# Investigating the Relationship between Instagram and Telegram on the Security and Social Trust of the Fourth Generations
# (A case study of users aged 16 to 19 years old in District 12 of Tehran)

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## Abstract

Regarding the unique features of Instagram and Telegram and the novelty of this phenomenon, many members of society have not been able to accurately understand this space, and their lack of adequate familiarity has impacted the political, social, economic, cultural, and security spheres. Therefore, the present study, with a descriptive correlation method, aimed to examine the relationship between Instagram and Telegram usage and the security and social trust of fourth-generation users in District 12 of Tehran. The study population consisted of users aged 16 to 19 in District 12 of Tehran, with a sample size of 380 determined using the Cochran formula. Survey research was employed for data collection, and a researcher-designed questionnaire was used as the research tool. The results indicated that the level and duration of Instagram and Telegram usage significantly affect security and social trust. Specifically, a positive and significant correlation was observed between social and cultural content and security and social trust, while a negative and significant correlation was found between economic and security content and social trust. However, no significant relationship was found between political content on Instagram and Telegram and social trust and security. Ultimately, social media has significantly impacted the security and social trust of young users in Tehran.

**Keywords**: Instagram, Telegram, Security, Social Trust, Young Users in Tehran.

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## Introduction

In recent years, the internet has evolved from static websites to a new type called the "Conversational Internet." This new internet, known as Web 2.0, enables active participation and communication, with a focus on two-way communication. Its social nature has led it to be referred to as "Social Media;" however, some experts prefer to use "Social Networks" given the networked nature of these platforms. Nowadays, the term is primarily used to describe internet platforms that permit users to access other users' information, establish connections and share text, audio, and visual content, and form groups with similar interests (Rajabi, 2010 AD/1389 SH).

Instagram and Telegram are among the most popular social networks for several reasons, including their multimedia nature, cultural, media, and economic importance. Over the past decade, virtual social networks, especially image-based social networks like Instagram and Telegram, have expanded exponentially. However, several of their impacts on the attitudes and behaviors of users remain uncertain. Numerous experts and commentators have raised concerns about their potential impact on future generations, ranging from reduced self-confidence and happiness to increased rates of suicide attributed to Instagram and Telegram usage. In response, many studies have been conducted to comprehend their influence.

Telegram is one of the most influential social networks that have created significant changes in developing countries like Iran's social system. Today, Telegram has a special place among people, especially young adults, with the tendency to use it rapidly increasing. It has become an inseparable part of their lives as they look for new friends to exchange opinions and views in this space (Darabi and Kalashloo, 2016 AD/1395 SH: 79). Similarly, Instagram, a popular new social network that began in 2010, has gained immense popularity among young people in Iran, particularly after the filtering of Telegram. The results from a field study published by the Iranian Center for Public Opinion Research (ISPA) demonstrate that 54% of young adults aged 18 to 29 in Iran are active on Instagram.

The prevalence of social media among people in society emphasizes the importance of these platforms in public opinion management. Social media's ability to expand in various dimensions enables it to have an impact on economic, political, cultural, and social aspects. For example, Instagram and Telegram have markets where users can earn money. They can also be used for political purposes by policy makers and influential leaders on international and national governance platforms to sway public

opinion through various tactics. Additionally, these platforms can expand and promote cultural elements and power components of nations and governments beyond national and geographical boundaries to increase political power and governance over nations through tactics like propaganda and dissemination. Studies on Instagram and Telegram's impact on various psychological and physical aspects of individuals indicate that these platforms have both positive and negative effects on aspects such as self-confidence, self-efficacy, and autonomy.

Instagram and Telegram's impact on social security and social trust is one of the most influential fields, with wide-ranging effects on society. The emergence and penetration of communication technologies, including social media, such as Instagram and Telegram, have significantly increased over the past decade, becoming independent variables used to describe political and social changes. On the one hand, these platforms are useful tools for fostering identity harmony, strengthening national identity, promoting Iranian-Islamic culture and values, reinforcing social power structures, increasing social capital factors, convincing and accepting beliefs and values, facilitating social acceptance, transferring cultural heritage, and strengthening social cohesion. However, due to insufficient hardware and software infrastructure and inconsistent and non-targeted policies, these platforms have led to disordered identity, identity crises, changes in users' thoughts and beliefs, delegitimization of beliefs and values, promoting new models that conflict with established values and norms, changes in people's clothing and dietary habits, the destruction of institutionalized social relationships, changing lifestyles, destroying social trust, weakening the national language, and damaging social unity and coherence. Consequently, they have become one of the important tools that threaten the social security of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially among the fourth generation, which became visible during the 1401 protests (Nadri and Bakhshayesh, 2018 AD/1397 SH: 125).

Based on these interpretations, the primary objective of the present study is to investigate the impact of Instagram and Telegram on the social security and social trust of the fourth generation. Specifically, we aim to examine the relationship between the usage of Instagram and Telegram and social security and social trust among users aged 16 to 19 in District 12 of Tehran. To achieve this objective, this study seeks to investigate and study the relationship between political, social, economic, security, and cultural content on Instagram and Telegram, and social security and social trust among users. Ultimately, the main hypothesis of this study is that there is a significant relationship between Instagram and Telegram usage

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and social security and social trust among users aged 16 to 19 in District 12 of Tehran.

## 1.The Necessity and Importance of Research

Upon consideration of the previous sections, it becomes apparent that public engagement through contemporary media platforms like Instagram and Telegram has remarkable penetration and scope. Regarding their economic and societal characteristics, a growing trend and dependency on these platforms exist within society. Thus, studying such multifaceted media is essential and imperative. This issue is well-known, and virtually all opinion leaders in the information technology and modern media fields believe that media evolution processes and changes are an inevitable future that governments and authorities cannot escape. Therefore, scientific research and analysis utilizing data and scientific methods to provide decision-makers and society's determinants with insights into the various dimensions of this media are necessary and vital. The present study examines the components of social trust and security in the fourth generation community from a more social perspective. The urgency and importance of this topic are emphasized considering the author's concern about the poverty of content. Social networks can have both positive and negative effects on social security and trust. This impact was observable and evident in the confessions of some individuals arrested during the 1401 riots in Iran, mostly members of the fourth generation. Therefore, the lack of accurate and deep understanding of the effects and consequences of social networks like Instagram and Telegram on individuals, especially the youth in Iranian society, may cause irreparable harm.

## 2. Research Background

Studies and research conducted on the subject of the present research can be classified into two categories. Here, some of the most important studies in each research category are mentioned:

### 2.1. Studies based on the Telegram and Instagram Issue

The research question in Moghimi and Mohammadi's study, titled "Critical Analysis of Social Media: A Case Study of the Functions of Telegram and Instagram Based on the Theories of the Frankfurt School," (2021 AD/1400 SH) is whether communication processes in social media, specifically Telegram and Instagram, can be explained based on the Frankfurt School theory. The research findings indicate that the media space in social media is explicable based on the literature of the Frankfurt

School due to the predominance of issues that prioritize entertainment and commerce, as well as the depoliticization of social issues.

The results of Pouryousefi Gabieh et al.'s research on "The Impact of Telegram and Instagram on University Students' Political Awareness" (2022 AD/1401 SH) indicate that the five dimensions of interactivity, structural characteristics, practical features, audience size, and policymaking in the field of management have an effective impact on cultural exchange resulting from the penetration of social media. However, no significant difference in political awareness has been reported between Telegram and Instagram. The popularity of Telegram and Instagram in Iran is undeniable, and there is no competition with local applications. The prevalence of these two tools, combined with their accessibility and functionality, plays a significant role in the political awareness of individuals, especially among the educated segment, who are skilled in using these tools.

The findings from Abdollahian and Zahraei's study titled "Investigating the Level of Social Capital of Iranian Instagram Users" (2018 AD/1397 SH) indicate that there was no significant difference between the mean social capital of Instagram users and non-users. This suggests that virtual social capital is not significantly higher among Instagram users than non-users. Additionally, the connecting and collaborative aspect of virtual social capital did not significantly differ between Instagram and the real world. However, the level of trust in the real environment was higher than on Instagram. This decrease in trust on Instagram is likely due to the lack of physical proximity in this virtual environment.

Tavani and his colleagues, in their research "Sociological Analysis of Identity and Users in Telegram and Instagram (Case Study: Third Grade High School Students in Shiraz)," (2022 AD/1401 SH) aimed to describe and interpret the actions and behaviors of participants (third-grade high school students in Shiraz) in the phenomenon of identity and security of users in Telegram and Instagram. Their goal was to discover and describe the lived experience of entering social networks. The study findings extracted concepts such as self-reflection and critical thinking, interactions and communications in Telegram and Instagram, the experience of displacement of time and place, anxiety and trust experiences, experiences of freedom, individual independence, and empowerment, idealistic hegemony, communication transformation, control orientation, and insecurity.

In their (2018 AD/1397 SH) study titled "The Impact of Mobile-based Social Network Telegram in Security Crises of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Habibzadeh and Amiri suggest that the presence of actors and

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prominent figures on social networks with the intention of disseminating information about failures, deficiencies, and inequalities existing in the social system can influence public opinion and lead to the formation of security crises in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Meanwhile, unauthorized political groups and influential virtual groups on the mobile-based social network Telegram aim to weaken the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and instill dissident views within the country, resulting in conflicts, divisions, unrest, and security crises.

## 2.2. Studies based on the Topic of the "Influence of Social Networks on Security and Social Trust"

The findings of the article "The Relationship Between Social Networks and Institutional Trust (Case Study: Students of Shiraz University)" by Sardarnia and colleagues (2021 AD/1400 SH) indicate that 38% of the dependent variable, institutional trust, can be explained by trust in social networks (independent variable) and factors or sources of social trust such as family, national identity, and religious identity, considered as mediating or control variables through structural equations. Trust in social networks accounted for a significant decrease in social trust, particularly national identity in a 26% decline. This decrease in social trust primarily led to a decrease in institutional trust, especially in government institutions. National identity had the most negative impact of 23% among the components of sources of social trust. Among the components of institutional trust, trust in government institutions had the highest indirect negative effect on social networks, accounting for 14%.

Etemadifard et al., in their research on "The Crisis of Social Trust in the Fluidity of Social Networks: Investigating Social Trust through Twitter Reactions to the JCPOA," (2021 AD/1400 SH) suggest that negative news about the JCPOA results in an increase in users' distrust. Additionally, there is a correlation between the resulting distrust from the lack of confidence in the future and the fluctuations in the prices of capital market goods such as currency and coins. In other words, distrust and social instability exacerbate tensions in the capital market, such as coin and currency markets, and lead to an increased demand to hold capital, which, in turn, increases the price of capital goods.

In the article titled "Investigating the Political-Security Role of Virtual Social Networks in Iran's National Security" by Nadri et al., (2019 AD/1398 SH), the findings indicate that virtual social networks are like a double-edged sword that can create both positive and negative actions in the political-security environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Regarding the neglect and policymaking, the virtual space in the Islamic Republic of Iran has become vulnerable in some areas of national security. These networks operate towards undermining and causing inefficiencies

within the Islamic Republic of Iran system, normalizing opposition forces, removing the structural legitimacy of the political system, weakening national cohesion, creating a gap between society and government, and creating grounds for conflict with the political system. Furthermore, they operate in the security field with the function of surveillance and espionage on users' information, preparing communication tools for overthrow groups, collecting information about individuals and targeted professions, destructive training on social networks, and classifying information transfer to disturb national security.

Zargar, in his study titled "Investigating the Social and Security Consequences of Instagram Consumption (Case Study: Women in Semnan Province)," (2021 AD/1400 SH) showed that there is a significant relationship between the level of Instagram usage and the management of the body, hijab (lack of hijab), political passivity, consumption-oriented fashion, and religiosity of individuals. In addition, the results of the study revealed that there was no significant relationship between the level of Instagram usage and the sense of social security of individuals.

The research paper titled "The Role of Social Network Development in Social and Political Protests and Unrest" by Taghavi Nezhad and Ghanimati (2023 AD/1402 SH) indicates that the impact of social networks on the overall behavior of society exceeds 90.8%. Moreover, social networks have a 41.2% impact on conflicts, unrest, and riots, with Instagram having the highest impact among other social networks on protests and unrest at over 63.6%. According to the study, 83.3% of the audience believes that social networks hold opposing views to the government, and only 95.5% trust in official and government media. As a result, social networks have significantly influenced protests and unrest. Additionally, Instagram has directed its user base towards political and governance system changes through long-term unrest and disputes in Iran by sharing images and address referrals that target policymakers. The study emphasizes that Instagram has been guided towards a particular direction for this purpose, with 70% emphasis placed on guiding this social network towards political and governance system changes.

The findings from the research by Hosseinpour and Mesrkhani titled "The Role of Virtual Social Networks in the Public Security of their Users" (2018 AD/1397 SH) suggest that virtual social networks have negative effects on public security due to their negative behavioral impacts, the spread of meaningless writings, virtual campaigns, undermining the foundation of family, promoting harmful economic activities, violating privacy, promoting anticlerical propaganda, spreading false news, and providing false information. Consequently, as virtual social networks develop without regulation in society, norm-breaking

behaviors among their users also increase, leading to a reduction in public security.

Based on previous studies and research, the present study has several distinct aspects regarding its effects: firstly, it examines the simultaneous impact of Instagram and Telegram on social security and social trust; secondly, it focuses on the fourth generation, taking into account the impact of Instagram and Telegram on adolescents and young adults. In fact, this study was conducted to fill the scientific gaps and complete the scientific coverage in this field.

## 3. Research Method and Type
### 3.1. Statistical Society
The statistical society of this study includes 16 to 19-year-old Tehranian users in District 12, estimated to be around 30,000 individuals based on available statistics from the education department and considering the age and school year of individuals. Among them, 15,900 are male and 14,100 are female. It should be noted that some of the statistics include individuals who have entered university, which are included in the education department statistics.

### 3.2. Sample Size and Sampling Method
This study used Cochran's formula to determine the sample size, which is a commonly used method to calculate the sample size in statistical research. With a population size of 30,000, a sample size of 380 individuals was selected. Cochran's formula requires knowledge of the population size to determine the sample size.

$$n = \frac{\dfrac{z^2 pq}{d^2}}{1 + \dfrac{1}{N}\left(\dfrac{z^2 pq}{d^2} - 1\right)}$$

The sample size for this study is 380 individuals with a 5% error margin. The sampling method used in this study is stratified sampling, and its characteristics include:

- Users who live in Tehran.
- Currently studying or have graduated from undergraduate, diploma and associate degrees.

### 3.3. Method of Collecting Data
In order to collect data in this research, two library and field methods have been used:

Library method: To gain a better understanding and insight into the research topic and utilize the findings of previous studies in this field, the researcher has examined and studied academic theses, published books both domestically and internationally, scientific research papers, and textbooks of some professors.

Survey method: The survey method was used in this study to collect field data through questionnaires.

### 3.4. Data Gathering Tool

The research in this study utilized a researcher-made questionnaire due to the nature of the topic and research method.

### 3.5. The Validity of the Measurement Tool

In designing the questionnaire, the available scientific resources and works related to the research topic were reviewed and examined, and a 33-item questionnaire in a Likert scale format was designed. Then, the questionnaire was consulted with the respected supervisor and counselor regarding the questions, and the consistency of the content of the questionnaire with the research questions and required data, in other words, the validity of the questionnaire was confirmed.

### 3.6. Reliability

The concept of reliability refers to the extent to which a measurement tool produces consistent results under the same conditions. The reliability of measurement tools can vary from one situation to another and from one group to another. In this study, the pre-test method was utilized to determine the reliability of the research. For the pre-test, 30 individuals from the sample size answered the questions. The reliability analysis of the items was conducted based on internal consistency using the "Cronbach's Alpha Reliability" analysis. The results of this test are presented in the table below.

Table 1. Reliability of the research instrument

| Questionnaire | Abundance | Alpha level |
|---|---|---|
| Social Security | 30 | 0/881 |
| Social Trust | 30 | 0/934 |

The results of this table indicate that a Cronbach's alpha level of over 80% has been achieved, demonstrating that the designed questionnaire items are suitable for measuring research variables.

### 3.7. Data Analysis Methods

SPSS statistical software was used for data analysis in this study, in accordance with the predetermined objectives. The research results have been presented in both descriptive and inferential sections. In addition to descriptive methods (mean and standard deviation, frequency distribution tables, and circular and columnar graphs), the Pearson correlation coefficient statistical test was used for inferential analysis.

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## 4. Conceptual and Theoretical Bases of Research

In the present study, "Social Security/Social Trust" can be identified as the dependent variable while "Instagram and Telegram" can be considered as the independent variable. As a result, related concepts and theories regarding the dependent and independent variables of the research will be explored in the subsequent discussions.

### 4.1. Security Concept

The word "Security" originates from the Latin root "Securus," which means "Free from worry and concern." Consequently, the concept of security comprises ideas such as protection from danger, hazards, harm, anxiety, fear, unrest, as well as peace, assurance, comfort, trust, guarantee, and confidence (Sarokhani, 2006 AD/1385 SH; Mandel, 1998 AD/1377 SH: 44). The lexicon's roots for security are "Amn" and "Aman," signifying the ideas of poise, serenity, and safety in the face of fear and anxiety (Ebrahimi Kiapey, 2000 AD/1379 SH: 234).

In terms of defining safety terminology, while there is no unanimity among experts, the author presents two negative and positive definitions (matching the present negative approaches) in the analytical discourse model of security. Firstly, security in the negative discourse can be construed as a state of affairs in which there is no threat to the interests of the actor or if a potential threat exists, an effective management plan is in place (including prevention and the transformation of it into an opportunity for the actor).

Secondly, security in the positive discourse can be defined as a situation in which there is a balance between desires and realities within a political unit, proportionate to its ideological coefficient, that satisfies the actors involved (Eftekhari, 2015 AD/1394 SH: 9).

### 4.2. Types of Security

It is impossible to achieve total security in today's world regarding the fact that power, which is the foundation of security, is subject to variability and differs depending on the context, rendering security relative for governments as well. Hence, even the mightiest governments are not impervious to absolute security because of the fluctuation of power dynamics, as well as the existence of potential and actual threats (Taghavi, 2006 AD/1385 SH: 96). The primary and most essential concern of all living organisms, particularly humans, following the fulfillment of basic requirements such as food and water, is security. In its lexical definition, security denotes being shielded from any form of menace and hostility. Security is not limited to physical safety but also encompasses various dimensions, such as personal, physical, financial, social, and national security (Abdollahkhani, 2010 AD/1389 SH: 6).

Consequently, "Security" comprises various types and categories, such as personal security, social security, and national security (Pourtahmasbi, 2008 AD/1387 SH: 93):

- Personal security: It refers to physical, financial, and intellectual security, and the promotion and protection of human rights are considered indicators of personal security (Broomand, 2008 AD/1387 SH: 93);

- Social security: It means freedom from anxiety and pursuit of safety within a social group, such as family or a national or religious community, etc;

- National security: It is the ability of a nation to protect itself and its internal values against external threats (Dadgaran, 2003 AD/1382 SH: 93).

### 4.3. Social Security

Societies are communities of humans comprising individuals with shared traits, such as ethnic or gender affiliations via ascriptive criteria, or through acquired criteria, like profession and social interests. Historically, social security could be achieved within a community by sustaining conventional practices of language, culture, religion, and diverse social norms to ensure the safety and well-being of individuals. Therefore, the family, religion, traditions, and beliefs played a crucial role in supporting individuals regarding psychological and social security. However, significant changes in families and other institutions have posed a challenge to social security, with individuals exposed to new social norms, values, and identities. As "Group Identity" serves as the basis for interpersonal communication, relationships, and mutual interactions among individuals in Iranian society, strengthening and promoting it establishes the foundation for maintaining, reinforcing, and nourishing the society. Nevertheless, negative growth or deviation in its constructive factors can create significant communication problems, leading to advanced forms of insecurity that challenge social security. The collective identity of a community is at risk, rendering social security vulnerable to threats. Social security is an extension of national security that is tangible and practical, concerning the daily lives of a community's residents. Theoretical irregularities, murder, burglary, drug trafficking, moral corruption, ethnic conflicts, and identity crises are among the issues that arise in discussions of social security (Eftekhari and Panahi, 2019 AD/1398 SH: 59-60).

The concept of social security, like other concepts within social sciences, encompasses a broad scope, and is not restricted to a specific interaction. Despite the frequent use of the term "Social Security" today, a comprehensive and distinct definition has yet to be established. From a systemic viewpoint, social security is believed to be the outcome of the

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interaction between social, cultural, and economic structures, and ultimately, a natural product of these interactions. Alternately, social security is a concept that is closely intertwined with other concepts, such as social order, social cohesion, and social balance, to the extent that some consider social security to be the equivalent of social order fused with social cohesion. Within the framework of social groups and their interactions, social security is aimed at establishing security. Some consider social security to be the ability of a society to preserve its essential features in the face of real or perceived threats and changes (Mousavi, Ahangaran, and Eftekhari, 2018 AD/1397 SH: 66). The authors emphasize the "Copenhagen School" definitions in defining social security, wherein social security is grounded in common characteristics, known as "Identity." Fundamentally, social security can be defined as the absence of fear, danger, and anxiety in preserving and maintaining the common traits of a social group, such as religion, national identity, language, customs, and lifestyle (Navidnia, 2003 AD/1382 SH: 67).

**4.4. Social Trust**

Social trust is a firm belief in an individual's credibility, honesty, and capacity to engage in everyday interactions and activities within social groups. In group interactions, people anticipate dependability and rely on assertions or opinions (Bahramian, 2013 AD/1392 SH: 15). Trust is a fundamental core or essence of social capital, with its exterior components forming social networks or voluntary social institutions, participation, and cooperation, creating secure networks within and between institutions (Sardar Nia et al., 2021 AD/1400 SH: 103).

In certain cultures, trust is linked with delegating tasks and entrusting something to someone. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, trust can indicate having confidence in someone or having faith in the truth of a statement. Zimmel considers trust to be one of the most essential prerequisites of exchange since it facilitates the exchange of goods/services and protects against hidden interests. In Zimmel's view, general trust among individuals is crucial for maintaining a community since many human relationships is founded on ambiguity. He also believes that trust is maintained through personal trustworthiness more than purely rational components and personal considerations. Fukuyama views trust as an expectation in which members of a community adhere to common norms and cooperate with each other in a responsible and collaborative manner. For Fukuyama, personal trust forms the foundation of social order, and he asserts, "Communities are built on two-way trust and cannot exist without it." Giddens also associates trust with modern risks and asserts that trust is required when we lack complete knowledge

of social phenomena due to increasing temporal and spatial distances (Zahirinia et al., 2016 AD/1395 SH: 90).

Theoretical foundations of trust can be categorized into three general approaches:

• The micro-level perspective posits that trust is a personal attribute or trait, and thus, linked to individual traits and conduct. Consequently, trust can be evaluated based on these qualities.

• However, the macro-level perspective posits that social trust is not a personal attribute but a feature of the social system. According to this viewpoint, trust is only a fragment of an individual's character, and trust in others relies more on their assessment of the reliability of their surrounding environment instead of their personality and tendencies. Therefore, "Individuals residing in a society characterized by a high degree of stability in its social system and compliance with norms and social regulations are more likely to possess high social trust."

• Ultimately, the third approach, which amalgamates both micro and macro-level perspectives, endeavors to analyze the multifaceted dimensions of trust and provide a more comprehensive explanation by considering micro and macro-level factors in conjunction (Mohseni Tabrizi et al., 2011 AD/1390 SH: 45-46).

## 4.5. Social Networks

Social networks are a collection of websites and applications that enable a wide range of social interactions with friends and family. Online social networks are a new generation of Internet websites. These networks have been defined as software for mobile devices and other communication tools, and they are accessible. In these networks, users gather around a common virtual axis and form groups. In essence, a social network is a network composed of individuals, groups, and relationships between them (Asadi, 2010 AD/1389 SH).

## 4.6. Instagram and Telegram

Instagram is a social networking platform that enables users to share their photos and videos, allowing them to broadcast their media across other social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, etc. The platform was initially established as an HTML5-based multi-purpose project that was focused on mobile photography by Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger. The name Instagram is a portmanteau of two words that means instant messaging through photos and camera. Telegram is a cloud-based, multi-platform, and open-source instant messaging service. Telegram is officially accessible on Android, Windows Phone, and IOS (including tablets and devices without Wi-Fi). Independent developers use the Telegram API to offer unofficial client software for the web version,

Telegram DE, the Linux version, and a Microsoft Windows desktop client (Ashoori, 2000 AD/1379 SH: 25).

### 4.7. The Theory of Socialized Security

Multiple interpretations have been offered regarding the concept of social security, initially introduced by the Copenhagen School authors, particularly Barry Buzan and Ole Waever, in reference to the safety and security concerns that are widely debated among Iranian scholars and commonly referred to as "Social Security." In contrast to these definitions, some perspectives emphasize the social aspect of security and define social security accordingly. From this standpoint, the nature of security is questioned, and the strategic issue of identity takes precedence in the Center for Social Security Studies, while concepts such as power and interests are marginalized (Eftekhari, 2015 AD/1394 SH: 10).

Three main approaches categorize various theories of social security based on the understanding of the relationship between security and society.

**Political approach:** In this approach, the relationship between political and social power is the main focus of the discussion. If political power is capable of managing social power in a way that social order and stability can be achieved through the exercise of political power, then it is called social security. Realist thinkers usually tend to prefer this socially accepted view, in which the centrality of the state and the acceptance of power are the main concerns.

**Social approach:** If social power has a superior position in relation to political power, to the point where social effects become one dimension of security, then we will face a fresh interpretation of "Socialized Security" in which social dimension of security is the main issue. Scholars like Robert Mandel belong to this category of thought. The prominent figure in this approach is Barry Buzan, who initially proposed the concept of identity as the cornerstone of social security in general and culture as its central topic in "People, States, and Fear," and then expanded and clarified it in "A New Framework for Analysis." According to this theory, socialized security is related to the security of identity and sub-identities in each political unit, which is a social concept that goes beyond classical hardware-oriented security studies.

**Normative approach:** It regards social power superior to political power and finds its arguments valid. However, the ideational security approach deems analyzing social power as a single dimension of security matters as inadequate; thus, social identity is deemed a security provider rather than a security element. Two narratives can be differentiated within this approach, namely weak social theory and strong social theory. The first

narrative acknowledges the autonomy of security and social identity, hence pursuing the impact and intervention of social identity on security as "Socialized Security." The second narrative does not evaluate security as separate from social identity but considers social identity as formed and generated. Therefore, "Socialized Security" establishes a new discourse in security studies, with security shaped according to identity, assuming no inherent independence in this narrative. Although both approaches have supporters in Iran, the strong social theory, due to its alignment with Islamic roots, is deemed more effective in comprehending and managing "Socialized Security" in Iran. For this theory, socialized security defines, analyzes, and manages security based on trust in social identity's soundness and effectiveness within the framework of each society's values and norms (Eftekhari, 2015 AD/1394 SH: 13-14).
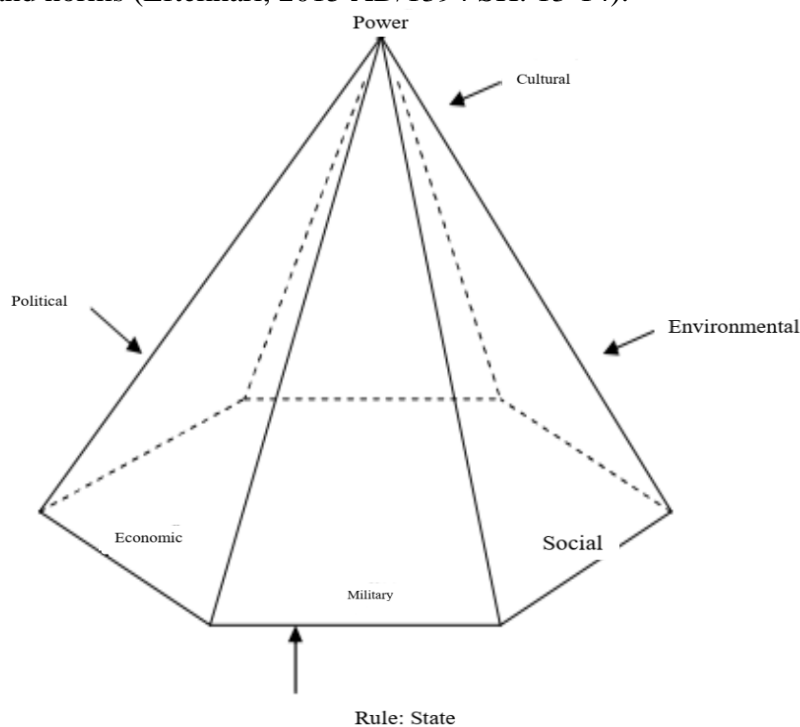


Figure 1. Socialized security as a dimension of different dimensions of security (Eftekhari, 2013 AD/1392 SH: 37).

## 5. Data and Analysis of Research Findings

In this section, the results of data analysis and various variables are presented, including tables and distribution charts of respondents based on gender, marital status, age, education, educational level, and the extent of their use of Instagram and Telegram in detail.

### 5.1. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

A) Gender

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Table 2. Frequency distribution of respondents on the variable by gender

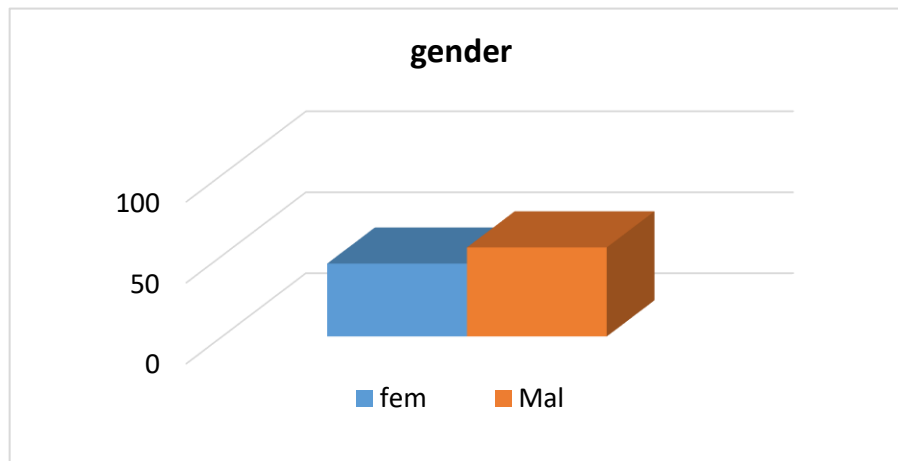| Gender | Abundance | Percent | Valid percentage | Density percentage |
|--------|-----------|---------|------------------|--------------------|
| Lady | 168 | 2.44 | 7.44 | 7.44 |
| Sir | 208 | 7.54 | 3.55 | 100 |
| No Response | 4 | 1.1 | 4 | |
| Total | 380 | 100 | 100 | |



Diagram 1. Column chart of the percentage distribution of respondents by gender.

The descriptive findings in Table 2 of the study show that out of 376 respondents, 208 people, equivalent to 7.54%, are male, and 168 people, equivalent to 2.44%, are female. Four people, equivalent to 1.1%, did not answer this question.

**B) Age**

Table 3. Frequency distribution of respondents according to age variable

| Age | Abundance | Percent | Valid percentage | Density percentage |
|-----|-----------|---------|------------------|--------------------|
| 16-17 | 232 | 5.61 | 5.61 | 9.98 |
| 17-18 | 73 | 5.20 | 5.20 | 5.53 |
| 18-19 | 67 | 9.15 | 9.15 | 5.50 |
| Over 19 | 8 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 100 |
| Total | 380 | 100 | | |

**Age of the Respondents**

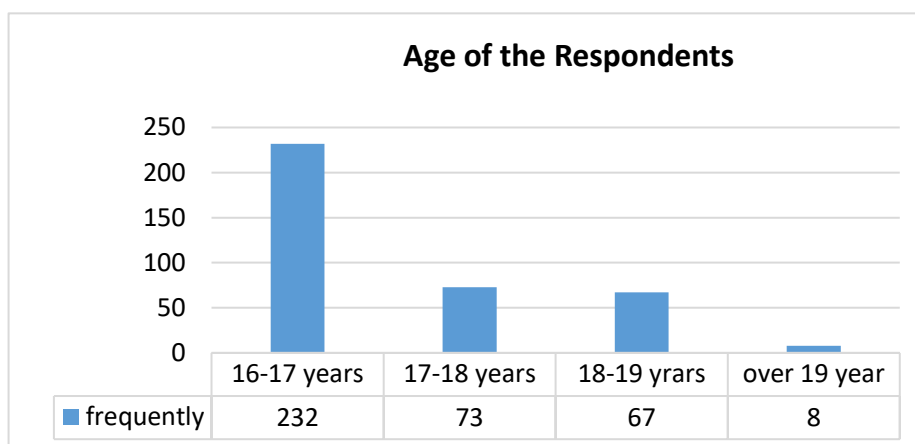| | 16-17 years | 17-18 years | 18-19 yrars | over 19 year |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ frequently | 232 | 73 | 67 | 8 |

Diagram 2. Column chart of frequency distribution of respondents by age.

The descriptive findings in Table 3 of the study show that out of 380 respondents, 232 people, equivalent to 5.61%, were aged (16-17), 73 people, equivalent to 5.2%, were aged (17-18), 67 people, equivalent to 9.15%, were aged (18-19), and 8 people, equivalent to 1.2%, were aged (above 19 years).

**C) Education**

Table 4. Frequency Distribution of Respondents According to Education Variable

| Education | Abundance | Percent | Valid percentage | Density percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under diploma | 198 | 1.52 | 1.52 | 8.76 |
| Diploma | 148 | 1.39 | 1.39 | 2.21 |
| Associate degree | 21 | 38.5 | 38.5 | 2 |
| Masters | 13 | 42.3 | 42.3 | 100 |
| Total | 380 | 100 | 100 | |

**Education**

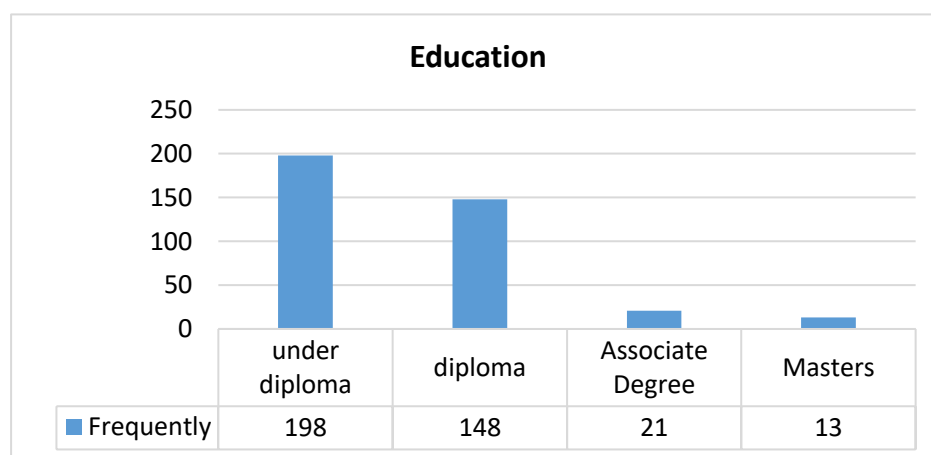| | under diploma | diploma | Associate Degree | Masters |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ Frequently | 198 | 148 | 21 | 13 |

Diagram 3. Column chart of frequency distribution of respondents by education level.

The descriptive findings in Table 4 of the study show that out of 380 respondents, 198 people, equivalent to 52%, had education under

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diploma, 148 people, equivalent to 1.39%, had a diploma, 21 people, equivalent to 38.5%, had an associate degree, and 13 people, equivalent to 42.3%, had a bachelor's degree.

**5.2. The Amount of Using  Instagram and Telegram**
**A)  According to the Variable of Daily Usage**

Table 5. Frequency distribution of respondents according to the variable of daily use of Instagram and Telegram

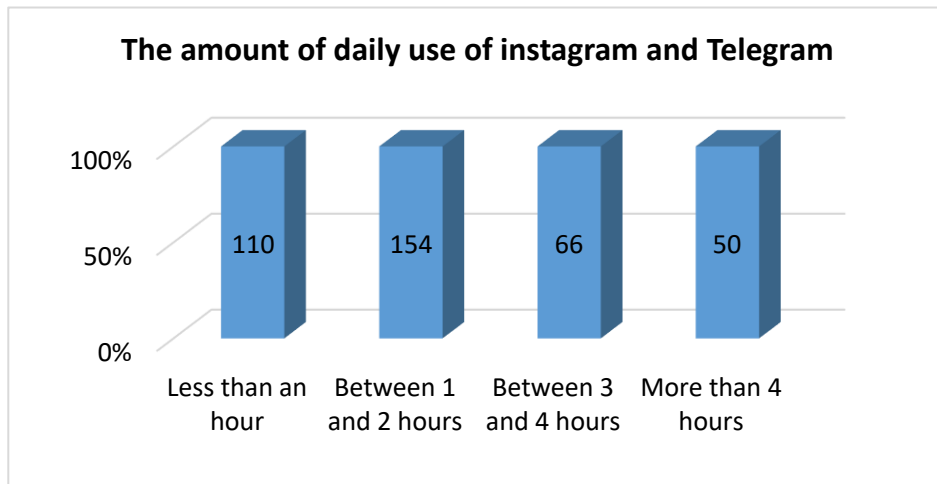| Amount of daily use | Abundance | Percent | Valid percentage | Density percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Less than an hour | 110 | 9.28 | 9.28 | 9.28 |
| Between 1 and 2 hours | 154 | 5.40 | 5.40 | 5.69 |
| 3 to 4 hours | 66 | 4.17 | 4.17 | 8.86 |
| More than 4 hours | 50 | 2.13 | 2.13 | 0.100 |
| Total | 380 | 0.100 | | |



Diagram 4. Column chart of frequency distribution of respondents by daily use time of Instagram and Telegram

The descriptive findings in Table 5 of the study show that out of 380 respondents, 110 people, equivalent to 9.28%, use Instagram and Telegram for less than an hour a day, 154 people, equivalent to 5.40%, use them for 1-2 hours, 66 people, equivalent to 4.17%, use them for 3-4 hours, and 50 people, equivalent to 2.13%, use Instagram and Telegram for more than 4 hours a day.

**B) According to the Variable of History of Using Instagram and Telegram**

Table 6. Frequency distribution of respondents according to the variable of annual use of Instagram and Telegram

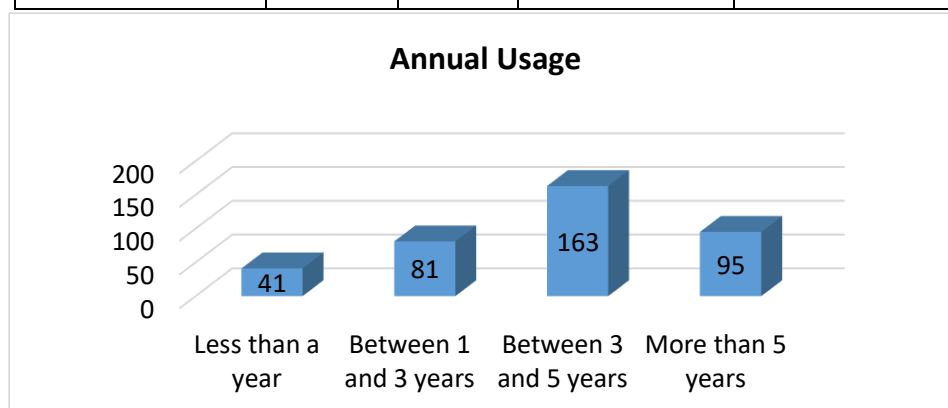| Annual usage rate | Abundance | Percent | Valid percentage | Density percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Less than one year | 41 | 8.10 | 8.10 | 8.10 |
| Between one and three years | 81 | 3.21 | 3.21 | 1.32 |
| Three to five years | 163 | 9.42 | 9.42 | 0.75 |
| More than five years | 95 | 25 | 25 | 100 |
| Total | 380 | 100 | | |



Diagram 5. Distribution chart of respondents based on their experience of using Instagram and Telegram

The descriptive findings in Table 6 of the study show that out of 380 respondents, 41 people, equivalent to 8.10%, have used Instagram and Telegram for less than a year, 81 people, equivalent to 3.21%, have used them for 1-3 years, 163 people, equivalent to 9.42%, have used them for 3-5 years, and 95 people, equivalent to 25%, have used Instagram and Telegram for more than 5 years.

**5.3. Membership in Instagram and Telegram Social Networks**

Table 7. Frequency distribution of respondents according to the variable of membership in social networks

| Membership in social networks | Abundance | Percent | Valid percentage | Density percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foreign social network | 207 | 8.53 | 8.53 | 8.53 |
| Internal social network | 82 | 2.21 | 2.21 | 2.32 |
| Internal and external network | 17 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.95 |
| I am not a member of the social network | 74 | 5.19 | 5.19 | 100 |
| Total | 380 | 100 | | |

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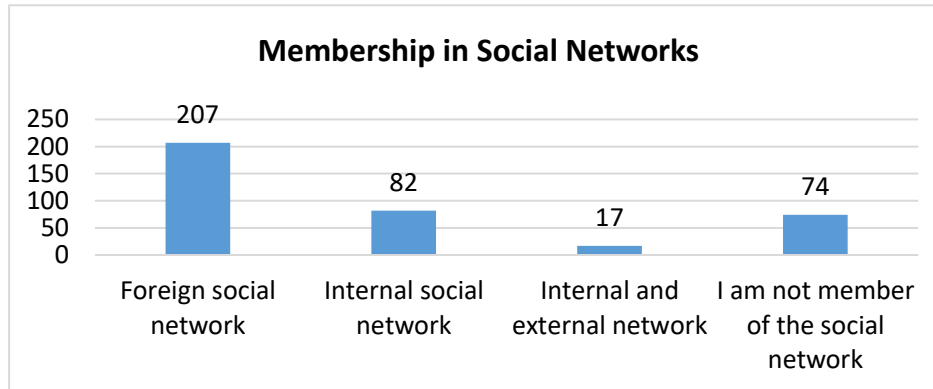


Diagram 6. Column chart of frequency distribution of respondents based on membership in social networks

The descriptive findings in Table 7 of the study show that out of 380 respondents, 207 people, equivalent to 8.53%, are members of foreign social networks, 82 people, equivalent to 2.21%, are members of domestic social networks, 17 people, equivalent to 5.5%, are members of both domestic and foreign social networks, and 74 people, equivalent to 5.19%, are not members of any social network.

## 5.4. Place of Using Instagram and Telegram

Table 8. Frequency distribution of respondents according to the variable of place of use of Instagram and Telegram

| The variable of the place of using Instagram and Telegram | Abundance | Percent | Valid percentage | Density percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Home | 188 | 87.50 | 2.58 | 2.58 |
| Internet cafe | 38 | 11 | 98.10 | 3.55 |
| Work place | 16 | 21.5 | 20.5 | 6.81 |
| Home and work place | 45 | 84.13 | 74.13 | 8.67 |
| University | 13 | 82.4 | 72.4 | 2.44 |
| Student dormitory | 25 | 66.7 | 67.7 | 9.76 |
| other | 51 | 5.5 | 6.5 | 7.96 |
| No response | 4 | 1.1 | | |
| Total | 380 | 100 | | |

**Location to Use Instagram and Telegram**
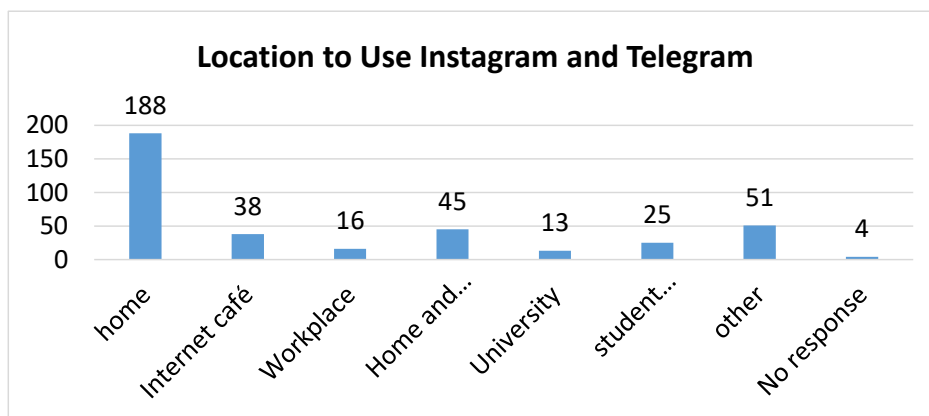
Diagram 7. Column chart of frequency distribution of respondents based on the location of using Instagram and Telegram

The descriptive findings in Table 8 of the study show that out of 376 respondents, 188 people, equivalent to 87.50%, use Instagram and Telegram at home, 38 people, equivalent to 11%, use them at internet cafes, 16 people, equivalent to 21.5%, use them at work, 45 people, equivalent to 84.13%, use them at both home and work, 13 people, equivalent to 82.4%, use them at university, 25 people, equivalent to 66.7%, use them in dormitories, and 51 people, equivalent to 5.5%, use Instagram and Telegram in other places.

**5.5. Frequent Topics on Instagram and Telegram**

Table 9. The frequency of respondents according to the variable of follow-up topics on Instagram and Telegram

| Frequent topics on Instagram and Telegram | Abundance | Percent | Valid percentage | Density percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scientific | 57 | 15 | 2.15 | 1.52 |
| Social-cultural | 68 | 9.17 | 1.18 | 0.37 |
| Economic | 38 | 10 | 1.10 | 9.18 |
| Political | 33 | 7.8 | 8.8 | 8.8 |
| All cases | 143 | 6.37 | 0.38 | 9.97 |
| Political and cultural and scientific | 4 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 9.98 |
| Political and cultural and social | 4 | 1.1 | 4 | 1.1 |
| Other | 29 | 6.7 | 7.7 | 8.59 |
| Total | 380 | 0.100 | | |

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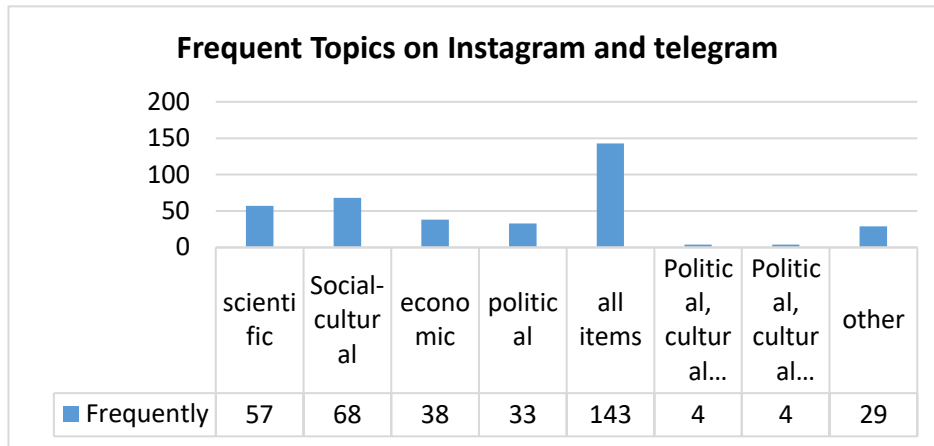


Diagram 8. Column chart of frequency distribution of respondents based on pursued topics on Instagram and Telegram

The descriptive findings in Table 9 of the study show that out of 380 respondents, 57 people, equivalent to 15%, pursue scientific topics, 68 people, equivalent to 9.17%, pursue social and cultural topics, 38 people, equivalent to 10%, pursue economic topics, 33 people, equivalent to 7.8%, pursue political topics, 143 people, equivalent to 6.37%, pursue all topics, 4 people, equivalent to 1.1%, pursue political, cultural, and scientific topics, 4 people, equivalent to 1.1%, pursue political, cultural, and social topics, and 29 people, equivalent to 6.7%, pursue Instagram and Telegram for other topics.

## 5.6. Visited Pages on Instagram and Telegram

Table 10. Frequency distribution of respondents according to the variable of pages visited on Instagram and Telegram

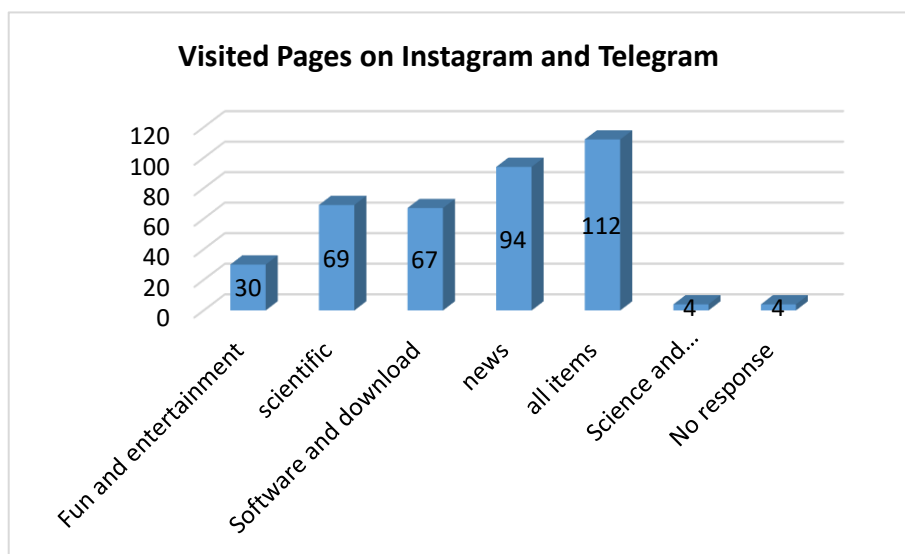| Visited Pages on Instagram and Telegram | Abundance | Percent | Valid percentage | Density percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Entertainment | 30 | 9.7 | 8 | 33 |
| Scientific | 69 | 2.18 | 4.18 | 3.51 |
| Softwar and download | 67 | 6.17 | 8.17 | 1.69 |
| News | 94 | 7.24 | 25 | 25 |
| All Cases | 112 | 5.29 | 8.29 | 9.98 |
| Scientific and Entertainment | 4 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 100 |
| No Response | 4 | 1.1 | 100 | |
| Total | 380 | 100 | | |

**Visited Pages on Instagram and Telegram**



Diagram 9. Frequency distribution chart of respondents based on the visited pages on Instagram and Telegram

The descriptive findings in Table 10 of the study show that out of 380 respondents, 30 people, equivalent to 9.7%, visited entertainment and leisure sites, 69 people, equivalent to 2.18%, visited scientific sites, 67 people, equivalent to 6.17%, visited software and download sites, 94 people, equivalent to 7.24%, visited news sites, 112 people, equivalent to 5.29%, visited all types of sites, 4 people, equivalent to 1.1%, were interested in scientific and entertainment sites, and 4 people, equivalent to 1.1%, did not respond to this question.

**5.7. The Effect of Instagram and Telegram Content on Users' Sense of Security and Social Trust**

Table 11. Frequency distribution of respondents according to the variable of influence of Instagram and Telegram on users' sense of security and social trust

| Affecting the sense of security and social trust | Abundance | Percent | Valid percentage | Density percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Very low | 20 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 |
| low | 19 | 5 | 5 | 3.10 |
| Moderate | 93 | 5.24 | 5.24 | 7.34 |
| very | 99 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 8.60 |
| Very much | 149 | 2.39 | 2.39 | 100 |
| Total | 380 | 100 | | |

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**Effect on Feeling of Security and Social Trust**

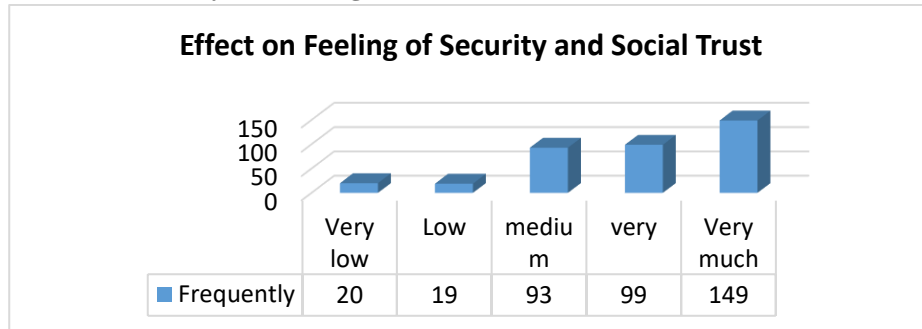| | Very low | Low | medium | very | Very much |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ Frequently | 20 | 19 | 93 | 99 | 149 |

Diagram 10. Column chart of frequency distribution of the impact of Instagram and Telegram on the sense of security and social trust

The descriptive findings in Table 11 of the study show that out of 380 respondents, 20 people, equivalent to 3.5%, evaluated the impact of Instagram and Telegram on the sense of security and social trust as very low, 19 people, equivalent to 5%, evaluated it as low, 93 people, equivalent to 5.24%, evaluated it as moderate, 99 people, equivalent to 1.26%, evaluated it as high, and 149 people, equivalent to 2.39%, evaluated the impact of Instagram and Telegram on the sense of security and social trust as very high.

**5.8. The Effect of Instagram and Telegram Content on Users' Sense of Psychological Security**

Table 12. Frequency distribution of the respondents according to the influence variable of Instagram and Telegram on users' psychological well-being

| Affecting the sense of security and social trust | Abundance | Percent | Valid percentage | Density percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Very low | 16 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 |
| low | 17 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 7.8 |
| Moderate | 150 | 5.39 | 5.39 | 2.48 |
| very | 123 | 4.32 | 4.32 | 5.80 |
| Very much | 74 | 5.19 | 5.19 | 100 |
| Total | 380 | 100 | | |

**The Effect of Instagram and Telegram on Psychological Security**

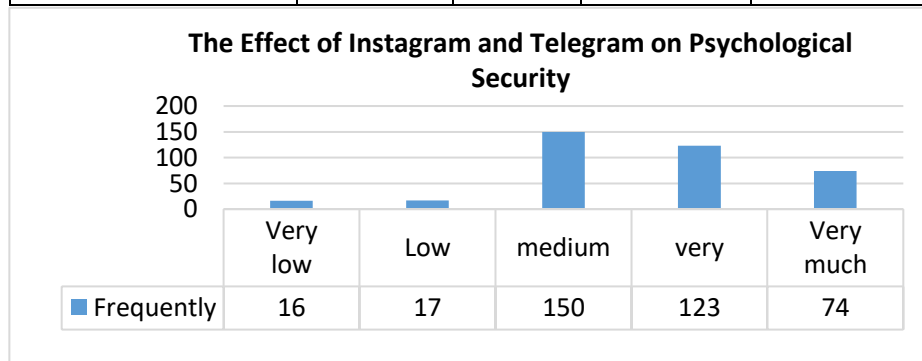| | Very low | Low | medium | very | Very much |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ Frequently | 16 | 17 | 150 | 123 | 74 |

Diagram 11. Column chart of the impact of Instagram and Telegram on users' mental security based on variables
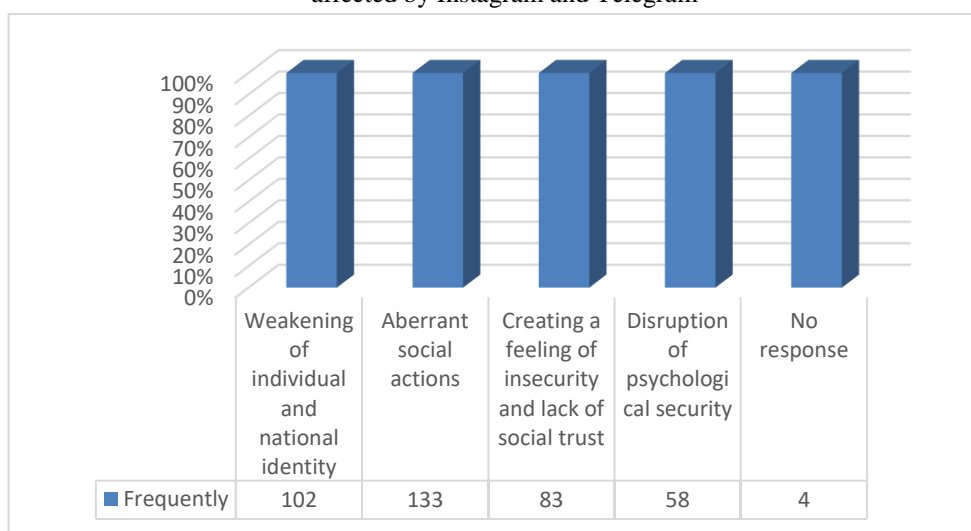
The descriptive findings in Table 12 of the study show that out of 380 respondents, 16 people, equivalent to 2.4%, evaluated the impact of Instagram and Telegram on mental security as very low, 17 people, equivalent to 5.4%, evaluated it as low, 150 people, equivalent to 5.39%, evaluated it as moderate, 123 people, equivalent to 4.32%, evaluated it as high, and 74 people, equivalent to 5.19%, evaluated the impact of Instagram and Telegram on mental security as very high.

### 5.9. Social Dimensions of Influence of Instagram and Telegram Content

Table 13. Distribution of the frequency of respondents according to the variable of the most attacks on Instagram and Telegram pages on social indicators

| Social Dimensions of Influence of Instagram and Telegram Content | Abundance | Percent | Valid percentage | Density percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Weakening of individual and national identity | 102 | 8.26 | 1.27 | 1.27 |
| Aberrant social actions | 133 | 0.35 | 4.35 | 5.62 |
| Creating a lack of social security and trust | 83 | 8.21 | 1.22 | 6.84 |
| Disruption of psychological security | 58 | 3.15 | 4.15 | 100 |
| No response | 4 | 1.1 | | |
| Total | 380 | 100 | | |

Diagram 12. Column chart of the frequency distribution of the social dimensions affected by Instagram and Telegram



The descriptive findings in Table 13 of the study show that out of 380 respondents, 102 people, equivalent to 8.26%, believe that Instagram and Telegram weaken personal and national identity, 133 people, equivalent to 0.35%, believe that they contribute to social deviant behaviors, 83

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people, equivalent to 8.21%, believe that they create a sense of insecurity and distrust in society, and 58 people, equivalent to 4.15%, believe that they disrupt mental security. Four people did not respond to this question.

**5.10. Cultural Dimensions of the Influence of Instagram and Telegram Content**

Table 14. Frequency distribution of the respondents according to the variable of the most attacks on Instagram and Telegram pages on cultural indicators

| Cultural dimensions of the influence of Instagram and Telegram content | Abundance | Percent | Valid percentage | Density percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Promoting western culture (vulgarity, corruption and prostitution, fashionism, etc.) | 186 | 9.48 | 9.48 | 9.48 |
| Propagation of false sects (emerging mysticism, freemasonry, Satanism, etc.) | 39 | 3.10 | 3.10 | 2.59 |
| Separation of religion from politics | 107 | 2.28 | 2.28 | 4.87 |
| Promoting superstition and emphasizing deviant beliefs | 48 | 6.12 | 6.12 | 100 |
| Total | 380 | 100 | | |
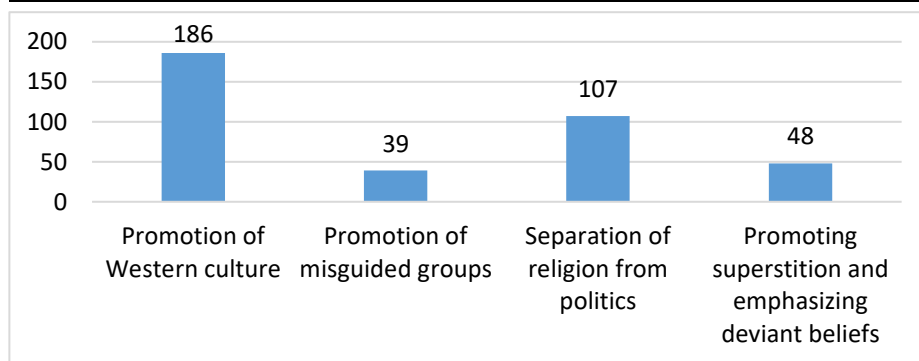


Diagram 13. Column chart of the frequency distribution of the cultural dimensions affected by Instagram and Telegram

The descriptive findings in Table 14 of the study show that out of 380 respondents, 186 people, equivalent to 8.49%, believe that the most significant cultural impact of Instagram and Telegram is the promotion of Western culture (vulgarity, corruption, immorality, fashion, etc.), 39 people, equivalent to 3.10%, believe that it promotes deviant beliefs (new mysticism, Freemasonry, Satanism, etc.), 107 people, equivalent to 2.28%, believe that it separates religion from politics, and 48 people, equivalent to 6.12%, believe that it promotes superstition and emphasizes deviant beliefs.

**5.11. Psychological Dimensions of Instagram and Telegram Influence**

Table 15. Frequency distribution of the respondents according to the variable, the most attacks on Instagram and Telegram meaning pages on psychological indicators

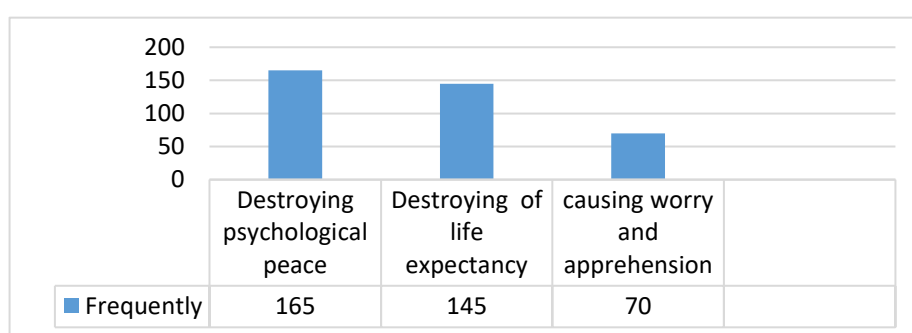| Psychological Dimensions of Instagram and Telegram Influence | Abundance | Percent | Valid percentage | Density percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Destroying mental peace | 165 | 4.43 | 4.43 | 4.43 |
| Destruction of life expectancy | 145 | 2.38 | 2.38 | 6.81 |
| causing worry and apprehension | 70 | 4.18 | 4.18 | 100 |
| Total | 380 | 100 | | |



Diagram 14. Column chart of the frequency distribution of the psychological dimensions affected by Instagram and Telegram

The descriptive findings of table 15 indicate that out of the 380 respondents in this study, 165 individuals, equivalent to 4.43%, rated Instagram and Telegram as having the greatest psychological impact in reducing mental calmness. Additionally, the largest psychological impact related to eliminating hope in life was reported by 145 individuals, equivalent to 2.38%. Finally, 70 individuals, or 4.18%, identified that the creation of anxiety and distress was the biggest psychological impact of Instagram and Telegram content.

Table 16. Status of users' sense of security and social trust index

| Indicator | Amount | Indicator | Amount | Indicator | Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Average | 2013.3 | standard deviation | 28607.0 | Maximum | 08.4 |
| The middle | 1818.3 | Scope of change | 44.1 | Number | 380 |
| View | 17.3 | Minimum | 64.2 | | |

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According to the conducted research, the average level of users' sense of security and social trust in Instagram and Telegram is 2013.3. This value falls above the average mean value, taking into account the range of variation between 44.1 and a minimum of 64.2, and a maximum of 08.4. Hence, it can be inferred that respondents and users have a slightly diminished sense of security and social trust when using Instagram and Telegram.
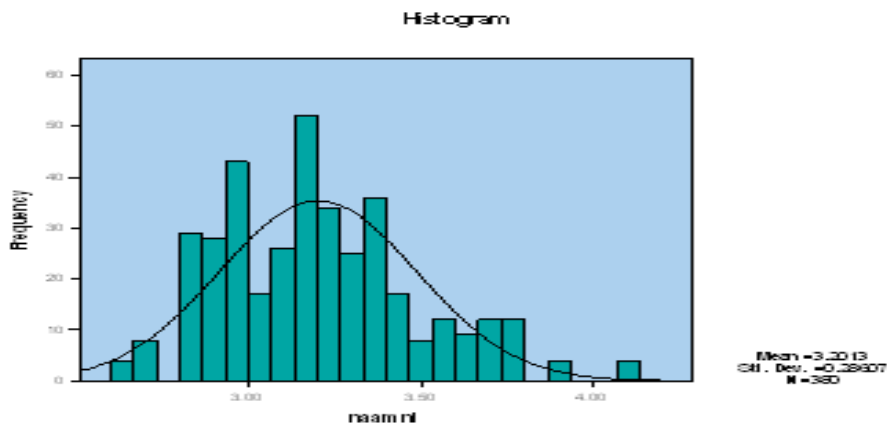


Diagram 15. Histogram of the security and social trust status of users

Based on the conducted research, the average level of users' sense of security and social trust in Instagram and Telegram is 2.3. It should be noted that the survey items measuring the sense of security and social trust were rated on a 5-point Likert scale. Furthermore, considering the range of variation between 44.1 and a minimum of 64.2, and a maximum of 08.4, the average falls above the mean value, indicating that respondents and users have a slightly diminished sense of security and social trust when using Instagram and Telegram.

**5.12. Inferential Analysis**

In this section, the hypotheses of the research were tested. To this end, the Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) normality test was first performed to examine the normality of the distribution. The results of this test are presented in table 4-17.

Table 17. Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for normal distribution fit

| Variable | Z | Sig | Conclusion |
|---|---|---|---|
| Trust and social security | 0.704 | 0.704 | Normal |
| Political content | 0.614 | 0.589 | Normal |

The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test presented in table 17 reveals that the distribution of the sample population is normal, and there is no significant difference between the sample distribution and the theoretical

distribution. As a result, parametric tests such as the Pearson correlation coefficient were utilized to examine the research hypotheses.

The Pearson correlation coefficient, also known as the moment correlation coefficient or a zero-order correlation coefficient, is employed to assess the magnitude, type, and direction of the relationship between two variables, whether they are interval or ratio variables or one variable belongs to the interval and the other to the ratio scale.

The Pearson correlation coefficient ranges from -1 to 1, which indicates the degree of the relationship between the variables. A score of 1 represents a perfect positive relationship, indicating that if one variable increases (decreases), so does the other variable. Conversely, a score of -1 indicates a perfect negative relationship, which implies that if one variable increases, the other variable decreases, and vice versa. Finally, when the correlation coefficient is 0, it indicates that there is no linear relationship between the two variables. Referring to Dr. Mansourfar's statistics book (1388), a Pearson correlation coefficient less than 0.20 indicates a very weak relationship. A score between 0.21 to 0.50 represents a moderate relationship, while a figure between 0.51 and 0.75 demonstrates a strong correlation. Finally, a value exceeding 0.75 signifies a very strong relationship between the variables.

**The main hypothesis is:** There appears to be a significant relationship between the use of Instagram and Telegram and social security and trust among users aged 16 to 19 in district 12 of Tehran.

To test this hypothesis, the Pearson correlation coefficient has been used. The results of this test are presented in table 18.

Table 18. Pearson correlation coefficient test for testing the main hypothesis

| The amount of using Instagram and Telegram | Social security and trust | |
|---|---|---|
| | Indicators | Indicators amount |
| | Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) | -0/419 |
| | significance level (sig) | 0/000 |
| | number of samples | 380 |

The results of table 18 show that there is a significant moderate negative correlation; because the observed significance level (sig = 0.000) is smaller than the predicted error value ($\alpha$ =0.01). Pearson's correlation coefficient is equal to -0.419, which is between 20 and 50 percent. Therefore, with 99% confidence, it can be concluded that there is a relationship between the use of Instagram and Telegram and the security and social trust among users aged 16 to 19 in Tehran.

**First hypothesis:** It seems that there is a significant relationship between political content on Instagram and Telegram and the security and social trust among users.

To test this hypothesis, the Pearson correlation coefficient has been used. The results of this test are presented in table 19.

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Table 19. Pearson correlation coefficient test for testing the first hypothesis

| The political content of Instagram and Telegram | Social security and trust | |
|---|---|---|
| | Indicators | Indicators amount |
| | Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) | -0/050 |
| | significance level (sig) | 0/457 |
| | number of samples | 380 |

The results of table 19 show that there is no significant positive correlation between political content on Instagram and Telegram and social security and trust among users. This is because the observed p-value (sig=0.457) is greater than the predetermined alpha level of 0.05. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is no significant positive relationship between political content on Instagram and Telegram and social security and trust among users.

**Second Hypothesis:** It seems that there is a significant relationship between social content on Instagram and Telegram and the security and social trust among users.

To test this hypothesis, the Pearson correlation coefficient has been used. The results of this test are presented in table 20.

Table 20. Pearson correlation coefficient test for testing the second hypothesis

| The social content of Instagram and Telegram | Social security and trust | |
|---|---|---|
| | Indicators | Indicators amount |
| | Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) | 0/516 |
| | significance level (sig) | 0/000 |
| | number of samples | 380 |

The results of table 20 indicate that there is a significant moderate to high positive correlation between social content on Instagram and Telegram and social security and trust among users (sig=0.000) that is smaller than the expected error value ($\alpha$ =0.01). Since, Pearson's correlation coefficient is equal to 0.516, which is between 50 and 75 percent, it can be concluded with 99% confidence that there is a meaningful positive relationship between social content on Instagram and Telegram and social security and trust among users, and that increasing social content on these platforms is likely to increase social security and trust.

**Conclusion**

Governance has been an essential issue for nations throughout the history of human civilization, and it will remain significant and critical in the future. Social and political science experts suggest that the primary challenge facing governance currently is its constant evolution in a technology-driven world, where the boundaries of governance intersect between geographically-defined borders and intangible borders defined

by public opinion, sometimes leading to conflict and replacing one system with another. In such spaces, media, particularly emerging media, is expected to play a crucial role. Social media, in particular, is playing a vital role in people's daily interactions, and their consistent growth is a testimony of their influence on social life.

The results of this study indicate that several factors impact social security and trust, the focus of this research. The influence of virtual social networks on people's behavior, thoughts, and mental states is one of the most significant factors. Social media platforms such as Instagram and Telegram can either strengthen or weaken social security and trust through their positive and negative effects. The primary concern in this study was to measure the level of influence and penetration of Instagram and Telegram on social security and trust among the target population - Generation Z: young adults aged 16 to 19 residing in district 12 of Tehran.

The research findings indicate that the amount and history of usage of Instagram and Telegram have a significant impact on social security and trust. In this regard, a positive and meaningful correlation was found between social and cultural content and social security and trust, while a negative and meaningful correlation was found between economic and security-related content and social security and trust. However, no significant correlation was found between political content on Instagram and Telegram and social security and trust. Finally, it is evident that virtual media have had a significant impact on the social security and trust of users in Tehran. This is a warning for policymakers and managers in the field of mass media and virtual governance to take action and manage these media in the realm of Iranian society.

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