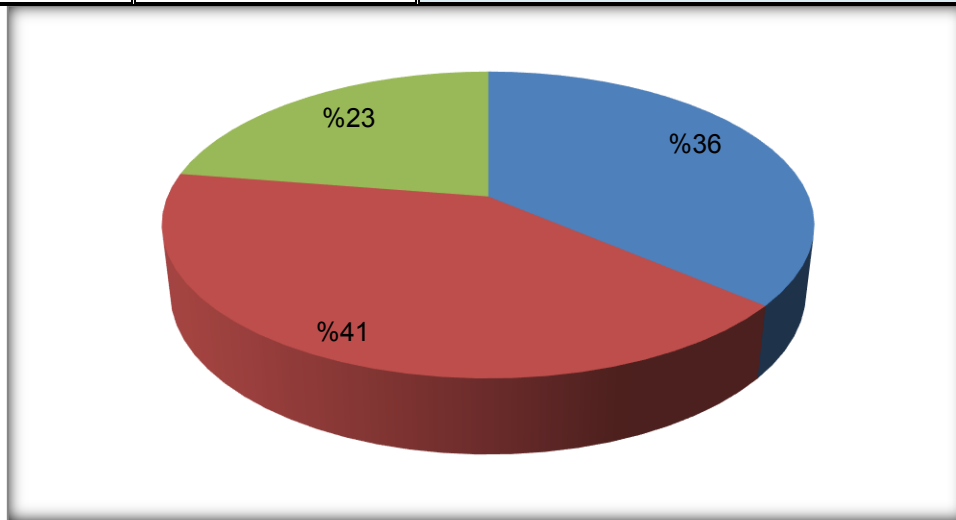


Figure (33): Shows the distribution of the percentages of responses from the study sample to question number (20)

From Table (25) and Figure (33) above, we observe that the responses of the study sample, totaling (80), have split into three groups. The first group consisted of individuals whose answers focused on question number (20), alternatively, "Yes," and it has reached their percentage 36.3%. The second group represents individuals who chose the alternative "No," with a percentage estimated at 41.3%. They are the highest percentage, while the third group represents individuals who chose the alternative "Sometimes," with a percentage estimated at 22.5%.

The findings indicate that a majority of the study sample do not perceive themselves as excessive users of Instagram. This reflects a tendency toward self-assessment of moderate usage, although such perceptions may not always accurately correspond to actual levels of engagement with the platform.

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Discussion of the hypotheses:

First hypothesis: The exposure to a large amount of content that promotes criminal behavior on platforms such as Instagram leads in a direct way to teenagers adopting these bad behaviors.

The findings in this section reveal a complex picture of the role of Instagram in shaping criminal behaviors. The influence is not direct or inevitable, but rather indirect and gradual.

On the one hand, the results indicate that most participants perceive the platform as sometimes normalizing illegal behavior, and that following certain accounts can make violence seem acceptable. This finding can be explained by social learning theory, which asserts that repeated exposure to specific behavioral patterns, especially when accompanied by interaction and admiration, leads to a kind of gradual "normalization" of these behaviors, even if they are not actually adopted.

This idea is reinforced by another finding: that high engagement (likes and comments) contributes to normalizing inappropriate behavior, reflecting what might be termed "digital social legitimization," where engagement indicators become an implicit standard for judging behavior rather than legal or ethical standards.

However, the results also reveal a relative awareness among the sample, as most believe that interacting with this type of content does not affect their perception of right and wrong, nor do they believe that such content makes breaking the law seem less serious. This indicates a kind of cognitive resistance, where individuals distinguish between what is presented digitally and what is considered acceptable in reality.

However, this argument requires critical reading, as this apparent contradiction can be explained through:

- **Unconscious influence:** Individuals may deny being directly affected, but in reality, they are implicitly affected (a change in the degree of acceptance of behavior without full awareness).
- **Social bias in answering:** Respondents tend to give answers that reflect a positive image of themselves, especially on topics related to ethics and law.
- **Separating belief from behavior:** An individual may realize that an action is wrong, but becomes less opposed to it with repeated exposure to it.

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Therefore, it can be said that the hypothesis that Instagram contributes to shaping criminal behaviors is partially achieved in an indirect way, with the platform's impact primarily manifesting in:

- Normalizing certain deviant behaviors
- Reducing the severity of social rejection
- Enhancing its symbolic acceptability without actually adopting it

Therefore, the effect of Instagram is not about directly pushing individuals to commit criminal behavior, but rather about reshaping their perception of it, which may create a psychological and social foundation susceptible to the development of deviant behaviors in the future in the absence of family and educational control.

Hypothesis Second: Teenagers who are going through a high degree of identity exploration and have a strong need for social acceptance are more likely to adopt the criminal behavior they see on social media Instagram.

The findings in this section reveal a complex and non-linear relationship between identity exploration, the need for social acceptance, and the adoption of criminal behaviors across Instagram.

On the one hand, the data shows that most members of the sample do not tend to imitate behaviors prevalent among their peers, nor do they seek social acceptance if it requires adopting wrong actions. Furthermore, they do not feel curious about content that depicts illegal behavior. These results indicate a considerable level of self-awareness and the ability to discern values, reflecting a degree of independence in moral judgment among the individuals.

However, these results do not completely refute the hypothesis, but rather redirect it, especially since most of the respondents acknowledged that adolescence contributes to increased susceptibility to this type of content. This can be explained in light of psychosocial developmental theory (Larixson). This view considers adolescence to be a stage of “identity crisis,” where the individual seeks to build a clear self-image, making them more susceptible to the influence of surrounding behavioral models, including digital ones.

The finding regarding the difference in adolescents' reactions based on personality, environment, and nature of content also confirms that the effect is not uniform, but rather subject to multiple mediating factors, including:

- Individual characteristics (self-confidence, level of maturity)

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- Social environment (family, school, peer group)
- The type of content presented (violent, sarcastic, justificatory)

On the other hand, the respondents' rejection of the idea of being influenced by or imitating deviant behaviors can be explained by the presence of what is known as social bias in their responses, where individuals tend to present a positive image of themselves, especially in matters related to values and morals. Furthermore, unconscious influence cannot be ruled out, as individuals may not realize the extent to which they are actually affected by the content they are repeatedly exposed to.

Therefore, it can be argued that the hypothesis that adolescents who are more socially accepting and more engaged in identity exploration are more likely to adopt criminal behavior across Instagram was not directly confirmed in the study results, but it is confirmed conditionally and indirectly, especially among certain groups of adolescents who exhibit psychological and social vulnerability.

Therefore, the effect of Instagram in this context cannot be generalized to all adolescents, but must be understood within a differential approach that takes into account individual differences and social contexts, which makes the hypothesis partially valid and not absolute.

Third hypothesis: Offenses of a recreational or showy nature (such as dangerous driving or verbal abuse) are traded on Instagram more than serious offenses like theft, due to the high level of user engagement with them.

The results obtained in this section show that the effect of Instagram in shaping public perception of illegal behavior is not only related to the nature of the crime, but also to how it is presented visually and symbolically within the platform.

On the one hand, most respondents believe that the way content is presented (music, humor, the element of fame) contributes to making certain criminal acts more acceptable to followers, and that the presentation style may reduce the seriousness of these acts. This can be explained by the fact that content presented in an entertainment format undergoes what can be called “media normalization,” where the illegal act is transformed into enjoyable consumer material rather than being seen as reprehensible behavior.

The results also indicate that viewing criminal content may encourage others to imitate these behaviors, which confirms that behaviors are acquired through observation and repetition, especially when these behaviors are linked to social reinforcement such as likes and views.

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Conversely, the results also reveal that most respondents do not believe that the content they watched directly changed their perception of the seriousness of the deviant behavior, indicating a relative disconnect between the overall cognitive effect and the direct subjective effect. The sample group also believes that the platform does not deal strictly enough with this type of content, which reinforces the idea that there is a gap in digital censorship.

This apparent contradiction can be explained by several considerations:

- Unconscious normalization: The individual is gradually affected without feeling an immediate change in their attitudes.
- Effect through repetition: Repeated content loses some of its shocking nature.
- Entertainment value of the content: Which reduces the moral awareness of the seriousness of the act.

These results can also be linked to the concept of the “attention economy,” where Instagram algorithms contribute to promoting more engaging content, regardless of its ethical or legal nature, leading to greater prominence for exhibitionist violations compared to serious offenses.

Therefore, it can be said that the hypothesis is clearly true in terms of:

- The prevalence of recreational content in reach and engagement.
- The effect of presentation method in reducing perception of danger.
- The contribution of social interaction to reshaping the symbolic acceptance of behavior.

However, this impact remains indirect and contingent on the nature of the content and how it is presented, and is not only related to the type of crime, but also to how it is transformed into digitally consumable content.

Fourth hypothesis: The algorithm system of Instagram repeatedly exposing users to such content significantly strengthens teenagers' desire to experiment with these risky behaviors.

The results obtained in this section show the impact of the algorithmic system of the platform Instagram is not only related to the quality of the content, but also to the nature of repeated exposure and the time the user spends interacting with the platform.

On the one hand, the results indicate that most members of the sample spend between one and two hours daily on the platform, which reflects a relatively medium to high level of usage, allowing for repeated exposure to the content, and thus increasing the likelihood of cumulative influence from it. This confirms that the impact of algorithms is not instantaneous, but rather is shaped through continuity and repetition.

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Most respondents also believe that unsupervised use of Instagram affects how teenagers adopt risks, which reinforces the idea that the absence of control or guidance may open the door to the indirect influence of algorithms, especially when the latter constantly feed the user similar content.

The findings also support the idea that teenagers are more focused on fame and admiration than on legal penalties, reflecting a shift in the value system within the digital environment, where engagement indicators become more important standards for social acceptance rather than legal or ethical standards. This aligns with the logic of the “attention economy” within digital platforms, where the most visually appealing and engaging content is rewarded, regardless of its ethical content.

However, the results reveal that most members of the sample do not consider themselves heavy users, even though they spend a significant amount of time daily on the platform. This reflects what is known in digital psychology studies as digital consumption underestimation, where the user underestimates the extent of their actual interaction with the platform, thus subconsciously amplifying its impact.

Therefore, it can be said that the hypothesis is partially and conditionally true, as the effect of algorithms does not appear as a direct push towards adopting criminal behavior, but rather as a gradual mechanism that operates through:

- Continuous repetition of content
- Enhancing engagement with attractive content
- Reshaping attention and values
- Gradual normalization of risky behaviors

Therefore, the effect of Instagram in this context is an indirect, cumulative effect, reinforced by the lack of sufficient digital awareness among users.

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The analyse results:

Through the analysis of the sample responses across the various questionnaire axes, the following set of results was obtained:

- The results of this axis revealed that digital content displaying deviant or transgressive behaviors on Instagram influences teenagers' perception of these actions through engaging presentation styles and modern formats, which initially lowers their psychological aversion to them. However, this influence rarely translates into actual imitation or real-world delinquency. The data indicates that the vast majority of the sample does not directly adopt these behaviors, demonstrating the presence of internal, self-regulating moral and social boundaries that prevent active engagement in misconduct.
- The findings showed that most teenagers follow accounts that highlight reckless or rule-breaking behaviors out of sheer curiosity or entertainment rather than a desire to replicate them. The most engaging formats attracting their attention are short-form videos (Reels) and visual stories that break down actions quickly. Furthermore, a high follower count and high engagement rates on a creator's profile tend to grant a form of "illusory legitimacy" to their lifestyle, causing a relative decline in the teenagers' active rejection of negative or disruptive content.
- The results indicated that the core ethical and social values within the Algerian teenage community still serve as a primary line of defense; transgressive behaviors are generally associated in their minds with harm and social rejection. Nonetheless, there is a noticeable tolerance among some teenagers toward certain digital infractions, viewing them merely as "digital skills" or adventurous behavior rather than actual misconduct. This reflects a slight shift or flexibility in the traditional values that govern behavioral standards online.
- The data revealed that the role of Instagram in completely restructuring core values or driving teenagers directly toward real-world delinquency remains limited and indirect. While the platform does not act as a primary catalyst for immediate criminal behavior, it significantly contributes to breaking the psychological barrier against deviance by making it appear
- normalized or commonplace. This indicates that the platform's effect is closer to gradual normalization and cognitive desensitization rather than direct behavioral driving. Finally, the majority of the sample expressed concern and dissatisfaction regarding the behavioral shifts observed in their immediate peer environments as a result of exposure to negative trends on the platform.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study sought to examine the role of Instagram in shaping teenagers' thoughts about criminal behavior by exploring the nature of the content they are exposed to and its potential influence on their attitudes and perceptions. The findings revealed that Instagram has become one of the most influential social media platforms among adolescents, playing a significant role in shaping their views, values, and behavioral orientations. The study also showed that repeated exposure to violent, deviant, or criminal-related content may contribute to altering teenagers' perceptions of such behaviors, particularly when these behaviors are presented in an attractive, normalized, or entertaining manner.

Furthermore, the findings highlighted that continuous interaction with digital content, as well as the influence of peers and online communities, can reinforce certain attitudes toward criminal behavior. Given that adolescence is a sensitive developmental stage, teenagers are often more vulnerable to the effects of media content and social influence, which may affect their understanding of acceptable social behavior.

Accordingly, promoting digital literacy and media awareness among teenagers has become increasingly important in today's digital environment. Strengthening the role of families, educational institutions, and media organizations in guiding and monitoring young people's online activities can help reduce the negative effects of harmful content and encourage responsible social media use.

Finally, this study represents an attempt to better understand the relationship between Instagram use and the formation of teenagers' perceptions of criminal behavior. It also opens the door for further research to explore this topic from different perspectives, examine other social media platforms, and investigate additional factors that may influence adolescent behavior in the digital age.

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السلام عليكم ورحمة الله تعالى وبركاته

استخدام مانستغرام وعلاقتها بالسلوك الإجراميلدى المراهقين

دراسة على عينة من المراهقين بولاية برج بوجو عريريج.

تقوم الباحثة بإعداد مذكرة تخرج جامعتها تهدف إلى الدراسة لمعرفة تأثير المواقع الاجتماعية على تصرفات المراهقين وتبينيهما لأفعالهن.
عن غنى عن طريقتنا هذه المحتويات الغير مراقبو في سبيل ذلك فإننا نتوقع منكم المساعدة الجادة في إنجاز هذه الدراسة وذلك بالاجابة بكل
موضوعية على كافة الأسئلة، نشكر لكم مقدما جهودكم وحسن تعاونكم .

ملاحظة - ليكن في علمكم ان هذه المعلومات تستخدم فقط لغرض العلم وليس لأغراض أخرى.

الطالبة: ناريما نمداس المشرف: د. ليرقط الحسين

تخصص : اتصال وعلاقات عامة

السنة الدراسية: 2026/2025

المحور الأول: الأسئلة الديموغرافية

أنثى () الجنس: ذكر ()

العمر: من 13 إلى 16

من 16 إلى 19 ☐

المستوى التعليمي:

☐ متوسط

☐ ثانوي

☐ لا ادرس

الحالة الأسرية:

☐ مع كلا الوالدين

☐ مع احد الوالدين

☐ مع الأقارب

المؤسسة:

☐ عمومية

☐ خاصة

المحور الثاني: دور إنستغرام في تشكيل السلوكيات الإجرامية.

أحيانا	لا	نعم	
			يعرض إنستغرام تصرفات مخالفة للقانون وكأنها شيء طبيعي
			متابعة بعض الحسابات تجعل العنف يبدو مقبول
			التفاعل مع هذا النوع من المحتوى يؤثر على نظرتي لصح والخطأ
			التفاعل الكبير (إعجاب وتعليقات) يجعل السلوك الخاطئ يبدو طبيعيا
			بعض المحتوى يجعلني أعتقد أن مخالفة القوانين ليست أمرا خطيرا

المحور الثالث: الخصائص الشخصية والتأثر بالمحتوى الإجرامي

أحيانا	لا	نعم	
			أحب تقليد السلوكيات التي أراها منتشرة بين أقراني على إنستغرام
			أبحث عن القبول الاجتماعي حتى لو تطلب ذلك تقليد تصرفات خاطئة
			أشعر بالفضول تجاه المحتوى الذي يعرض سلوكيات تخالف القانون على إنستغرام
			تسهم مرحلة المراهقة في زيادة التأثير بهذا النوع من المحتوى
			بطرق مختلفة Instagram يتفاعل المراهق مع المحتوى الإجرامي الذي يشاهده على حسب شخصيته، بيئته، وطبيعة المحتوى نفسه

			هناك عدة عوامل وخصائص شخصية يمكن أن تحمي المراهق من التأثر بالمحتوى الذي يروج لسلوكيات إجرامية
--	--	--	--

المحور الرابع: دور منصة إنستغرام في تبني السلوكيات الإجرامية والتقليل من خطورتها

لا أوافق بشدة	لا أوافق	محايد	أوافق	أوافق بشدة	
					طريقة تصوير المحتوى (الموسيقى، المزاح، الشهرة) تساهم في جعل الجرائم أكثر قبولا لدى المتابعين
					إنستغرام يساهم في التقليل من خطورة بعض الجرائم من خلال طريقة عرضها

أحيانا	لا	نعم	
			هل تعتقد أن مشاهدة المحتوى الإجرامي قد تشجع الآخرين على تقليد هذه السلوكيات؟
			هل سبق أن غير محتوى شاهدته على إنستغرام نظرتك لخطورة سلوك مخالف؟
			هل ترى أن إنستغرام يتعامل بصرامة كافية مع هذا النوع من المحتوى؟

المحور الخامس: تأثير الاستخدام المفرط لإنستغرام وإدراكهم لعواقب السلوكيات الغير قانونية

كم عدد الساعات التي تقضيها يوميا في استخدام إنستغرام؟

- ☐ من ساعة إلى ساعتان
- ☐ من 03 إلى 05 ساعات
- ☐ أكثر من 06 ساعات

أحيانا	لا	نعم	
			الاستخدام الغير مراقب لإنستغرام يؤثر على طريقة تبني المراهقين للمخاطر
			يركز المراهق على الشهرة والإعجاب أكثر من تفكيره في العقوبات القانونية
			هل تعتبر نفسك مستخدم مفرط لموقع إنستغرام