STUDY ON DATING APPS IN GEN-Z GENERATION

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ABSTRACT

Dating apps have emerged as a popular means of meeting potential romantic partners in the digital age, offering convenience and accessibility. However, as with any technology, there are notable downsides to these platforms that deserve attention. This abstract explores the cons of dating apps, including issues related to superficiality, misrepresentation, ghosting, addiction, privacy and safety concerns, and the emotional toll they can take on users. It underscores the importance of recognizing these drawbacks and adopting a balanced approach when engaging with dating apps to ensure a positive and safe online dating experience.

Keywords: *Dating apps, Superficiality, Misrepresentation, Ghosting, Addiction, Privacy and safety concerns*

INTRODUCTION

In the ever-evolving landscape of modern romance, dating apps have emerged as a prominent players, offering a convenient and accessible platform for individuals to connect with potential partners. The popularity of dating apps is undeniable, as they promise a world of possibilities at one's fingertips. However, as with any technological advancement, these digital matchmaking platforms come with their share of disadvantages and cons that warrant thoughtful consideration.

The surge in dating app usage has sparked discussions and studies exploring the less glamorous side of these platforms. This introduction seeks to shed light on the cons of dating apps, which encompass a range of challenges that users may encounter during their quest for love or companionship. While dating apps have undoubtedly revolutionized how we meet people, it is crucial to be aware of the potential pitfalls and drawbacks that accompany this modern approach to dating.

In this exploration of the cons of dating apps, we will delve into various issues such as superficiality, misrepresentation, ghosting, addiction, privacy and safety concerns, and the emotional toll they can take on users. These drawbacks, while not universal, highlight the need for users to approach dating apps with caution and for society to address the challenges associated with this digital dating revolution. As we delve into the complexities of dating in the digital age, it becomes increasingly apparent that a balanced understanding of both the pros and cons is essential for fostering meaningful and fulfilling connections.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Miller (2015): The Review tells men who are more likely to show their faces in profile photos are those who use dating apps more frequently, who have used apps for a longer term, or who are more open about their queer identities. Meanwhile, men who tend to have shirtless photos in their profiles are those who perceive themselves to be masculine or who hold stronger anti-effeminacy attitudes. Their average age is older than that of other users.

also examined face-disclosure and body-disclosure in MSM's visual self-presentation on dating apps. In his findings, 'face-disclosing' images were connected to higher levels of app usage, longer-term app usage, and degree of out ness while having a body-disclosing photo.

Boner Thompson (2017): This Article examines In these photos, the body takes up most space, and the background is obscured in these photos. The absence of a recognizable context gives rise to the hyper sexualized embodiment. In comparison, lifestyle masculinity is produced through pictures in which the body is situated in a particular context, such as a beach, a bar, or a music event. It emerges when Grindr users 'seek to (re)construct a digital body that is entangled with every day and material geographies'.

Anzani A., Di Sarno M., Prunas A. Using smartphone apps to find sexual partners: A review of the literature, Dating apps are doubtless a new way to get in touch and build new bonds. It is therefore very important for psychologists and sexologists to probe their use as "relationship mediators", in order to understand the influence they exert on the relational, sexual, and social life of the growing number of people who use them.

G.C. Blackart.Dispositional factors predicting the use of online dating sites and behaviors related to online dating: The current study was conducted to examine how several dispositional factors are related to the use of online dating sites and to online dating behaviors. Our first hypothesis was that people higher (or lower) in extraversion, higher in neuroticism, lower in self-esteem, higher in rejection sensitivity, and who report insecure attachment would be more likely to use online dating sites. Our second hypothesis was that men and people higher in rejection sensitivity, preoccupied attachment, and fearful attachment would engage in potentially riskier behaviors related to meeting an online dating partner in person. As little published research has examined whether dispositional traits predict the use of online dating sites or of behaviors related to meeting an online dating partner in person, the current research will contribute to the literature by determining whether these dispositional traits predict online dating site use and behaviors related to meeting an online dating partner face-to-face.

Wu and Ward(2018), In this review, we apply the mediation framework in the same way as Nevertheless, we have a much larger scope, not solely examining gay dating app studies. Besides, we find that studies on the reconfiguration of dating apps are fruitful, due to our larger scope and the timing of this review. Accordingly, we present the findings in existing dating app studies in three sections: (a) Dating apps and their reconfiguration; (b) user practices and their remediation; (c) social arrangements and their reformation. Although the word 'reformation' often has a positive connotation, we use it in a neutral sense, as we avoid seeing changes in social arrangements as essentially positive or negative. Besides, even those commonly acknowledged positive changes will not be spread evenly among individuals. Instead of offering our judgment, we aim to explicate researchers' opinions and the reasoning behind them. Note that some researchers are interested in how some social arrangements are reproduced instead of being reformed. We put their findings in the third section as well, in contrast to dating apps'

Kubin &von Sikorski, 2021 we performed an initial search on 29 November 2021, using the terms 'dating app,' 'hookup app,'' hook-up app' and their plural forms. This yielded 260 results, among which the most often mentioned dating apps were Tinder and Grindr. Considering that some researchers may not refer to these two apps as dating apps or hook-up apps, we did another two rounds of search on 1 December 2021, using the names of the two apps respectively asthe topic. Notably, the word 'tinder' had long existed in English. Thus when Tinder was the search term, we only looked at publications since 2012, as Tinder was founded in that year. We also filtered out the results that contained any of the six search terms we used in the first round. This led to 75 results for Tinder and 77 for Grindr. Among all the 412 results, many were centered on public health, especially on HIV prevention. We do not engage with these studies, given that our target readers are media and communication researchers. In this review, we only present studies that will elucidate the dynamics between artifacts, practices, and social arrangements related to dating apps.

Duguay (2017): explains this as a solution to users' potential concern about authenticity. Before the rise of dating apps, online daters' most prominent concerns had been that others were misrepresenting themselves and that their safety might be threatened when meeting strangers in offline settings. Tinder needed to convince its users that the identification information of their potential dates was authentic. Connecting via Facebook means that the user's information such as his or her name, age, recent photos, and gender is imported into the Tinder profile from his or her Facebook profile. This is seen as a guarantee of authenticity because Facebook has promoted a real name culture since its foundation by policing the use of real names and suspending accounts suspected of using fake names.

Wang, (2020): The landscape of dating apps is more diverse than the word 'dating' suggests. It warrants scrutiny. What are the technological features that make dating apps new? What are the factors that have shaped these technological features? What do people actually use dating apps for? How do dating apps mediate users' daily practices and social relationships? These questions appeal to researchers who take various approaches to understanding the interplaybetween dating apps and our society.

RanziniandLutz(2017), also consider how user motivations make deliberate use of the perceived affordances of mobile apps like Tinder. They consider both demographic and psychological- cal factors, including motivational and psychological antecedents such as self-esteem, loneliness, and narcissism. The authors obtained survey data to determine how Tinder users present themselves. They find self-esteem and motive or purpose of Tinder used to be the strongest predictors of self-presentation. Likewise, high self-esteem is linked to less deceptive and more authentic forms of self-presentation, while self-validation has the strongest effect on self-presentation. Gender differences in uses are prominent, with men primarily pursuing hook-up sex, traveling and relationships, while women are more inclined to seek friendship and self-validation. These findings align with earlier literature on social media use and gender. In terms of sexual orientation, heterosexuals are said to present themselves in a more 'authentic' manner than homosexuals, due to the imposition of het- eronormativity onto such practices and platforms

Mac Leod and Mc Arthur(2019) present an interface analysis of Tinder and Bumble, revealing that the two apps construct gender as a rigid category to serve the matching process instead of one's gender performance. Providing only two gender options, male and female, the profile settings of these apps do not account for a full range of user identities. Besides, the gender setting is not publicly displayed, and it is more about what types of profiles the apps hould present to the user. For instance, a person who has selected 'female' for gender and 'only women' for sexual preference will be presented with other 'female' users who have chosen 'only women' or 'men and women.'

Timmermans and De Caluwe (2017): also contribute to relations between personality traits and mobile dating application uses and motives, building on their earlier work in this area. They apply the five personality traits to single Tinder users as well as single people who have not used the app. Their findings suggest that those who rate high on agreeableness are less likely to be motivated by the pursuit of sexual experiences, while high conscientiousness respondents are more driven to see relationships, rather than treat the app as a source of entertainment or distraction. This approach seems to resonate with other studies that understand personality traits shape motivations to turn to dating apps, which as a result may shape the emergence of antisocial and other problematic behavior.

Wu and Trottier (2021) :reveal that a small group of metropolitan middle-class gay men in China are using the Western apps Grindr and Tinder. Compared to Aloha and Blued, Grindr, and Tinder are less Successful among Chinese gay men because of their unstable internet connection in China and their absence in the app stores of the smartphones that take up the most Chinese market share (e.g.Huawei, Oppo, Vivo, and Xiaomi).Consequently, Chinese gayusers in mainland China who have heard about and have access to Grindr and Tinder are those who have transnational experiences (e.g. studying, working, or traveling abroad) or international horizons, who use iPhones or can access Google Play via a VPN. These users tend to have are relatively high socioeconomic status and thus can be perceived to have 'high quality' by others. However, the controversy systems from the fact that foreign travelers or expatriates also tend to use Grindr or Tinder. Some may think that Chinese users of Grindr or Tinder have a racial preference for (white) foreigners. Indeed, those who prefer to date foreigners, for- racial preference or socio-economic cause, may tend to gather around Grindr.

Chan (2017b) examines relationships between trust towards people online, sensation-seeking, smartphone use for accessing the internet and the intent to use dating apps to look for romance and casual sex. He draws upon past research on online dating, in which personal attributes like trust are understood as strong predictors of using dating websites. While one may expect similar findings when shifting from websites to apps, this transition is significant in terms of socio- technical context. Chan conducts a survey of heterosexual men and women in order to identify three personal attributes: (1) trust towards people online, (2) sensation seeking, and (3) smartphone use for accessing the internet. Taking a path model approach, his results suggest a direct link between both sensation seeking and smartphone use with behavioral intent, while 'the relationship between trust and behavioral intent was fully mediated by a belief variable' (p. 256). His findings also suggest that perceived norms played a role in looking for casual sex via dating apps, while 'attitudes were found to be a significant predictor of the corresponding intent' (p. 253) for the pursuit of romance and sex.

Yeo and Fung (2018): dating apps enable more frequent and efficient connections between users, generating feelings of accelerated relationship formation. While the formation of durable relationships takes a gradual pace, the fast tempo on dating apps tends to result in ephemerality and loss of intimacy. On the other hand, design features of dating apps structure the sequence of browsing in a way that emphasizes users' physical appearances, as the photos are what users first see in others' profiles. The sequence of messaging is not helpful either, as it also registers a 'value hierarchy that prioritizes physical attractiveness and devalues the exploration of mind and character.

Yeo and Fung, Wu, and Ward (2020) are also interested in gay users' experiences of relationship development. In their Beijing-based study, they explore how these experiences are shaped by gay users' negotiation of the relation between casual sex and 'serious' relationships, and by the affordances of dating apps. Their findings suggest that casual sex is not always at odds with relationship development. Metropolitan single gay users have 'renationalized' casual sex by perceiving it as a form of social connection and endowing it with the potential to foster a relationship. In other words, casual sex also satisfies users' emotional demands to some extent and can be the start of a durable relationship. Accordingly, these single gay users prefer 'renationalized' casual sex to cold, impersonal casual sex. Open to both casual sex and durable relationships, they seek to connect with 'interesting people' who can have a good conversation with them. From this connection, they derive 'sociability,' or the pure pleasure in socializing with others. Dating apps' affordance of stronger connectivity provides them with abundant potential connections. While relationship development is accompanied by people's needs for communicating more synchronously and getting to know more about each other, dating apps have a relatively low degree of communicative synchro- nicity and limited user identifiability. Therefore, when the relationship between two users develops, they tend toswitch to the mainstream social media platform We Chat.

OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

The objectives of research on the cons of dating apps should aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the various challenges and drawbacks associated with these digital platforms.

Here are some specific research objectives:

1. Identify Common Issues: Investigate and document the most common problems or challenges encountered by users of dating apps, such as superficiality, misrepresentation, and ghosting.
2. Assess the Prevalence of Misuse: Determine the extent to which dating apps are misused for activities such as harassment, fraud, or Non -non-consensual sharing ofintimate images.
3. Analyze User Experiences: Examine the real-world experiences of individuals who have used dating apps to better understand the emotional and psychological impact of these cons.
4. Identify Common Issues: Investigate and document the most common problems or challenges encountered by users of dating apps, such as superficiality, misrepresentation, and ghosting.
5. Assess the Prevalence of Misuse: Determine the extent to which dating apps are misused for activities such as harassment, fraud, or Non -non-consensual sharing of intimate images.

DATA ANALYSIS

FREQUENCY TABLE

		Frequency	**Percentages**
Age	18 -34 Years	32	100
	Total	**32**	**100**
Gender	Male	19	52.6%
	Female	13	42.4%
	Total	**32**	**100**
Sexual Orientation	Heterosexual	9	28.1%
	Homosexual	4	12.5%
	Bisexual	7	21.8%
	Prefer not to say	12	37.6%
	Total	**32**	**100**
Location / Geography	Urban	26	81.2%
	Suburban	1	3.1%

	Rural	3	9..3%
	International	2	6.4%
	Total	**32**	**100**

INTERPRETATION

Age Distribution: The Majority Respondents falls within the 18 – 34 Years age group, Constituting 100% distribution made on most dominant among the surveyed population

Gender Distribution: Among the respondents 19 are identified as male, constituting 57.6% of total sample, while 13 are identified as female, making up 42.4%, prefer not to say no more to be collected respondents, showing a slight over representation in the sample.

Sexual Orientation : Among the respondents, 9 are identified as Heterosexual constituting 29%, While 4 are identified as Homosexual Constituting 12.9%, another 6 are identified as Bisexual Constituting 19.4% finally 12 Respondents are identified as Prefer not to say 38.7%, showing on overrepresentation in the sample.

Location / Geography: Area leaving in 26 Respondents leaves in urban areas consists of 78.8% more members, further 1 leaving in suburban consists of 3%, while 2 leaving in rural area consists of 9.1%, and Therefore 2 Leave in international areas consists of 9.1%

DATA INTERPRETATION

As generation goes on the population have been increasing day by day and the technology has been developing to remove the stress and make the happy by using the app like dating apps.

Using dating apps has made it difficult for me to establish genuine connection with others

Sl.No	Responses	Frequency	Percentages
1	Strongly Agree	8	25%
2	Agree	5	15.6%
3	Neutral	10	31.2%
4	Disagree	5	15.6%
5	Strongly Disagree	4	12.6%
	Total	**32**	**100%**

The data on respondent's beliefs regarding the alignments on using dating apps with a Positive perception. A Significant 31.2% of participants either strongly agree (25%) or agree (15.6%) on the other hand, who disagree (15.6%) or strongly disagree (12.6%)

Respondents opinion on dating apps contribute to a more superficial approach to relationships in my generation.

Sl.No	Responses	Frequency	Percentages
1	Strongly Agree	4	12.5%
2	Agree	6	18.7%
3	Neutral	9	28.1%
4	Disagree	11	34.3%
5	Strongly Disagree	2	6.4%
	Total	**32**	**100%**

The data on respondent's beliefs regarding the alignments on using dating apps with a Positive perception. A Significant 34.3% of participants either strongly agree (12.5%) or agree (18.7%) on the other hand, there is a similar portion of (28.1%) who either disagree (34.3%) or strongly disagree (6.4%)

Respondents perception on lack of sincerity and/or honesty from individuals on dating apps.

Sl.No	Responses	Frequency	Percentages
1	Strongly Agree	10	31.2%
2	Agree	2	6.2%
3	Neutral	8	25%
4	Disagree	8	25%
5	Strongly Disagree	4	12.6%
	Total	32	100%

The data on respondent's beliefs regarding the alignments on using dating apps with a Positive perception. A Significant 31.2% of participants either strongly agree (31%) or agree (6.2%) on the other hand, there is a similar portion of Neutral (25%) who either disagree (25%) or strongly disagree (12.6%)

The use of dating apps has increased feelings of loneliness or isolation for me.

Sl.No	Responses	Frequency	Percentages
1	Strongly Agree	6	18.7%
2	Agree	10	31.2%
3	Neutral	7	21.8%
4	Disagree	8	25%
5	Strongly Disagree	1	3.3%
	Total	32	100%

The data on respondent's beliefs regarding the alignments on using dating apps with a Positive perception. A Significant 31.2% of participants either strongly agree (18.7%) or agree (31.2%) on the other hand, there is a similar portion of Neutral (21.8%) who either disagree (25%) or strongly disagree (3.3%)

Respondents believe that dating apps can contribute to a culture of objectification in relationships.

Sl.No	Responses	Frequency	Percentages
1	Strongly Agree	5	15.6%
2	Agree	5	15.6%
3	Neutral	13	40.6%
4	Disagree	8	25%
5	Strongly Disagree	1	3.2%
	Total	32	100%

The data on respondent's beliefs regarding the alignments on using dating apps with a Positive perception. A Significant 40.6% of participants either strongly agree (15.6%) or agree (15.6%) on the other hand, there is a similar portion of Neutral (40.6%) who either disagree (25%) or strongly disagree (3.2%)

The constant swiping on dating apps has negatively affected my self -esteem

Sl.No	Responses	Frequency	Percentages
1	Strongly Agree	5	15.6%
2	Agree	4	12.5%
3	Neutral	13	40.6%
4	Disagree	7	21.8%
5	Strongly Disagree	3	9.5%
	Total	32	100%

The data on respondent's beliefs regarding the alignments od using dating apps with a Positive perception. A Significant 40.6 of participants either strongly agree (15.6%) or agree (12.5%) on the other hand, there is a similar portion of Neutral (40.6%) who either disagree (21.8%) or strongly disagree (9.5%)

Respondents find challenging to trust people I meet on dating apps

Sl.No	Responses	Frequency	Percentages
1	Strongly Agree	5	15.6%
2	Agree	1	3.3%

3	Neutral	13	40.6%
4	Disagree	9	28.1%
5	Strongly Disagree	4	12.4%
Total		**32**	**100%**

The data on respondent's beliefs regarding the alignments on using dating apps with a Positive perception. A Significant 40.6% of participants either strongly agree (15.6%) or agree (3.3%) on the other hand, there is a similar portion of Neutral (40.6%) who either disagree (28.1%) or strongly disagree (12.4%)

Dating apps have led to an increase in the number of short – lived or casual relationships

Sl.No	Responses	Frequency	Percentages
1	Strongly Agree	4	12.4%
2	Agree	2	6.2%
3	Neutral	11	34.3%
4	Disagree	8	25%
5	Strongly Disagree	7	22.1%
Total		**32**	**100%**

The data on respondent's beliefs regarding the alignments on using dating apps with a Positive perception. A Significant 34.3% of participants either strongly agree (12.4%) or agree (6.2%) on the other hand, there is a similar portion of Neutral (34.3%) who either disagree (25%) or strongly disagree (22.1%)

Respondents believe that the prevalence of dating apps has negatively impacted traditional dating values.

Sl.No	Responses	Frequency	Percentages
1	Strongly Agree	5	15.6%
2	Agree	3	9.3%
3	Neutral	11	34.3%
4	Disagree	10	31.2%
5	Strongly Disagree	3	9.6%
Total		**32**	**100%**

The data on respondent's beliefs regarding the alignments on using dating apps with a Positive perception. A Significant 34.3% of participants either strongly agree (15.6%) or agree (9.3%) on the other hand, there is a similar portion of Neutral (34.3%) who either disagree (31.2%) or strongly disagree (9.6%)

Overall, Respondents think the cons of dating apps outweigh the potential benefits.

Sl.No	Responses	Frequency	Percentages
1	Strongly Agree	4	12.5%
2	Agree	3	9.3%
3	Neutral	16	50%
4	Disagree	6	18.7%
5	Strongly Disagree	3	9.5%
Total		**32**	**100%**

The data on respondent's beliefs regarding the alignments on using dating apps with a Positive perception. A Significant 50% of participants either strongly agree (12.5%) or agree (9.3%) on the other hand, there is a similar portion of Neutral (50%) who either disagree (18.7%) or strongly disagree (9.3%)

CONCLUSION

Research data collection is a crucial phase in any study, involving the systematic gathering of information to answer specific research questions or test hypotheses methods may include surveys, observations, or experiments. Hype quality and reliability of collected data significantly influence the validity of research finding, emphasizing the importance of careful planning, ethical considerations, and appropriate analysis techniques.
Researchers must choose methods that align with their study's objectives, ensuring a robust foundation of drawing meaningful conclusions.

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