

# Utilization of Social Networks among the Egyptian Expatriates in the UAE: Attitudes and Uses Towards the Ethiopian Dam Crisis

Dr. Hamza Saad Mohamed

Zayed University, UAE & Minya University,  
Egypt

Dr. Thouraya Snoussi

University of Sharjah, UAE.

## Introduction

The media environment has changed significantly during the last two decades. These changes have affected both the theory and practice of all areas of communication. During the past few years, fast changes in the media landscape due to new technologies have allowed people to interact and share information through social media that were non-existent before. Social media has become part of the fabric of communication between individuals. Social media platforms are used daily among users as a source of news and information, which satisfy their needs for self-expression, discussions, entertainment, and keeping contact with groups (Ahammad and Al Muktedir , 2022; Larson and Acheaw, 2015; Khan 2017; Phua et al., 2017; Tal, 2022).

Social media facilitates an individuals' ability to rapidly access information especially during the crisis time. According to a recent Pew survey (2020), more than eight-in-ten Americans (86%) get news and information from social media. A huge and growing volume of literature has documented the extent to which social media has made it easier for individuals in both democratic societies, non- democratic or transitional societies to obtain news and information. The numerous popularity and attractiveness of social media has encouraged many media scholars (e.g., Frey, et al., 202; Tal L. 2022; Uslu, & Durak, 2022; Zhang, & Zhong, 2020) to pay attention and investigate the effects, uses, dependency, and engagement in social media.

### **Media Dependency Theory**

Media dependency theory (MDT), which provides this study's theoretical framework, was developed in the mid-1970s. Rokeach and DeFluer (1976) began from the hypothesis that before one can understand the cognitive, effective, or behavioral aspects of individuals' social realities engendered by mass communication information, one must first understand the relationship among publics, the media, and society. In other words, by viewing the mass media as an information system, it employs a multi-level framework to clarify the interrelationship between persons, media system and societal system. This theory illustrates the relationship between the media system, the public and the political and societal system on the macro level and between the media and individuals on the micro level (Zhang, X., Zhong, 2020). Hence, the theory provides an integrated view of how people interact with the media on which they depend on. These collaborative relationships effect in either a decrease or increase in media dependency. Numerous factors contribute to media dependencies, such as media effects and individuals' media desires. Ball-Rokeach & DeFleur (1976) assured that dependency theory appeared in response to limited-effects models of mass communication. The theory suggests that individuals have three main objectives when using media: understanding, orientation, and play. Consequently, people tend to develop relationships with media that transmit information to the public and provide them with a variety of benefits and opportunities to understand their environment, especially in the absence of stability due to the conflicts, and the desire for change or in the event of crises (Grant, & Meadows, 2020). According to Ball-Rokeach (1998), the more persons' needs are fulfilled by media, the more they rely on mass media to meet those requests. Moreover, Groshek (2011) confirmed that media effects become stronger, and individuals depend heavily on the media in unstable, uncertain, ambiguous environments and during crises. Furthermore,

as Nabi & Oliver, (2009) point out in times of crisis and ambiguity, people actively seek for information that is necessary to reduce their anxiety and face the situation around them. People experience ambiguity when they lack sufficient information to understand social conflicts, new environment threats and increased social changes. A growing bulk of media dependency studies have shown a positive correlation between perceived threats and the dependency on media for information. For these reasons, The Media dependency theory is the most appropriate theory to build this study on. As the current study investigates the extent to which Egyptian expatriates in the UAE rely on social media to receive news and information during the Ethiopian dam crisis.

### **Background on the Ethiopian Dam Crisis**

In April 2011, the Ethiopian side announced the construction of the dam under the delicate conditions characterized by the imbalance following the January 25th, 2011, revolution in Egypt. The Ethiopian Prime Minister proposed the formation of a joint tripartite technical committee, including the water ministers of the three countries, to meet and examine the issue of the dams in all its aspects and to reach a common vision and an agreement that would be a satisfactory formula for all parties. Egypt has been part of more than 25 rounds of talks and negotiations pertinent to the construction technicalities of the Ethiopian dam, but no progress has been achieved. Since May 2011, Cairo has voiced its concern over how the dam can decrease the country's annual share of Nile water (El-Tawil, N. 2018). Egypt's average water per-capita is expected to drop from 663 cubic meters per year to 582 cubic meters by 2025 El-Tawil (2018). On April 6, 2021, the last round of negotiations that took place in Kinshasa by the delegations of the three countries (Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia) failed. On September 15, 2021, the Security Council issued a presidential statement approved by all 15 council members affirming that negotiations should resume at the invitation of the African Union's chairperson "to finalize expeditiously the text of mutually acceptable and binding agreement on the filling and operation of the (dam) within a reasonable time frame."

### **Literature Review**

This review of literature will focus initially on research that examines the role of the media during the Ethiopian dam crisis and studies that investigate the use of social media in crises. Several scholars attempted to understand and investigate the role of media in shaping knowledge, attitudes, and practice of the public towards the Ethiopian

dam crisis (Hamed, 2021; Hassan, M., and Rifai, A., 2020; Marzouk, 2017; Youssef, 2022.). For instance, Hamed (2021) examined the role of social media in shaping the knowledge and attitudes of the Egyptian public towards the Ethiopian dam crisis. The findings indicated an increase in the number of respondents interested in the Ethiopian dam crisis on social media. Moreover, the most important objectives of the Egyptian public was to know the position of the Egyptian government and the developments of the Ethiopian dam crisis. The findings also confirmed that the cognitive effects of relying on social media came first, then the emotional effects, and finally the behavioral effects.

In their influential study, *the Caricature Treatment to the Ethiopian dam crisis in the Egyptian Newspapers*, Hassan, M., and Rifai, A. (2020) studied the Caricature treatment to the Ethiopian dam crisis in three Egyptian Newspapers ( *AL Aharam- AL Wafed - EL Massri EL Youm*) from January 2011 to January 2020. The most important findings of the study were the diversity of topics covered in caricatures about the Ethiopian dam crisis. The most important topics were the diplomatic solutions to the crisis- the situation of the Egyptian, Sudanese, and Ethiopian government- the bad effects of building the Dam on Egypt- the building stages of the Dam, disagreement treaties of Ethiopia and the negotiations' failure around the Dam. Moreover, the results confirmed that Egypt's position came as an effective force during the negotiations in AL Ahram newspaper (36.1% ), while in EL Massy EL Yuom newspaper, Egypt came as an effective force at (35.5%) and in EL Wafad newspaper, Egypt's position was the effective force in the negotiations at ( 34.9%).

On the other hand, Kassem (2020) investigated the public attitudes towards the credibility of traditional and new media towards the Ethiopian dam crisis. Results showed that there is a significant correlation between the use of both television channels and social media and the public's attitudes towards the credibility of these channels, as a source of information on the Ethiopian dam crisis. El-Tawil, (2018) examined the framing of crises threatening the security and welfare of Egypt embodied in the ongoing terrorism and the construction of the Ethiopian dam crisis, that will drastically decrease the country's water share. Moreover, the study investigates the content of the top nine political Facebook pages in Egypt in terms of number of followers, tweets with significant hashtags to the time frame, and op-eds on Ethiopian dam crisis in online Arabic-language state-owned, privately-owned, and partisan newspapers. Results showed that the most dominant frames when tackling Ethiopian dam crises are conflict, causal interpretation, and problem definition, while stereotypical frames and rumors did not exceed 25 percent and 20 percent respectively in any of the samples derived

from each source on each topic. Mohammed, A., & Ferraris, A. (2021) examined the factors influencing user participation in social media during the COVID-19 pandemic in Saudi Arabia. The study found that attitude perceived behavioral control and subjective norm affect Twitter users' active participation significantly within the context of a time of crisis. Moreover, Cato, at al., (2021) analyzed the usage of Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. The findings showed that while users are more likely to keep social distancing practices, they are also more likely to take measures whose reliability is not scientifically confirmed. Additionally, results suggested that it has both bright and dark sides, although previous studies reflected the negative effects of social media.

In a descriptive study Al- Dahmasi, F, ( 2019) examined whether the Saudi youth relies on social media to receive news and information during the Operation Decisive Storm, the causes of this reliance, its motives and the cognitive, affective and behavioral impacts of youth reliance on social media. The findings confirmed the existence of Saudi youth dependency on these networks to get news and information. Mohamed (2017), investigated how public relations practitioners use social media tools during times of crisis. The study also examined public relations practitioners' perceptions and attitudes towards using social media during crises. A random sample of 160 PR practitioners were selected from different public and private organizations in the UAE. The results indicated that PR practitioners are active and heavy social media users in their organizations during crises. Ibrahim's (2016) study on Egyptian university youth's dependency on social media as a source of news, confirmed that the largest percentage of university youth prefer to follow the news via social networking sites (87.5%). Regarding the reasons for the youth's dependency on social media, the results of the study confirmed that (77%) of university youth depend on social media sites as their main source of news because they are quick to cover events. In a study conducted by Abu Salim (2015) on the extent to which Jordanian university students rely on social media to obtain information and news, the results confirmed that (98%) of Jordanian university students use social media. Regarding the most important sources that students rely on to obtain news and information, the study stated that social media networks came first with a percentage (48%) in providing students with information and news. While "electronic news networks" came in second place (30%). As for satellite channels, it came in third place (17%). The rest including newspapers and radio, came in fourth and fifth places, with a ratio of (2%) and (1%), respectively. As for Salah's (2015) study which sought to identify Palestinian university students' use of social networks and the gratifications obtained from them. In addition to investigating the most important networks used by

university students and the extent of their dependency on them in obtaining information. The most important results of this study were that about 89.7% use social media networks. Results also revealed that the most important social media respondents relied on were: Facebook 95.4% , YouTube came in second at 59.4% and Google Plus came third at 28.86%. In his study on the reliance of university students in Gaza on websites to acquire information about the Palestinian refugee issue, Morgan (2015) emphasized that websites were at the forefront of the sources that the respondents rely on to gain information about the Palestinian refugee issue. While television channels came in third place as a source of information. The results of the study also indicated that the most important motive for the respondents to follow up on these sites is to obtain more details about the refugee issue. Another study by Barbakh, (2015), on the dependency of the Palestinian political elite on social networks as a source of information during the Israeli aggression on Gaza 2015, the results found that social media came at the forefront on which the respondents relied as a primary source 78.66% . The results of the study also indicated that obtaining news and information was one of the most important reasons for the sample members' reliance on social media, at a rate of 76.22%.

In the same direction, Al-Barghouth (2014), conducted a study on the extent to which Palestinian youth depend on social networks to obtain information in times of crises. The results of the study confirmed that social networks were at the forefront of the sources that Palestinian youth depend on in obtaining information during crisis. Facebook was the main social media platform Palestinian youth depend on (93%), followed by YouTube at (31.5%). Hassanein (2014), conducted a study on the role of Facebook in providing university youth with information about corruption issues within Egyptian society from January 2013 to March 2013. The study, which was applied to a sample of 355 respondents, concluded that Facebook is the first source of information respondents go to when obtaining information on corruption issues in Egypt. The study also confirmed the existence of a significant correlation between the increased dependency of university youth on Facebook as a source of information and their access to information about corruption issues in Egypt. The study, which was applied to a sample of 355 respondents, concluded that Facebook is the platform which is used as a first source of information for respondents, when obtaining information on corruption issues in Egypt. In a study about the extent to which Jordanian university students rely on websites to seek information on political issues, Khalifa (2014), concluded that websites play a vital role in forming political awareness among students. The findings also indicated that electronic websites did not contribute to increasing students' desire

to join political parties. Adkisson (2013) investigated how traditional and social media are useful during weather-related crisis situations. The study was mainly concerned about African Americans with relatively higher income and educational levels. The results confirmed that respondents relied more on traditional media for receiving information during weather-related crises. Most participants considered television and radio to be effective communication tools during hurricanes. Similarly, in her study on Egyptian university youth's reliance on Facebook as a source of information during the 2012 Egyptian presidential elections, Al-Mohammadi (2012) confirmed that Facebook is one of the most important sources that university students rely on to obtain information during the presidential elections. Facebook came in second place among the most important sources that respondents relied on to obtain information, while television ranked first, and newspapers ranked third place. In his study, Lee (2012) investigated the impact of YouTube in supporting emotional expressions following the death of Michael Jackson. The study analyzed YouTube video content and showed that people relied on YouTube to meet a cluster of needs; YouTube considerably helped users express their feelings such as feeling sad. Moreover, other YouTube users expressed a positive feeling about his music and its impact on society.

### **Significance of the Study**

Many questions lead to the interest in this study.

1. There is a lack of studies conducted on the sources of news and information that Egyptian expatriates in the UAE rely on regarding national issues in Egypt, the current study seeks to identify the extent to which Egyptian expatriates in the UAE rely on social media to obtain news and information on the Ethiopian dam crisis.
2. The lack of media studies conducted on African issues despite the influence of Africa on the International today. Therefore, this study is important in understanding and gaining a greater insight into this crisis.
3. This study is an attempt to enrich the studies conducted on an important segment of Egyptian society, which is the "Egyptian expatriates". It is a segment whose role and extent of influence on Egyptian society politically and economically cannot be overlooked, especially after the January 25<sup>th</sup> revolution.
4. Egyptian expatriates play an important and influential role regarding many issues, and their role in recent years is no less than the role that the citizen plays at home. Hence, it is necessary to know the most important sources that these communities depend on to obtain news and information.

### **The Objectives of the Study**

The aim of this study is to analyze the extent to which Egyptian expatriates in the UAE rely on social media during the Ethiopian Dam crisis. The study was directed by the four following sub-objectives:

1. Identify the extent to which Egyptian expatriates in the UAE are exposed to social media when obtaining information about the Ethiopian Dam crisis.
2. Identify the reasons related to the dependence of Egyptian expatriates in the UAE on social media to obtain information about the Ethiopian Dam crisis.
3. Identify the patterns of exposure of Egyptian expatriates in the UAE when obtaining information from social media during the Ethiopian Dam crisis.
4. Identify the most important social media platforms Egyptian expatriates in UAE depend on when obtaining information on the Ethiopian dam crisis.
5. Identify the impact of social media on forming the attitudes of Egyptian expatriates in the UAE towards the Ethiopian dam crisis.
6. Identify the extent of the cognitive, emotional, and behavioral influences associated with depending on the media in relation to the Ethiopian Dam crisis.

### **Research Questions**

This Study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. To what extent are Egyptian expatriates in the UAE exposed to social media when obtaining information on the Ethiopian dam crisis?
2. What are the patterns of exposure of Egyptian expatriates in the UAE when obtaining information from social media on the Ethiopian dam crisis?
3. What are the reasons for the dependency of Egyptian expatriates in the UAE on social media to obtain information on the Ethiopian dam crisis?
4. What are the most important social media platforms that Egyptian expatriates in the UAE rely on to obtain information about the Ethiopian dam crisis?
5. What are the motives behind Egyptian expatriates' reliance on social media when obtaining information about the Ethiopian dam crisis?
6. How confident are the respondents in the information provided by social media on the crisis?



### Research Design

Determining the research method is one of the most critical decisions a researcher can make. Buckley (2007) asserts that choosing the most suitable research method improves any study. The quantitative approach was applied for data collection. The study includes a survey of a sample of the Egyptian expatriates in the United Arab Emirates, with the aim of identifying the extent to which members of the sample depend on the social media to obtain news and information about the Ethiopian dam crisis.

### Sample Society

The most important decision in this research was the decision on the selection of sample research (McQueen and Knuessen, 2006). A systematic random sample of 200 Egyptians (expatriates) residing in the UAE was chosen for this study. The sample was selected through a network of acquaintances and friends of Egyptians residing and working in the United Arab Emirates. The researcher resorted to this method due to the difficulty of selecting the population by probabilistic sampling method due to geographical dispersion and heterogeneity of the sample of the study population.

### Findings

My concern here is to discover the most important source that respondents get their news information from about the current affairs.

**Table 1: Highest ranked media sources for news about the Ethiopian dam crisis**

|                  | Social Media |            | TV         |            | Newspapers |            | Online Newspapers |            | Radio      |            |
|------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                  | N            | %          | N          | %          | N          | %          | N                 | %          | N          | %          |
| <b>Always</b>    | 177          | 88.5       | 120        | 60         | 60         | 30         | 170               | 85         | 30         | 15         |
| <b>Sometimes</b> | 20           | 10         | 50         | 25         | 30         | 15         | 25                | 12.5       | 30         | 15         |
| <b>Rarely</b>    | 3            | 1.5        | 30         | 15         | 110        | 55         | 5                 | 2.5        | 140        | 70         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>200</b>   | <b>100</b> | <b>200</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>200</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>200</b>        | <b>100</b> | <b>200</b> | <b>100</b> |

Multiple choice n= (200)

As shown in table 1, there were differences in the number of respondents who use social media versus traditional media to obtain news and information about current

affairs. Results show that most of the respondents use social media more than traditional media. More than 88% of the respondents stated that they “always” use social media, 10% “sometimes” and less than 2% “rarely”. In terms of traditional media, the percentage of respondents who use newspapers always were 30%, whereas those who use it sometimes were 15% and those who use newspapers rarely, to get news and information about current affairs were 55 %. These findings show that online social networks have become a mainstream social phenomenon used by everyone, especially young adults. These results agree with previous studies (e.g., Almahmoud, M., 2021; Mohamed, 2017; Rashidi, Y.,2021).

### Social Media Use and Exposure

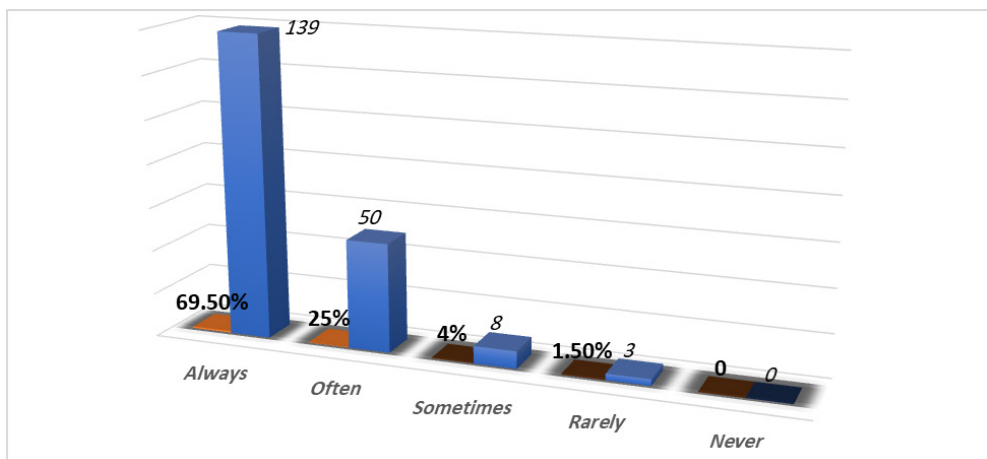
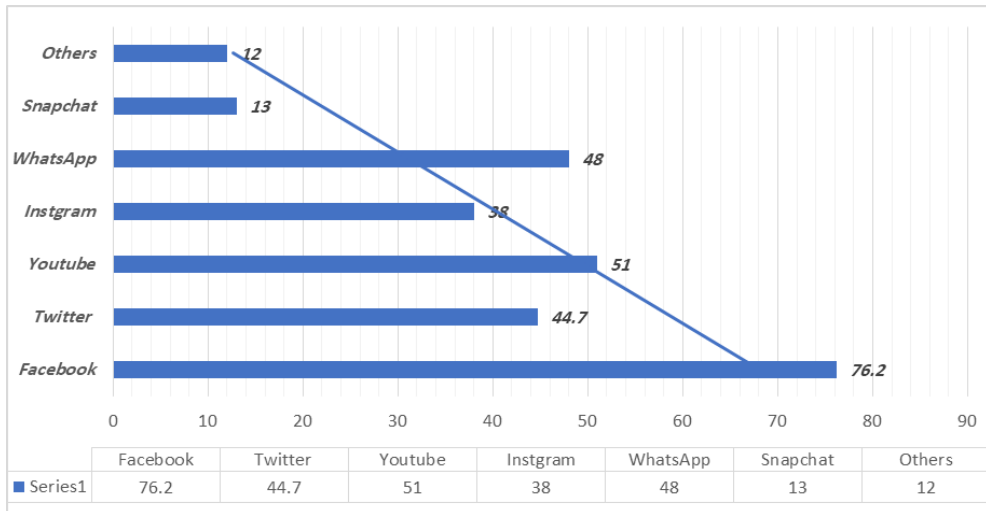


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows that all respondents use social media or have a social media account. To understand the level of exposure to social media; respondents were asked how often they use social media ranging from “never,” “rarely,” “sometimes,” “often,” and “always.” The findings confirmed that more than two thirds (69.5%) of the participants “always” use social media to get information. Twenty five percent/25% of the respondents use social media “often”, and 4% reported to “sometimes” use social media. These results agree with several studies that have been carried out in the UAE and other countries (Mohamed, 2017; Robinson, Zeng, & Holbert, 2018).

### Participants' Patterns of Social Media Use



**Figure 2: Preferred social media platforms sources to access news about the Ethiopian dam crisis**

Multiple choice n= (200)

Figure (2) illustrates how often participants use different social media platforms as a source of news and information about the Ethiopian dam crisis. About more than two thirds of the respondents (76.2 %) say they get news regularly on Facebook, while about more than half of the respondents (%51) say they regularly get news on YouTube. A little under half (48%) of the respondents say they get news regularly on WhatsApp. 44.7 % say they regularly get news on Twitter. Instagram and Snapshat are regular news sources for 38% and 13% of the respondents , respectively. These findings agree with the findings of many previous studies (e.g., Ahammad H., and Al MuktaDir M., 2022; Tal L., 2022; Salem, F. 2017). Most of the previous studies have confirmed that Facebook is the most popular and top-rated SMS world-wide. Additionally, Facebook continues to be the biggest social networking site in terms of its worldwide reach. In terms of effective users, Facebook is the top social network platform. This is due to the speed of their coverage of events at any time, in addition to the interaction that occurs between these online platforms and the respondents, which gives them the opportunity to express their views. Unlike other means, such as satellite news channels, that determine the times for presenting news and information. The results also indicate a decline in reliance on traditional media as a source of information. This can be

explained considering the growing reliance on new media to stay updated with events during times of crisis and to stay updated with their developments.

**Table 2: The level of dependence on social media to get news and information about the Ethiopian dam crisis.**

| Degree of dependency                | Repetition | %          |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| I depend on it to a high degree     | 77         | 38.5       |
| I depend on it very much            | 60         | 30         |
| I depend on it at an average degree | 33         | 16.5       |
| I depend on it at a low degree      | 25         | 12.5       |
| I depend on it at a very low degree | 5          | 2.5        |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>200</b> | <b>100</b> |

From Table 2, it can be seen that, the percentage of respondents who depend on social media to obtain information about the Ethiopian dam crisis at a high degree was 38.5%, while the percentage of those who depend on social media at an average degree was 16.5%. Additionally, 12.5% reported to depend on it at a low degree. Finally, those who depend on social media at a very low degree were 2.5%. It is evident from previous results, that the respondents' dependency on social media to obtain news and information about the Ethiopian dam crisis was high. This may be because social media is characterized by speed in reporting and following up with an event. It also gives the respondents the opportunity to interact and express their various opinions, which is not available in traditional media. These results agree with the findings of several previous studies. For example, in his study Abu Salim (2015) showed that 98% of Jordanians depend on social media. Similarly, these findings agree with many previous studies such as Al- Barghouth (2014), and Abu Salim (2015). The results of most of these studies confirmed that participants rely on social media, as a primary source of information and news during crises.

### **Level of Trust**

As Table 3 shows, more than two thirds of respondents (82.5%) trust the information they obtain from social media about the Ethiopian dam crisis. While 14% of respondents confirmed that they do not trust the information provided by social media, and 3.5% of respondents confirmed that they never trust the information they obtain from social media about the Ethiopian dam crisis. These results are consistent with the findings of

several studies conducted in the Arab countries, for example the results are consistent with the study of Abdullah (2014), about the dependency of the Palestinian political elite on social media networks as a source of information during the Israeli aggression on Gaza in 2014, that showed that 8.5% trust the information provided by social media to a very high degree. (39.0%) trust at a high degree, (47.0%) trust at an average degree, (4.3%) trust at a low degree, and (1.2%) trust at a very low degree. Additionally, Al-Barghouth (2014), confirmed that the respondents trust the information presented on social media to a moderate degree, especially in times of crisis.

**Table3: The extent of the respondents' trust on social media**

| Extent of belief                 | Repetition | %          |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| I strongly trust it.             | 66         | 33         |
| I trust it.                      | 54         | 27         |
| I trust it at an average degree. | 45         | 22.5       |
| I don't trust it.                | 28         | 14         |
| I never trust it.                | 7          | 3.5        |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>200</b> | <b>100</b> |

**Table 4: The extent of the contribution of social media in providing the respondents with news and information about the Ethiopian dam crisis.**

| Extent of the contribution                      | Repetition | %          |
|---|------------|------------|
| Social media contributed to a very large extent | 90         | 45         |
| Social media contributed a lot                  | 64         | 32         |
| Social media contributed to an average degree   | 30         | 15         |
| Social media contributed poorly                 | 10         | 5          |
| Social media did not contribute at all          | 6          | 3          |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>200</b> | <b>100</b> |

Table 4 clearly demonstrates, that 45% of respondents confirmed that social media has contributed to a very large extent in providing them with news and information about the Ethiopian dam crisis while 32% of respondents indicated that social media has contributed significantly to providing them with information about the Ethiopian dam crisis. Moreover, 15% of the respondents indicated that they contributed to a moderate (average) degree in providing them with information while the percentage

(5%) of the respondents indicated that social media contributed to a weak (poor) degree in providing them with information. Finally, 3% of the respondents asserted that social media did not contribute at all in providing them with information about the Ethiopian dam crisis. The results showed that social media has contributed significantly to providing Egyptian Expatriates in the UAE with information about the Ethiopian dam crisis. These results are consistent with the results of Table (2), which shows that the percentage of respondents relying on social media as a source of information on the Ethiopian dam crisis was high. This confirms that social media contributed to a high degree in providing the respondents with information about the crisis.

**Table 5: Reasons for relying on social media as a source of news and information about the Ethiopian dam crisis**

| Reasons   | Repetition | %    |
|---|------------|------|
| Presenting the topic in an easy and simple language.  | 115        | 57.5 |
| Rapid coverage of news.   | 122        | 61   |
| Continuous follow-up of the event and the coverage of all that is new and related to the Ethiopian dam crisis | 110        | 55   |
| It allowed me to obtain an enormous amount of information about the Ethiopian dam crisis                      | 40         | 20   |
| It is considered distinct in comparison to traditional media.   | 70         | 35   |
| Allow more room for freedom of expression.  | 55         | 27.5 |
| An interactive medium that allows communication with others.  | 110        | 55   |
| Its ability to influence events.  | 50         | 25   |
| Provide me with multiple views about the Ethiopian dam crisis   | 90         | 45   |
| Provide me with detailed information about the Ethiopian dam crisis   | 118        | 59   |
| It provides comprehensive coverage about the Ethiopian dam crisis   | 117        | 58.5 |
| Because it is my preferred source of obtaining news and information on the Ethiopian dam crisis               | 100        | 50   |
| It offers various perspectives from experts I trust.  | 112        | 56   |
| Because it does not belong to an official government agency.  | 110        | 55   |
| It offers views consistent with my views towards the Ethiopian dam crisis                                     | 80         | 40   |
| It allows me to interact with others about the Ethiopian dam crisis   | 120        | 60   |

Multiple choiceN= (200)

The data obtained from table 5 confirmed that 61% of the respondents asserted that “the rapid coverage of news”. is the first reason for their dependence on social media. While 60% of the respondents considered that the second reason for their reliance on social media networks is “it allows me to interact with others about the Ethiopian dam crisis” “Provide me with detailed information about the Ethiopian dam crisis” came third with a percentage 59%. “It provides comprehensive coverage about the Ethiopian dam crisis” ranked fourth with a percentage 58.5%.

**Table 6: The methods used (the nature of participation) through social media to obtain news information about the Ethiopian dam crisis**

| Types                                       | N   | %    | Ranking |
|---|-----|------|---------|
| Share and open comments with the public.    | 170 | 85   | 1       |
| Fast SMS.                                   | 68  | 34   | 4       |
| Send some news.                             | 56  | 28   | 7       |
| Follow up on news groups.                   | 85  | 42.5 | 3       |
| Written conversation via chat and comments. | 110 | 55   | 2       |
| Upload audio and video files on the topic.  | 58  | 29   | 6       |
| Post a comment on news.                     | 62  | 31   | 5       |
| Others.                                     | 26  | 13   | 8       |

**Multiple choice n= (2 · ·)**

It is clear from the presentation of the previous results that participation and open comments with the public, were among the most prominent communication method that the participants relied on to obtain news and information about the Ethiopian dam crisis. This result is consistent with the findings of Abdullah’s study (2014), which concluded that written conversation about chatting methods and comments was one of the most common communication methods and tools used by the participants in communicating with others through social networks .

**Table 7: Favorite media items to follow on social media about the Ethiopian dam crisis**

| Reasons   | N  | %    |
|---|----|------|
| Participate in comments and open discussions with the public                | 80 | 40   |
| News reports that are concerned with clarifying the facts about the crisis. | 95 | 47.5 |
| Official comments about the Ethiopian dam crisis.                           | 55 | 27.5 |

|   |     |      |
|---|-----|------|
| Specialized studies and research on the Ethiopian dam crisis  | 60  | 30   |
| Quick news about the developments of the Ethiopian dam crisis | 135 | 67.5 |
| News stories about the Ethiopian dam crisis.                  | 66  | 33   |
| In-depth analyzes by experts and specialists on the crisis.   | 110 | 55   |

**Multiple choice n= (200)**

From Table 7, it was found out that the respondents were fully aware of everything that is reported and updated on social networks, including quick news, in-depth analyzes, news reports, open participation, and comments with the public in order to follow developments on the issue of the Ethiopian dam crisis, and to remain fully aware of the developments of the issue.

### **Attitudes of respondents towards social media coverage of the Ethiopian dam crisis**

To determine the attitudes of respondents regarding social media coverage of the Ethiopian dam crisis, this researcher used a 3-point Likert scale ranging from agree, disagree, and neutral. Participants were asked “please state whether you agree, disagree, neutral” with each statement. Table 8 shows that the phrase “social media was my first source for obtaining information and news about the Ethiopian dam crisis” as one of the phrases that clarify the respondents’ attitudes regarding the coverage of social media towards the crisis. The percentage of those who agreed was 70% , the percentage of those neutral was 31% and the percentage of those who disagree was (4%). Furthermore, the results indicated that “social media has contributed to increase the understanding of the Ethiopian dam crisis “ as one of the phrases that clarifies the respondents’ attitudes regarding the coverage of social media towards the Ethiopian dam crisis.

This came in second place where the percentage of those who agree was 57.5%, the percentage of those who were neutral was 42.5%, and the percentage of those who disagree was 5.5%. Moreover, the phrase “social media has contributed to increase my interest in the crisis” came as one of the phrases that clarifies the respondents’ attitudes about the coverage of social media of the Ethiopian dam crisis this phrase came in the third place, where the percentage of those who agree was 55.%, the percentage of those neutral was 37.5.%, and the percentage of those who disagree was (7.5%). The phrase “ my follow-up to social media during the crisis contributed to an increase in my interest



in the national issues” came in the fourth place, where the percentage of those who agree was (52.5%), the percentage of neutral was (40%), and the percentage of those who disagree was (7.5%).

Additionally, the phrase “social media has created a public opinion that supports both the Egyptian government and the Egyptian diplomacy in the international community” came in the fifth order, where the percentage of those who agree was (51 %), the percentage of neutral (46%), and the percentage of those who disagree was (3%). Additionally, the phrase “social media gave me the opportunity to freely express my opinions about the Ethiopian dam crisis” came in the sixth order, where the percentage of those who agree was (49.5 %), the percentage of neutral was (44%), and the percentage of those who disagree was (6.5%). Finally, the phrase “my use of social media has increased due to the crisis” came in the seventh order, where the percentage of those who agree was (48.5 %), the percentage of neutral was (43%), and the percentage of those who disagree was (6.5%)

**Table 8: Attitudes of respondents regarding social media coverage of the Ethiopian dam crisis**

|  | Agree |      | Neutral |      | Disagree |     |
|--|-------|------|---------|------|----------|-----|
|  | N     | %    | N       | %    | N        | %   |
| Social media has contributed to increase the understanding of the Ethiopian dam crisis   | 115   | 57.5 | 85      | 42.5 | 11       | 5.5 |
| Social media was my first source for obtaining information and news about the Ethiopian dam crisis   | 140   | 70   | 62      | 31   | 8        | 4   |
| Social media has increased my interest in the Ethiopian dam crisis   | 110   | 55   | 75      | 37.5 | 15       | 7.5 |
| Social media has created a public opinion that supports both the Egyptian government and the Egyptian diplomacy in the international community | 102   | 51   | 92      | 46   | 6        | 3   |
| My follow-up to social media during the crisis contributed to an increase in my interest in national issues                                    | 105   | 52.5 | 80      | 40   | 15       | 7.5 |
| Social media gave me the opportunity to freely express my opinions about the Ethiopian dam crisis  | 99    | 49.5 | 88      | 44   | 13       | 6.5 |
| My use of social media has increased due to the crisis   | 97    | 48.5 | 86      | 43   | 13       | 6.5 |

To determine the cognitive effects of social media on Egyptian expatriates in the UAE regarding the Ethiopian dam crisis, this research used a 5-point Likert scale ranging

from 1 = strongly disagree to 5= strongly agree. Participants were asked “please state whether you strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree” with each statement.

**Table 9: The cognitive effects of using social media during the Ethiopian dam crisis**

| Cognitive effects  | Strongly agree |      | Agree |      | Neutral |      | Disagree |     | Strongly disagree |      |
|--|----------------|------|-------|------|---------|------|----------|-----|-------------------|------|
|  | N              | %    | N     | %    | N       | %    | N        | %   | N                 | %    |
| Social media platforms have certainly increased my information and knowledge about the Ethiopian dam crisis.                                       | 115            | 57.5 | 40    | 20   | 30      | 15   | 10       | 5   | 5                 | 2.5  |
| Social media provided me with various information and historical facts about the Ethiopian dam crisis and Egypt's historical rights                | 102            | 51   | 45    | 22.5 | 40      | 20   | 6        | 3   | 7                 | 3.5  |
| Social media provided many interpretations, analysis and comments from many experts and specialists in water issues and international river issues | 90             | 45   | 30    | 15   | 40      | 20   | 30       | 15  | 10                | 5    |
| Social media helped me to know the reactions of Egyptians and the opinions of Egyptian citizens about the crisis                                   | 70             | 35   | 30    | 15   | 50      | 25   | 20       | 10  | 30                | 15   |
| Social media helped me have a the good understanding about Ethiopian dam crisis  | 107            | 53.5 | 45    | 22.5 | 33      | 16.5 | 5        | 2.5 | 10                | 5    |
| Social media have a direct influence in my views and the Ethiopian information about dam crisis  | 95             | 47.5 | 30    | 15   | 45      | 22.5 | 15       | 7.5 | 25                | 12.5 |
| Social media helped me to find specific information I'm looking for about the Ethiopian dam crisis.  | 85             | 42.5 | 25    | 12.5 | 55      | 27.5 | 20       | 10  | 15                | 7.5  |

Table 9 shows that most respondents (77.5%) agree and strongly agree with the statement “Social media platforms have certainly increased my information and knowledge about the Ethiopian dam crisis’. Furthermore, (76%) of the respondents agree and strongly agree with the statement “Social media helped me have a good understanding about the Ethiopian dam crisis”. 73.5 % of the respondents strongly agree and agree that social media provided them with various information and historical

facts about the Ethiopian dam crisis and Egypt's historical rights. Moreover, 62.5% assured that social media have a direct influence in their views and information about the Ethiopian dam crisis. While 60% indicated that they strongly agree and agree with the statement "Social media provided many interpretations, analysis and comments, for many experts and specialists in water issues and international river issues". In addition, 55% of the respondents agreed that social media helped them find specific information they were looking for, while 17.5% disagreed with the same statement. On the other hand, 50% of the respondents agreed that social media helped them find out the reactions of Egyptians and the opinions of Egyptian citizens about the Ethiopian dam crisis. The previous results show that there are significant cognitive effects because of the public's reliance on social media, especially in certain circumstances, the most important of which is during crises that are related to a national issue such as the crisis of the Ethiopian dam, which is related to the lives of Egyptians and the future of their existence.

**Table 10: The most important emotional effects of social media on Egyptian expatriates in the UAE regarding the Ethiopian dam crisis**

| Reasons   | Strongly agree |      | Agree |      | Neutral |      | Disagree |      | Strongly disagree |     |
|---|----------------|------|-------|------|---------|------|----------|------|-------------------|-----|
|   | N              | %    | N     | %    | N       | %    | N        | %    | N                 | %   |
| I feel worried about Egypt's watery future  | 24             | 12   | 85    | 42.5 | 50      | 25   | 25       | 12.5 | 16                | 8   |
| I feel disinterested and indifferent about the fate of the Ethiopian dam crisis   | 20             | 10   | 82    | 41   | 45      | 22.5 | 35       | 17.5 | 18                | 9   |
| My sense of national belonging is through my concern, my interest, and my follow-up of the developments of the Ethiopian dam crisis | 30             | 15   | 90    | 45   | 50      | 25   | 20       | 10   | 10                | 5   |
| I feel satisfied with the government's decisions regarding the Ethiopian dam  | 18             | 9    | 79    | 39.5 | 46      | 23   | 46       | 23   | 11                | 5.5 |
| Feeling the importance and value of the Nile River in the lives of Egyptians  | 29             | 14.5 | 88    | 44   | 45      | 22.5 | 20       | 10   | 18                | 9   |
| The feeling of the unity of all Egyptians towards the Ethiopian dam crisis  | 40             | 20   | 90    | 45   | 55      | 27.5 | 10       | 5    | 5                 | 2.5 |

Table 10 shows that most respondents (65%) agree and strongly agree with the statement "The feeling of the unity of all Egyptians towards the Ethiopian dam crisis". Furthermore, 60% of the respondents agree and strongly agree with the statement "my

sense of national belonging is through my concern, my interest, and my follow-up with the developments of the Ethiopian dam crisis". 58.5 % of the respondents strongly agree and agree with the statement "feeling the importance and value of the Nile River in the lives of Egyptians". Additionally, 54.5% of respondents agree and strongly agree with the statement "I feel worried about Egypt's watery future". While 51% indicated that they strongly agree and agree with the statement "I feel disinterested and indifferent about the fate of the Ethiopian dam crisis. In addition, 48.5% of the respondents agreed and strongly agree that with the statement "I feel satisfied with the government's decisions regarding the Ethiopian dam". It is clear from these results that the affiliation and the rallying around national issues increased, especially in times of crisis. At the same time, there was a feeling of anxiety and fear over the fate of the Ethiopian dam and the future of Egypt's water. However, it confirms the extent of interest in issues related to the homeland, especially during crises.

**Table 11: The most important behavioral effects of social media on Egyptian expatriates in the UAE regarding the Ethiopian dam crisis**

| Reasons  | Strongly agree |    | Agree |    | Neutral |    | Disagree |    | Strongly disagree |   |
|--|----------------|----|-------|----|---------|----|----------|----|-------------------|---|
|  | N              | %  | N     | %  | N       | %  | N        | %  | N                 | % |
| I exchanged emails, SMS, and maps containing historical information about the Ethiopian dam crisis   | 26             | 13 | 90    | 45 | 40      | 20 | 30       | 15 | 14                | 7 |
| I participated in discussions about the crisis through news groups interested in the crisis  | 20             | 10 | 88    | 44 | 30      | 15 | 44       | 22 | 18                | 9 |
| I participated in many discussions with citizens from Ethiopia and explained Egypt's historical rights to the waters of the Nile through evidence and documents. | 20             | 10 | 100   | 50 | 40      | 20 | 30       | 15 | 10                | 5 |
| Participation in referendums and opinion polls presented by a number of media institutions and public opinion poll centers in Egypt.                             | 16             | 8  | 80    | 40 | 50      | 25 | 40       | 20 | 14                | 7 |
| Participation in providing information and historical maps which illustrates Egypt's historical right to the waters of the Nile.                                 | 20             | 10 | 84    | 42 | 50      | 25 | 30       | 15 | 16                | 8 |

To determine the behavioral effects of social media on Egyptian expatriates in the UAE regarding the issue of the Ethiopian Dam, this research used a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1= strongly disagree to 5= strongly agree. Participants were asked “please state whether you strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree” with each statement. Table 11 shows that most respondents ( 60% ) agree and strongly agree with the statement “I participated in many discussions with citizens from Ethiopia and explained Egypt’s historical rights to the waters of the Nile through evidence and documents”. Furthermore, 58% of the respondents agree and strongly agree with the statement “I exchanged emails, SMS, and maps containing historical information about the Ethiopian dam crisis”. 54 % of the respondents strongly agree and agree with the statement “I participated in discussions about the crisis through news groups interested in the crisis ”. As well, 52% of respondents agree and strongly agree with the statement “participation in providing information and historical maps which illustrates Egypt’s historical right to the waters of the Nile”. In addition, 48% of the respondents agreed and strongly agree that with the statement “Participation in the referendums and opinion polls presented by a number of media institutions and public opinion poll centers in Egypt ”.

### **Discussions and conclusion**

Reflecting on the research questions raised earlier in this study, it is now possible to summarize and discuss the main findings of the study. The significance of this study lies in the fact that it looks at the usage of social media by Egyptian expatriates in the UAE as a source of news and information about the Ethiopian Dam crisis.

This study aims to bring attention to the dynamics of using social media by Egyptian expatriates in the UAE, as a source of news and information about the Ethiopian Dam crisis. These Egyptian expatriates’ citizens belong to one of the most important African countries which has different economic, social and political contexts. Additionally, there is a lack of studies conducted on the sources of information that Egyptian expatriates in the UAE rely on regarding national issues in Egypt. Furthermore, there is a scarcity of media studies conducted on African issues, despite the influence of Africa on the International agenda today. Therefore, this study is important in understanding and gaining a greater insight into this crisis. The study has attempted to describe, identify and investigate how Egyptian expatriates in the UAE are using social media as a source of news about national issues. The study’s results were based on 200 questionnaires completed by Egyptian expatriates working in various public and private organizations

in the UAE. It examined the frequency of use, reason of use, most effective social media, and the attitudes of Egyptian expatriates towards social media as a source of news and information about the Ethiopian Dam crisis. The following conclusions can be drawn from the findings outlined above. This study has substantiated some of the conclusions and speculations of a number of previous studies. For example, many of the results reported herein are consistent with many previous studies. It can be said that some interesting results emerged from this study. First, the results showed that most participants are using social media more than traditional media to obtain news and information. Second, social media platforms came at the forefront of the sources that the respondents rely on to get news and information regarding the issue of the Ethiopian dam crisis, with more than 90% of the participants relying on social media platforms, followed by online newspapers, then traditional media. This result showed the decline use of traditional media among the Egyptian expatriates in the UAE versus social media. Likewise, this result could be explained in the light of the nature of the economic status in the UAE, which is considered one of the richest countries in the Gulf region and the first country in the Arab world in terms of using social network sites (Mohamed, 2017:34). As mentioned by Sokol & Sisler (2010), speedy economic development prompted the rapid diffusion of information and communication technologies, which has resulted in the rise of a new information society in the country ( Quoted from Mohamed, 2017 :34). Second, regarding the most popular social media platforms the Egyptian expatriates in the UAE are using during this crisis, the findings indicated that Facebook was ranked first then YouTube ranked second, and WhatsApp came in the third place. These results are logical considering the increase in the use of Facebook in general, especially in the Arab region, and the increase in this use after what is referred to as the Arab Spring revolutions. Most of the previous studies have confirmed that Facebook is the most popular and top-rated SMS world-wide. Additionally, Facebook continues to be the biggest social networking site in terms of its worldwide reach. This result is in accordance with the findings of many previous studies (e.g. Ahammad H. and Al Muktadir M. 2022; Al-Barghouth, 2014; Bowman, D. B., & Clark-Gordon, C. V. 2020; Salem, F. 2017; Tal L. 2022). Third, the findings confirmed that there were many reasons for the participants' choosing a specific media outlet to obtain news and information about the Ethiopian dam crisis, where the most important of these factors were respectively: "the rapid coverage of news" is the first reason for their dependence on social media with a percentage of 61%. This result shows that the speed of news transmission is one of the most important factors that drive individuals to rely on one

medium outlet without another medium. This result converges with the findings of other studies ( e.g. Al-Barghouth, 2014; Komodroms, 2014; Radwan, A. 2001; Sutton et al., 2008) who's studies confirmed that the speed in reporting events, the continuous follow-up of the event and the coverage of everything new and related to the event and presenting the topic in an easy and simple language, were among the most important reasons that prompted the respondents to rely on social media as a source of news and information about events and various issues. The researcher believes that these results are logical with the nature of the speed and the capabilities available to the members of the Egyptian expatriates residing in the UAE from an infrastructure that allows them easy access to social networks in almost. While 60% of the participants considered that the second reason for their reliance on social media is the social media allows me to interact with others about the Ethiopian dam crisis. This is followed by "provide me with detailed information about the Ethiopian dam crisis with a percentage of 59%. Then, "provides comprehensive coverage about the Ethiopian dam crisis" ranked fourth with a percentage of 58.5%. "Presenting the topic in an easy and simple language" with a percentage of 57.5%, and finally, "Presenting various views of experts I trust" with a percentage of 56%. Fourth, the findings confirmed that the respondents' dependency on social media to obtain news and information about the Ethiopian dam crisis was high (68.5%). This result is in the line with many previous studies (e.g. Anspach, N. M. 2016; Chen, Y., Conroy, N. J., and Rubin, V. L. 2015; Gottfried, J., & Shearer, E. 2016; Lee, J. & Choi, Y. 2018; Li, Y. Yang, S., Zhang, S., & Zhang, W. 2019; Stewart, M. C. and Wilson, B. G. 2016) Fifth, regarding the contribution of social media in providing the participants with news and information about the Ethiopian dam crisis, the results confirmed that 77% of respondents indicated that social media has contributed in providing them with news and information about the crisis. Six, the results revealed that 60% of the participants trust social media platforms' handling of information related to the Ethiopian dam crisis. This can be explained in the light of the fact that trust in the media leads to increased dependence on it. As mentioned by Kioussis, (2011), and Jakob, (2010), during crises, people's trust in the media becomes fundamental to their dependency on the media and the effects that come out of that trust, which makes both the media and trust to be correlated . This expose means that the further a person starts to rely on certain media for news and information, the further they will have better levels of trust, though trust is very significant during disasters times (Kasirye, 2021). Likewise, the researcher believes that the reference to this trust is due to the absence of trust historically enjoyed by traditional media among the Arab public in general, especially

national and party newspapers in Egypt, in contrast to social media that allow a high degree of freedom of expression and the presentation of divergent views. Seven, with regards to the forms of interaction of the participants with others through the social media to obtain news and information about the Ethiopian dam crisis, the results showed that the highest percentage was “participation and open comments with the public through social networks” of the most important methods that were used to obtain information, followed by “written conversation.” By chatting and comments”. Eight, many cognitive, emotional and behavioral effects were achieved as a result of the participants’ reliance on social media during the Ethiopian dam crisis. Regarding the cognitive effects, the results indicated that social media platforms have certainly increased the participants’ information and knowledge about the Ethiopian dam crisis. Likewise, the results confirmed that social media helped the participants establish a good understanding of the Ethiopian dam crisis. It is clear from the above results the importance and extent of expatriates’ dependence on social media to obtain news and information related to national issues, taking in consideration the expatriates’ pursuit and need, especially outside their homeland. In terms of the emotional effects, the results assured that social media has certainly increased the feeling of unity, of all the Egyptian expatriates in the UAE, towards the Ethiopian dam crisis. Furthermore, social media has led to the sense of national belonging through participants’ concern, interest, and their follow-up with the developments of the Ethiopian dam crisis. Regarding the behavioral effects, the results confirmed that social media has led the Egyptian expatriates to participate in several discussions with citizens from Ethiopia, these discussions include explaining Egypt’s historical rights to the waters of the Nile, through evidence and documents. Furthermore, social media has encouraged the participants to exchange emails, SMS, and maps containing historical information about the Ethiopian dam crisis.



## References

- Abdulalem, M. & Alberto, F. (2021). Factors influencing user participation in social media: Evidence from twitter usage during COVID-19 pandemic in Saudi Arabia, **Technology in Society**, 66 , <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techsoc.2021.101651>.
- Abdullah, A. N. (2014). **The impact of exposure to social networks on the Internet on the perception of current issues and events on a sample of university youth**, Unpublished MA Dissertation, Cairo: College of Media and Communication Technology, Misr University for Science and Technology. In Arabic
- Abu Salim, S. (2015). Jordanian university students' dependence on social media to obtain news and information, **Unpublished MA Dissertation, Amman**: College of Mass Communication, Middle East University. In Arabic.
- Adkisson, R. V. (2013). Policy convergence, state film-production incentives, and employment: A brief case study, **Journal of Economic Issues**, 47(2), 445-454.
- Ahammad H. and Al Muktadir M. (2022). Factors influencing Facebook addiction among Varendra University students in the lockdown during the COVID-19 outbreak, **Computers in Human Behaviour Reports**, 6.
- Ahmed, I. Y. (2021). The credibility of the electronic news sites treatment of Elnahada Dam issue. From the public's perspective and its' evaluation from elite's perspective, **Egyptian Journal of Public Opinion Research**, 2)20), 386-307.
- Al-Barghouth, I. (2014). The Palestinian Youth's Dependence on Social Networks to Get Information in Times of Crisis, **MA Dissertation**, Cairo: African Research Institute. In Arabic.
- Al- Dahmasi, F. (2019). Saudi Youth Dependency on social media for Information about the Operation Decisive Storm, **Mass Communication Research**, 52.pp.202-226.
- Al-Mohammadi, S. (2012). University youth's dependence on the social networking site Facebook during the presidential elections, **The Scientific Journal of Media Research**, Cairo University, (40), 119-169. In Arabic.
- Allen, R. and Lzcaray, F. (1988) Nominal agenda diversity in media in a media-rich, less developed society, **Communication Research**, 15 (1). 29-50.
- Almahmoud, M. (2021). Social Media Use and Saudi Adolescents' Identity Development, **PhD thesis**, Warner School of Education University of Rochester Rochester, New York.
- Anspach, N. M. (2016). The Facebook effect: Political news in the age of social media, **PhD thesis**, Temple University ProQuest Dissertations Publishing,
- Atwater, T., Salween, M.B. and Anderson, R.B. (1985). Media agenda-setting with environment issues, **Journalism Quarterly**, 62: 33-97.
- Ball-Rokeach, S. and DeFleur, M. L. (1976). A Dependency Model of Mass-Media, Effects, **Communications Research**, 3, 3-21. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/009365027600300101>
- Ball-Rokeach, S. J. (1985). The origins of individual media-system dependency a sociological framework, **Communication Research**, 12(4), pp. 485-510.
- Barakah, E. (2021). Attitudes of The Public Toward Addressing the Renaissance Dam Crisis in News Websites: A Field Study. **The Arab Journal for Media and Communication Research**, Canadian University, Cairo, Vol.34, PP 937-983.
- Barbakh, N. A. (2015). Dependency of the Palestinian political Elite on Social Networks as a source of informa-

- tion during the Israeli Aggression on Gaza in 2014. **Unpublished Master Thesis**. Islamic university of Gaza, Gaza.
- Bowman, D. B., & Clark-Gordon, C. V. (2020). Bergen Facebook Addiction Scale. In E. E. Graham & J. P. Mazer (Eds.), **Communication Research Measures III: A Sourcebook** (pp. 187-194).
- Boyd, D. M., and Ellison, N. B. (2007). Social network sites: Definition, history, and scholarship. **Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication**, 13(1), 210-230 [accessed Jun 05, 2022].
- Buckley, B. (2007). The importance of choosing an appropriate data collection method in research into stigmatised or embarrassing symptoms. **Way Ahead**, 11(2), 6-7
- Cato, S., Iida, T., Ishida, K., Ito, A., Katsumata, H., McElwain, K. M., & Shoji, M. (2021). The bright and dark sides of social media usage during the COVID-19 pandemic: Survey evidence from Japan. **International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction**, 54, 102034.
- Chen, Y., Conroy, N. J., and Rubin, V. L. (2015). News in an online world: The need for an "automatic crap detector." **Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology**, 52(1), 1-4.
- Cheng, X. (2013). Social Networks and News Production: A Study of Taiwan Correspondents in Mainland China, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong) **ProQuest Dissertations Publishing**.
- El Tawil, N. (2018). Framing of terrorism and Ethiopian dam on online Egyptian publications and social media. **Master's Thesis**, The American University in Cairo]. AUC Knowledge Fountain. <https://fount.aucegypt.edu/etds/448>.
- Frey, E. F. J., Buonfiglio, C., Brunner, M., & Frawley, J. (2021). Parents' use of social media as a health information source for their children: A scoping review. **Academic Pediatrics**, 22(4), 526-539.
- Grant, A.E., and Meadows, J.H. (Eds.)(2020) **Communication Technology Update and Fundamentals**, Routledge.
- Groshek, J. (2011). Media, instability, and democracy: examining the Granger-causal relationships of 122 Countries from 1946 to 2003. **Journal of Communication**, 61(6),1161-1182. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1460-2466.2011.01594.x>.
- Gruber, D. A., Smerek, R. E., Thomas-Hunt, M. C., & James, E. H. (2015). The real-time power of Twitter: Crisis management and leadership in an age of social media. **Business Horizons**, 58(2), 163-172.
- Gruzd, A., Jacobson, J., Mai, P., & Dubois, E. (2018). **Social media privacy in Canada**. Available at SSRN 3195503.
- Hamed, M. (2021). The role of social networking sites in shaping the knowledge and attitudes of the Egyptian public towards the Renaissance Dam crisis: a field study, **Scientific Journal of Public Relations and Advertising Research**, 21, pp.127-186.
- Hassan, M. O., and Rifai, A.M. (2020). The Caricature Treatment to the Issue of the EL- Nahda Dam in the Egyptian Newspapers (Analysis Study), **Journal of Media Research**, Al Azhar University, 55, pp. 1216-1812.
- Hassanein, O. (2014). The role of Facebook in providing university youth with information about corruption' issues in Egypt, **unpublished Ph.D. thesis**, (Cairo: Ain Shams University) in Arabic.
- Ibrahim, M. (2016). Egyptian university youth's dependence on social media as a source of news, an applied study on Facebook and Twitter, **Unpublished MA Dissertation**, Cairo: Cairo University, Egypt.in Arabic.
- Jackob, N. G. E. (2010). No alternatives? The relationship between perceived media dependency, use of alternative information sources, and general trust in mass media. **International Journal of Communication**, 4, 18.
- Kasirye, F. (2021). **Analysing Media Dependency During Crisis. A case of COVID-19 in Malaysia**. <https://>

- [www.researchgate.net/publication/353720956\\_Analyzing\\_Media\\_Dependency\\_During\\_Crisis\\_A\\_case\\_of\\_COVID-19\\_in\\_Malaysia](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/353720956_Analyzing_Media_Dependency_During_Crisis_A_case_of_COVID-19_in_Malaysia)
- Kassem, H.A. (2020), Trends of The Public Towards the Credibility of Traditional and Modern Mass Media in Addressing Crises: The Renaissance Dam as A Mode. **Journal of Media Studies and Research**, Higher Institute of Media, Al Shorouk Academy, 14, pp.411-415.
- Khalifa, A. (2014). Jordanian university students' dependence on websites to seek information towards political issues, **Unpublished MA Dissertation**, Amman: Yarmouk University. In Arabic.
- Khan, M. L. (2017). Social media engagement: What motivates user participation and consumption on YouTube? **Computers in Human Behavior**, 66, 236–247.
- Kircaburun, K., and Griffiths, M. (2018). Instagram addiction and the big five of personality: the mediating role of self-liking, **Journal of Behavioral Addictions**, 7(1), 158–170 [accessed Jun 05, 2022].
- Kiousis, S. (2011). Agenda-setting and attitudes: exploring the impact of media salience on perceived salience and public attitude strength of us presidential candidates from 1984 to 2004. **Journalism Studies**, 12(3), 359-374.
- Komodromos, M. (2014). A study of PR practitioners 'use of social media tools in Cyprus. **Journal of developmental entrepreneurship**, 02)19), 1450011.
- Larson, A. G. and Acheaw, O. M. (2015). Use of social media and its impact on academic performance of Tertiary Institution students: A study of students of Koforidua Polytechnic, Ghana. **Journal of Education and Practice**, 6(6), 94–102.
- Lee, C. S. (2012). Exploring emotional expressions on YouTube through the lens of media system dependency theory, **new media & society**, 14(3), 457-475.
- Lee, J., & Choi, Y. (2018). Informed public against false rumour in the social media era: Focusing on social media dependency. **Telematics and Informatics**, 35(5), 1071-1081.
- Li, Y., Yang, S., Zhang, S., & Zhang, W. (2019). Mobile social media use intention in emergencies among Gen Y in China: An integrative framework of gratifications, task-technology fit, and media dependency. **Telematics and Informatics**, 42, 101244.
- Marzouk, D. (2017). Addressing News Channels' Websites for The Grand Ethiopian Dam Crisis, **The Egyptian Journal of Media Research**, 61, PP47-140.
- McQueen, R. and Knussen, C. (2006). **Introduction to Research Methods and Statistics in Psychology**, London: Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Mohamed, H. (2017). The Effects of Utilizing social media Tools During Crisis from Public Relations Practitioners' Views in the UAE, **International Journal of Online Marketing** 4)7):38-21.
- Mohammed, A., & Ferraris, A. (2021). Factors influencing user participation in social media: Evidence from twitter usage during COVID-19 pandemic in Saudi Arabia. **Technology in Society**, 66, 101651
- Morjan, H. (2015). Dependence of university students in Gaza on electronic websites to acquire information about the Palestinian refugee issue, a field study, **Unpublished MA Dissertation**, Gaza: The Islamic University. In Arabic.
- Nabi, J., and Oliver MB., (2009). **The SAGE handbook of media processes and effects**, SAGE, Thousand Oaks (CA).
- Noel, Julia Elizabeth J.E. (2021). College Students' Experiences with Social Media Information Sharing and Sexting, Bullying, and Cyberstalking: A Qualitative Phenomenological Study, Northcentral University ProQuest **Dissertations** Publishing.
- Pew research centre, **News Use Across Social Media Platforms in 2020**. <https://www.pewresearch.org/journalism/2021/01/12/news-use-across-social-media-platforms-in-2020/>

- Phua, J.J., Jin, S.A., and Kim, J.H. (2017). Uses and Gratifications of Social Networking Sites for Bridging and Bonding Social Capital: A Comparison of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat, **Computers in Human Behavior**. [accessed Jun 05, 2022].
- Rashidi, Y. (2021). How young adults manage privacy and maintain social norms in the era of pervasive photography and social media, **PhD thesis**, Indiana University.
- Robinson, N. W., Zeng, C., and Holbert, R. L. (2018). The stubborn pervasiveness of television news in the digital age and the field's attention to the medium, 2010– 2014. **Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media**, 62(2), 287–301. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08838151.2018.1451857>
- Salah, S. (2015). Palestinian university students' uses of social networks and their gratifications, a field study, **Unpublished MA Dissertation**, Gaza: The Islamic University. In Arabic.
- Salem, F. (2017). Social media and the internet of things towards data-driven policymaking in the Arab world: potential limits and concerns. In Arab Social Media Report. MBR School of Government.
- Sokol, D., & Sisler, V. (2010). Socializing on the Internet: Case study of Internet use among university students in the United Arab Emirates. **Global Media Journal**, 9(16).
- Stewart, M. C. and Wilson, B. G. (2016). The dynamic role of social media during Hurricane# Sandy: An introduction of the STREMI model to weather the storm of the crisis lifecycle. **Computers in Human Behavior**, 54, 639-646. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2015.07.009>
- Sutton, J. N., Palen, L., & Shklovski, I. (2008). Backchannels on the front lines: Emergency uses of social media in the 2007 Southern California Wildfire, Proceedings of the **5th International ISCRAM Conference** – Washington, DC, USA, May 2008 F. Fiedrich and B. Van de Walle, eds.
- Tal L. (2022). My social network: Group differences in frequency of use, active use, and interactive use on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, **Technology in Society**, 68, 101922..
- Uslu, N. A., & Durak, H. Y. (2022). The relationships between university students' information-seeking strategies, social-media specific epistemological beliefs, information literacy, and personality traits. **Library & Information Science Research**, 2(44), 101155.
- Youssef, M. S. (2022). Attitudes of the Egyptian academic elite towards eating Arab news channels of the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam crisis. **The Arab Journal for Media Research and Communication**, 37, pp 240-262.
- Zhang, X., & Zhong, Z. J. (2020). Extending media system dependency theory to informational media use and informationalism: A cross-national study. **Telematics and Informatics**, 50, 101378.