The reflections of social media platforms on intellectual security: An applied study of students of King Faisal University

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Abstract

This study aimed to examine how social media networks influence intellectual perceptions among students at King Faisal University. Employing a descriptive research design, the investigation focused specifically on the impact of social media platforms on security-related thought, particularly within social and political contexts. The findings indicate that WhatsApp, Snapchat, and Instagram are the most frequently used networks among these students. Moreover, the results reveal that social media's influence on security thought is strongly associated with social and infrastructural effects, moderately linked to economic effects, and demonstrates a significant correlation with considerable economic impact as measured by the questionnaire. Although no statistically significant differences were found in responses based on gender, academic specialization, or level, significant variations emerged in the definition of specialization and its relationship with the effects of social media on intellectual perceptions. Based on these results, the study recommends establishing an educational institution within the university dedicated to social communication. This institution would offer guidance programs aimed at regulating the design and use of social media in academic settings while also emphasizing the importance of enacting and enforcing legislation to prevent the dissemination of extremist or harmful content.

Keywords: Cultural identity, Digital and intellectual gaps, Digital awareness, Intellectual security, Social media platforms.

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1. Introduction

Considering the technological and informational revolution that the world is witnessing today, social media platforms have become an integral part of the lives of individuals and communities. These platforms have brought about a radical transformation in methods of communication, knowledge transfer, and opinion exchange, allowing individuals unprecedented freedom to express their ideas. However, this freedom comes with certain challenges, particularly in relation to intellectual security, which is a fundamental aspect of societal stability and protection from extreme ideologies and intellectual deviations.

When families have increasingly become busy with work, social, and practical affairs and subsequently far from their children, we are currently facing a threat to our intellectual security—a strategic dimension of our national security. Preserving it, in return, requires instilling solid thought, moderate and correct beliefs, moral values, and good ethics. The correlation between intellectual security and our national identity sets the basis for fulfilling individual and national security and countering the threats posed by destructive ideologies that negatively affect our society. Therefore, the educational and pedagogical dimension is the most important one for developing intellectual awareness among youth [1].

The rapid changes that the world is currently experiencing have resulted in our youth exhibiting an obvious dispersion in goals and objectives. These changes have made it difficult for young people to clearly distinguish between what is right and wrong, leading to a significant intellectual crisis that has urged them to rebel against values and become almost entirely alienated from the ethics of the scientific and technological revolution.

In the past few decades, the world has witnessed radical transformations because of the rapid development of information and communication technology. Social media platforms have become one of the most significant tools in shaping the social, economic, and political landscape worldwide. Platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat are no longer just a means of personal communication; rather, they have become an open space for interaction among individuals, governments, and institutions, creating diverse effects in various fields [2, 3].

From a social perspective, social media platforms have led to in-depth changes in interaction patterns between individuals and communities, as they have contributed to enhancing communication across borders and cultures. However, they have also posed some challenges, such as social isolation, the spread of cyberbullying, and the breakdown of family relationships in some cases. From an economic viewpoint, these platforms have become key tools for digital marketing and e-commerce, leading to the establishment of new job opportunities and innovative business models. Nonetheless, they have also contributed to changes in the traditional labor market and increased challenges related to digital monopolies and privacy. From a political perspective, social media platforms have played a pivotal role in shaping public opinion and influencing elections and political campaigns. They have also become a major tool for disseminating information and news, whether accurate or misleading, making them a double-edged sword in the political domain [4].

To be safe from the dangers of those platforms, we must learn and teach how to master critical thinking skills. Many conferences have recommended the necessity for educational institutions to raise awareness among students at different educational stages about the proper uses of social media platforms and emphasize the development of their various thinking skills so they can filter the ideas and opinions presented to them and not follow the destructive calls that harm the stability and security of society.

Intellectual security refers to the state in which an individual has intellectual insight that enables him or her to distinguish between constructive and destructive ideas, contributing to societal stability. Obviously, social media platforms play a dual role in this context; on one hand, they are a means to enhance intellectual awareness through the dissemination of knowledge and exchange of expertise. On the other hand, they may be a platform for spreading extremist and misleading ideas, making it necessary to study their influence on intellectual security, especially among young people who are most interactive and influenced by these platforms [5]. The concept of intellectual security refers to a state of balance and intellectual awareness that protects the individual from following extremist or destructive ideas and helps them distinguish between truth and falsehood. This issue is particularly important in the academic context, where students face many intellectual and cultural challenges because of their intensive exposure to digital content published through social media platforms Berthon, et al. [6]. Helali, et al. [7] underscore the importance of research and dialogue on effective strategies for integrating social media to foster trust within school communities. Social media platforms, such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat, are considered a double-edged sword; on one hand, they provide an environment for knowledge exchange and enrich intellectual discussions, and on the other hand, they may be a means of spreading misleading information and ideas that threaten intellectual security. This reality highlights the demand to study the reflections of these platforms upon the university youth category, as they are considered the most affected by these digital transformations [8].

With the growing effect of social media platforms on individuals and societies, it has become necessary to understand the nature of these effects that bring together significant benefits and increasing challenges. This study analyzes the social, economic, and political dimensions of these platforms and how they affect the lives of individuals and societies comprehensively. Moreover, this study highlights the reflections of social media platforms on intellectual security among students at King Faisal University and seeks to analyze the nature of the relationship between the use of these platforms and the level of intellectual awareness among students. Thus, the study can contextualize the problem in the following questions.

1. What are the most commonly used social media platforms among King Faisal University students?
2. What are the reflections of social media platforms on intellectual security from the perspective of King Faisal University students?
3. What is the correlation between the social, economic, and political effects of using social media platforms?
4. Are there statistically significant differences in the mean scores of King Faisal University students regarding the reflections of social media platforms on intellectual security due to the variables of gender, specialization, and academic level?

1.1. Significance of Study

The significance of the study lies in addressing the issue of security and stability in society. Understanding the effects of social media platforms on intellectual security contributes to providing a scientific basis for formulating policies and awareness programs aimed at protecting students from the negative effects of digital content. The study is conducted at a time when digital technology is one of the pivotal factors in shaping the future of younger generations.

2. Literature Review

A study conducted by Alousi [9] investigated the effect of social media networks on the intellectual security system of Egyptian youth. The results showed that social media platforms contribute to the widespread of extremist sites associated with Islam, as well as spreading liberal atheistic ideas, negatively affecting intellectual security. Abdelfattah [10] study aimed to identify the role of social media networks in enhancing intellectual security in Saudi society, focusing on Twitter as a model. The study followed a content analysis approach and was applied to the Global Center for Combating Extremist Thought (Etidal) Twitter account from its joining in May 2017 until December 2021. The results showed that the account effectively contributes to enhancing intellectual security by publishing content focusing on social, religious, and cultural dimensions. On the other hand, Al-Salmi [11] study aimed to study intellectual awareness in dealing with social media platforms, and the results revealed that intellectual awareness plays a central role in protecting individuals from the negative influences of digital content.

As discussed in Al-Harbi [12], the effect of social media networks on intellectual security among university students was examined. The results showed a correlation between the use of these networks and the level of intellectual security, as they can contribute to either enhancing or threatening intellectual security based on the quality of the content circulated. Furthermore, Al-Omari [13] aimed to explore the role of social media sites in fostering intellectual security from the perspective of female students. The results indicated that the responsible use of these sites contributes to enhancing intellectual security, while negative use may pose a threat. Additionally, Al-Zahrani [14] sought to identify the social dimensions of digital communication and demonstrated how social media platforms have influenced traditional communication patterns and social relationships.

Abdelrahman [15] addressed the impact of social media on both economic and social aspects, focusing on how these platforms reshape economic and social behaviors of individuals and communities. The study indicates that social media has become a main channel for digital marketing, leading to a radical shift in consumption patterns and customer interactions with companies. Socially, the study suggests that these platforms enhance interaction among individuals, but they also contribute to increased social isolation and intellectual polarization due to the growing reliance on virtual communication instead of real interaction. The study by Allcott and Gentzkow [16] examined the role of social media in spreading misleading information during the 2016 U.S. presidential elections. The results indicated that platforms like Facebook and Twitter were primary channels for disseminating falsehoods, influencing voter perceptions and leading to intellectual polarization.

As researched by Pennycook and Rand [17] in combating misleading information on social media using cognitive science, the researchers suggest strategies such as promoting critical thinking and increasing awareness of the dangers of fake news. The study shows that educating users on how to evaluate the credibility of content can greatly contribute to enhancing intellectual security. Bradshaw and Howard [18] shed light on organizing campaigns to manipulate information through social media on a global scale. It discusses how these platforms are exploited to spread extremist ideologies or manipulate public opinion, threatening intellectual security in societies. The study provides examples from various countries and analyzes the deceptive strategies used. The study by Freelon, et al. [19] discussed the differences between digital activities aimed at promoting intellectual awareness and activities used to promote extremism or misinformation. The study indicated that social media platforms often give equal space to misleading content alongside beneficial content, posing a risk to intellectual security.

The study by Hassan [20] identified the use of Facebook by university youth and the positives and negatives they follow on the site, through an empirical study on Egyptian and Bahraini communities. The study found a statistically significant correlation between the motives for college youth exposure to Facebook and the cognitive, emotional, and behavioral effects resulting from this exposure. It was found that 12.4% of university youth use Facebook for study and scientific research purposes, while 64.5% use it to establish friendships with others. Among the university youth's attitudes towards the negatives of using Facebook are feelings of introversion and depression at a rate of 62% and wasting time at a rate of 55.6%.

The study by Al-Hazani [21] identified the impact of social networks on enhancing intellectual security among students at Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University. The study found several key results including: the effect of social networks on enhancing intellectual security among university students in general was moderate, with an acceptance rate of 85.3% for political effects, 74.7% for social and psychological effects, and 72.4% for religious and ethical effects. The study also confirmed the significant desire among students at Princess Nourah University to overcome obstacles and problems to create a social environment aimed at improving the use of social networks to enhance intellectual security.

The study by Haneefa and Sumitha [22] investigated the awareness of social networking site usage among students at Calicut University in India. The study found that students expressed various fears of using social networking sites; lack of security and privacy is the most important one. It was revealed that students use their real names and personal photos in their profiles on social networking sites. The study recommended the necessity of implementing appropriate policies and strategies for safe usage of personal information by students. It also emphasized the importance of not disclosing personal information to strangers and the need for providing educational awareness programs on the risks of social networking sites.

The study by Abu Khutwa and Al-Baz [1] identified the impact of social networking sites on intellectual security among university students in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The study found that social networking sites in general have a moderate

impact on the intellectual security of students. It emphasized the importance of educating students at different educational stages about the uses of social networking sites and developing their critical thinking skills, so they can filter the ideas and opinions presented to them and not be induced by destructive calls that harm the stability and security of society. The study also proposed a vision for utilizing social networking sites to enhance intellectual security among university students in Bahrain.

Previous studies exhibited significant diversity in addressing the effect of social media platforms on intellectual security, in terms of affected areas, theoretical frameworks, and methodologies. Key observations include:

- Social effects: Studies emphasize how social platforms influence social cohesion, spread extremist ideas, and increase intellectual polarization among individuals and groups.
- Economic effect: Research highlighted the implications of digital economy practices, including the exploitation of user data for commercial gains, leading to new behavioral patterns related to intellectual security.
- Political effects: Studies examined the platforms' roles in political processes, such as election campaigns, political polarization, and the spread of fake news, all of which shape intellectual and political awareness.

While these studies provide valuable insights, they also underscore the complex challenges that require multidisciplinary responses. Although they offer useful perspectives, there remains a need for further in-depth research on the evolving dynamics of this relationship, especially given the continuous advancement of social media technology and its implications.

2.1. Theoretical Framework

In recent decades, the world has witnessed an unprecedented digital revolution, with social media platforms becoming one of the primary tools in shaping the lives of individuals and societies. By enabling individuals to freely express their opinions and providing platforms for the exchange of information and ideas, these tools have contributed to enhancing communication among different cultures and achieving global connectivity. However, this development has been accompanied by new challenges, notably the effect of these platforms on intellectual security, particularly among youth, who are the most engaged with these technologies. The following sections explore the social, economic, and political effects of social media platforms and their various implications for the intellectual security of university students.

2.2. The Social, Economic, and Political Impacts of Social Media Platforms

Social media platforms represent one of the most influential technological advancements of the modern era, fundamentally altering patterns of interaction among individuals and communities. Since their emergence, platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have become interactive environments that allow for the exchange of ideas and opinions and the building of virtual communities. However, their social impact is not one-dimensional, with their effects ranging from strengthening social bonds to introducing new challenges that affect the social fabric.

Studies indicate that social media platforms have significantly contributed to enhancing social communication, particularly in environments facing geographical or cultural barriers. A study by Boyd and Ellison [23] demonstrated that these platforms have helped strengthen existing social relationships and expand individuals' social networks, thereby fostering a sense of belonging. Additionally, these platforms serve as powerful tools for promoting social and cultural causes and raising awareness about humanitarian issues.

Conversely, there are negative aspects to social media platforms, such as their influence on the quality of personal relationships and the increase in social isolation. According to Turkle [24], excessive reliance on virtual interactions has led to a decline in the quality of real-world interactions, creating a gap in emotional communication between individuals. Hampton [25] also highlighted that while these platforms enhance communication, they can expand social polarization and disseminate misleading information, threatening community cohesion.

Another significant issue is cyberbullying, which has become prevalent due to the widespread use of these platforms, adversely affecting individuals' mental health, especially teenagers. A study by Kowalski, et al. [26] identified cyberbullying as one of the most influential negative social consequences, causing psychological stress and social isolation for its victims.

Social media platforms are an integral part of the global digital transformation, with their influence extending beyond the social dimension to various economic domains. These platforms have become vital tools in marketing, e-commerce, and advertising, redefining traditional economic models. By exploiting user databases and intelligent analysis technologies, these platforms provide new economic opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs while expanding consumer bases and markets on an unprecedented scale.

According to Kaplan and Haenlein [27], social media platforms have become primary marketing channels for companies, offering access to a wide audience at lower costs compared to traditional media. The study also proved that small and medium-sized enterprises have particularly benefited from these platforms to expand their operations and enhance competitiveness.

On the other hand, Zuboff [28] pointed out that the economy of social media platforms heavily relies on "control capitalism," where user data is collected and analyzed to generate significant profits through targeted advertising. This economic model has sparked widespread debate about privacy violations and its impact on consumer behavior.

Regarding the impact of social media platforms on labor markets, Montalvo [29] emphasized that these platforms have created new job opportunities, such as social media management, content marketing, and remote work. However, they have also changed the nature of work, placing greater emphasis on digital skills. Conversely, studies have highlighted the negative economic effects of social media platforms, such as increased unnecessary consumption due to targeted advertisements and the emergence of the "sharing economy," which has led to a decline in income for traditional workers in sectors like transportation and accommodation [30].

Social media platforms have brought about profound transformations in the global political scene, becoming influential tools in shaping political awareness, managing election campaigns, and enhancing political participation. By rapidly reaching a wide audience, these platforms have enabled individuals and groups to express their political opinions and organize social movements in unprecedented ways. However, they have also raised serious challenges, such as the spread of fake news, increased political polarization, and foreign interference in electoral processes. Howard and Hussain [31] highlighted the critical role of social media platforms in driving popular movements, such as the "Arab Spring," providing channels for disseminating information, organizing protests, and mobilizing the masses. The study also emphasized that these platforms created spaces for political dialogue in systems that restrict freedom of expression.

On the other hand, Allcott and Gentzkow [16] argued that the spread of fake news and misinformation on social media platforms poses a major challenge to democratic systems, as such information can influence voter decisions and distort electoral processes. Furthermore, Bennett and Segerberg [32] pointed out that social media platforms have reshaped methods of political activities through what is known as "digital teamwork action," allowing individuals to participate in political activities without engaging in traditional political parties. However, this shift has weakened individuals' commitment to sustained participation and fostered what is known as "temporary political activism."

Additionally, Bradshaw and Howard [18] shed light on the systematic use of social media platforms by governments and foreign entities to influence public opinion through misleading information campaigns. The study noted that this improper usage threatens the integrity of election processes and undermines confidence in political institutions.

Taking all these interconnected reflections together, studying the social, economic, and political effects of social media platforms is essential for understanding their comprehensive impact on societies. Such studies aim to provide insights that enhance the benefits of these platforms' positive potential while minimizing their negative effects on the social fabric, economy, and political systems.

2.3. Social Media Platforms and Their Various Impacts on University Students' Intellectual Security

Intellectual security is the ability to maintain individuals' solid ideas and correct beliefs while equipping them with research tools, knowledge, and sound reasoning methods. This demands proper politeness, education, and effective communication [33]. Social media platforms have become important institutions that play a significant role in educating the younger generation, instilling good habits and behaviors, and serving as a powerful tool for social change. They influence students' behaviors, values, and personality patterns. Many educators have recognized the importance of social media platforms and their impact on young people's thoughts, beliefs, and social values, as well as the effects of interaction with others through various activities, leading to influence and being influenced, and the acquisition of values and experiences [34]. Students' interactions with social media platforms result in both positive and negative reflections upon psychological, social, religious, ethical, political, and economic dimensions, which in turn influence intellectual security. These effects are as follows:

2.3.1. Social and Psychological Dimensions

Social networks are not merely connection tools but have evolved to be equivalent to essential elements of the social context. Interaction with the internet has contributed to the disruption of social bonds by altering the nature of human relationships and promoting a form of communication devoid of physical interaction. This has led to several social and psychological issues, including family problems, identity concealment, addiction, and social isolation [35].

2.3.2. Religious and Ethical Dimensions

The use of social networks has reduced the restrictions and boundaries that traditionally regulated informational behavior. It has become easier to bypass societal values, standards, and regulations [35]. For instance, there are immoral websites that work to undermine values and ethics, promote vice, distance individuals from their religion and cultural traditions, and push them towards committing crimes and forbidden acts. Despite technological solutions like "filtering" to prevent access to these sites, many internet users can still reach them [36].

2.3.3. Political Dimension

The misuse of social media platforms has led to several political problems, including terrorism, anti-government websites, and cyber-espionage.

2.3.4. Economic Dimension

While social networks have revolutionized economic practices by reducing prices and wages and enabling remote work [35], their misuse has been linked to economic issues such as financial crimes (gambling, money laundering, credit card fraud, and data forgery) and cyberattacks on websites. Economically, such practices can negatively affect major factories, global businesses, banks, and government ministries [36].

Ensuring the intellectual safety of students by protecting them from incorrect beliefs, thoughts, and behaviors should be among the primary strategic goals of university education. This can be achieved through programs, plans, and educational activities implemented by university educators to enhance students' awareness and thinking, providing them with reassurance and protection against deviation.

2.4. Methodology of the Study

The study utilizes a descriptive methodology, a form of systematic scientific analysis and interpretation designed to quantitatively describe a specific phenomenon or problem by collecting structured data and information. The study follows these procedures:

2.5. Participants of the Study

A random sample of 507 students was enrolled at King Faisal University during the academic year 2023.

2.6. Instrument of the Study

A questionnaire was developed to investigate the reflections of social media platforms on intellectual security through the following procedures:

1. Reviewing Literature: The study reviewed existing research on intellectual security and its relationship with social networks [1, 21, 37, 38].
2. The various effects of social media platforms on intellectual security have been identified.
3. Questionnaire Design: The final survey was designed with distinct sections.
- Social and religious effects (questions 1–9)
- Economic effects (questions 10–15)
- Political effects (questions 16–23)
    4. Validation: The questionnaire was reviewed by experts to ensure its content validity and scientific accuracy, and it was revised based on their suggestions.
    5. Reliability Testing: The questionnaire was piloted with a sample of 94 students, and Cronbach's alpha was calculated at 0.83, indicating high reliability and the survey's suitability for its intended purpose.

2.7. Research Findings: Analysis and Discussion

The field study addresses the following questions:

1. What are the most commonly used social media platforms among King Faisal University students?

The answer to this question is presented as follows:

Table 1.
Most used social media platforms among king Faisal university students.

No	Categories	The most used social networks by King Faisal University students	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Facebook	11	2.17
2	Twitter	113	22.29
3	WhatsApp	293	57.79
4	Instagram	203	40.04
5	Snapchat	240	47.34
6	Youtube	161	31.76
7	Other	18	3.55

Table 2.
Response scores, mean scores, and rankings of responses on the social and religious effects of using social media platforms.

No	Social and religious effects	Mean score	Standard deviation	Effect Size	Rank
1	Social networks help to mobilize in all matters and community events.	3.9645	0.9712	Large	3
2	I believe that social networks help spread misleading ideas that challenge many of one's beliefs.	3.7101	0.9864	Large	7
3	Social media addiction has a negative impact on my academic performance.	1.10980	3.6371	Moderate	8
4	Giving in to social media addiction leads to an imbalance in time management and affects the ability to fulfill life roles.	3.9014	1.1464	Large	5
5	Posting clips against my beliefs.	3.9941	1.4288	Large	2
6	Communication networks are tools for spreading backbiting, gossip, slander, and exchanging accusations.	3.4201	1.1329	Moderate	9
7	Social networks contribute to learning about other people's cultures.	4.1538	0.9513	Large	1
8	Communication networks enhance understanding of public and private social issues.	3.9032	0.9690	Large	4
9	Social networks contribute to the formation of groups with shared interests and trends.	3.8935	0.9412	Large	6
Total Average			3.8419	Large	

Table 1 highlights the most used social media platforms by students at King Faisal University. WhatsApp ranks first, with a usage rate of 57.59%, followed by Snapchat at 47.34%. Instagram comes in third place with a usage rate of 40.04%, while YouTube ranks fourth at 31.76%. In fifth place is Twitter, with a usage rate of 22.29%. Facebook ranks last as the least used social media platform, with a usage rate of 2.17%. These results align with the findings of previous studies, including those by Al-Quwifli, et al. [39] and Al-Hazani [21].

2. What are the reflections of social media platforms on intellectual security from the perspective of King Faisal University students?

The response to this question is divided into several dimensions.

Dimension 1: The Social and Religious Effects of Social Media Platform Usage

Table 2 shows that the social and religious effects resulting from the use of social media platforms, as perceived by King Faisal University students, received an overall weighted average of 3.84, indicating a high level of agreement. Moreover, all the statements within this dimension ranged between moderate and high levels of agreement.

Dimension 2: The Economic Effects of Social Media Platform Usage

Table 3.
Response score, mean scores, and ranking of responses on the economic effects of using social media platforms.

No	Economic effects	Mean score	Standard deviation	Effect size	Rank
10	Social networks act as a tool to support the local economy and facilitate business transactions.	3.9842	.9939	Large	3
11	Social networks assist in creating employment opportunities.	4.0118	0.9387	Large	2
12	Social networks are a suitable promotional tool for some small economic projects.	4.0888	0.9503	Large	1
13	Social networks distract employees from their work and decrease their productivity.	3.4379	0.9888	Moderate	5
14	Social networks, along with the influence of money and finance, facilitate the emergence of a new global economy that adversely affects the economies of Arab countries.	3.2036	1.17232	Moderate	6
15	Social networks sometimes spread misinformation that questions and affects the local economy.	3.5661	1.64577	Moderate	4
	Total Average		3.7154	Large	

Table 3 shows that the economic effects resulting from the use of social media platforms, as perceived by King Faisal University students, received an overall average of 3.71, indicating a high level of agreement. Furthermore, all the statements within this dimension ranged between moderate and high levels of agreement.

Dimension 3: The Political Effects of Social Media Platform Usage

Table 4.
Response scores, mean scores, and rankings of responses on the political effects of using social media platforms.

No	Political effects	Mean score	Standard deviation	Effect size	Rank
16	Social networks are utilized by some individuals as a resource for planning terrorist operations.	3.2682	1.1468	Moderate	5
17	Social networks direct information and ideas against government policies.	3.0907	1.1349	Moderate	7
18	Social networks are utilized as a way to challenge the significance of cultural heritage.	3.0573	1.2148	Moderate	8
19	Social networks spread misinformation that questions the national symbols of society.	3.1440	1.1180	Moderate	6
20	Social networks contribute to the formation of public opinion about a particular issue, regardless of its validity.	3.4852	1.0526	Moderate	4
21	Social networks enhance my understanding of various historical and political figures.	3.7712	1.0589	Large	2
22	Communication networks develop an understanding of the political conditions within the local and external community.	3.7515	1.0451	Large	3
23	Social networks assist in staying updated with political developments and societal events.	3.8974	1.0638	Large	1
	Overall average		3.4331	Moderate	

Table 4 shows that the political effects resulting from the use of social media platforms, from the perspective of King Faisal University students, had a general weighted average of 3.43, indicating a moderate level of agreement. Additionally, all the statements in this dimension ranged between moderate and high levels of agreement.

3- What is the correlation between the social, economic, and political impacts of using social media platforms?

To investigate the correlation between the social, economic, and political impacts of using social media platforms, Pearson's correlation coefficient was utilized. The results of this analysis are as follows:

Table 5.
The correlation coefficient between the dimensions of critical and creative use and their reflections on intellectual security.

Dimensions		Social and religious	Economic	Political
Social and Religious	Correlation coefficient	1	0.462**	0.365**
	Significance		0.000	0.000
Economic	Correlation coefficient	0.462**	1	0.404**
	Significance	0.000		0.000
Political	Correlation coefficient	0.365**	0.404**	1
	Significance	0.000	0.000	

Note: **Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed

Table 5 shows that there is a significant correlation between the different dimensions of the study instruments. For instance, social and religious effects are related to economic and political effects.

4- Are there statistically significant differences between the mean responses of King Faisal University students regarding the reflections of social media platforms on intellectual security based on the variables of gender, specialization, and academic level?

First: The Gender Variable

Table 6.
Means, standard deviations, and "T" test values for the significance of differences between the mean responses of male and female students at King Faisal University regarding the reflections of social media platforms on intellectual security.

Dimension	Gender	N	Mean scores	Standard deviation	"T" value	level significance
First	Males	285	3.7989	0.64908	-1.816	0.070 Non-Sig
	Females	222	3.8959	0.55244		
Second	Males	285	3.7281	0.71502	0.425	0.671 Non-Sig
	Females	222	3.7027	0.59856		
Third	Males	285	3.4418	0.78286	-0.095	0.925 Non-Sig
	Females	222	3.4482	0.72833		

Table 6 shows that the first dimension, the "T" value reached -1.816 at a significance level of 0.070. For the second dimension, the "T" value was -0.425 at a significance level of 0.671. Meanwhile, for the third dimension, the "T" value was -0.095 at a significance level of 0.925. This indicates that there are no statistically significant differences between the mean scores of male and female students at King Faisal University regarding the reflections of social media platforms on intellectual security across the three dimensions (social and religious effects, economic effects, and political effects). This result aligns with the findings of the study by Abu Khutwa and Al-Baz [1].

Second: The Specialization Variable

Table 7.
Means, standard deviations, and "T" test values for the significance of differences between the mean scores of King Faisal University students regarding the reflections of social media platforms on intellectual security based on specialization.

Dimension	Specialization	N	Mean scores	Standard deviation	"T" value	Level significance
First	scientific	324	3.8861	0.57601	2.122	0.035 Sig
	literary	183	3.7623	0.66013		
Second	scientific	324	3.7565	0.66355	1.782	0.075 Non-Sig
	literary	183	3.6470	0.66645		
Third	scientific	324	3.4497	0.77306	.202	0.840 Non-Sig
	literary	183	3.4355	0.73469		

Table 7 shows that the first dimension, the "T" value reached 2.122 at a significance level of 0.035, indicating a statistically significant difference between scientific and literary specializations in the dimension of social and religious effects, in favor of scientific specializations. For the second dimension, the "T" value was 1.782 at a significance level of 0.075, while for the third dimension, the "T" value was 0.202 at a significance level of 0.840. This indicates that there are no statistically significant differences between the mean scores of King Faisal University students regarding the reflections of

social media platforms on intellectual security in the dimensions of economic and political impacts attributed to specialization.

Third: The Academic Level Variable:

Table 8.
Means, standard deviations, and "T" test values for the significance of differences between the mean scores of King Faisal University students regarding the implications of social media platforms on intellectual security based on academic levels.

Dimension	Study level	N	Mean Scores	Standard deviation	value "T"	level Significance
First	first	223	3.8475	0.5861	0.200	0.842 Non-Sig
	Final	284	3.8366	0.6290		
Second	first	223	3.6789	0.6282	-1.140	0.255 Non-Sig
	Final	284	3.7468	0.6939		
Third	first	223	3.4883	0.6901	1.151	0.250 Non-Sig
	Final	284	3.4102	0.8080		

It is evident from the previous table that, for the first dimension, the "T" value reached 0.200 at a significant level of 0.842. For the second dimension, the "T" value was -1.140 at a significant level of 0.255, while for the third dimension, the "T" value was 1.151 at a significant level of 0.250. This indicates that there are no statistically significant differences between the mean scores of King Faisal University students regarding the reflections of social media platforms on intellectual security across the three dimensions (social and religious impacts, economic impacts, and political impacts) due to the academic level.

3. Summary of Research Findings and Recommendations

The study revealed the following results:

- Most Used Social Media Platforms**:** WhatsApp, Snapchat, and Instagram ranked as the most frequently used social media platforms by King Faisal University students, followed by YouTube and Twitter. Facebook was the least used platform. These findings align with the studies by Al-Quwifli, et al. [39]; Al-Hazani [21] and Eteokleous, et al. [40].
- Effects of social media on Intellectual Security: The reflections of social media platforms on intellectual security—represented by social, religious, economic, and political impacts—were found to be significant for the dimensions of social and religious impacts as well as economic impacts. The political impacts were moderate. These results align with the studies by Abdelfattah [10]; Al-Zahrani [14] and Abdelrahman [15].
- Intercorrelation Among Different Dimensions: There is a significant correlation and mutual influence among the various dimensions. Social dimensions influence and are influenced by economic and political dimensions; similarly, economic dimensions are correlated with social and political dimensions, and the political dimension is affected by both social and economic dimensions. These findings are consistent with the studies by Al-Astal [35]; Hassan [20] and Abu Khutwa and Al-Baz [1].
- No Statistically Significant Differences: There are no statistically significant differences between the mean scores of King Faisal University students regarding the reflections of social media platforms on intellectual security attributed to gender, specialization, or academic level among the three dimensions (social and religious impacts, economic impacts, and political impacts). However, an exception was found in the first dimension (social and religious impacts), where a statistically significant difference was attributed to specialization, favoring scientific specializations.

4. Recommendations of the Study Considering its Findings

- Incorporating Critical and Creative Thinking Skills in University Curricula: Include courses in university curricula aimed at translating critical and creative thinking skills into behavioral practices for the best use of social media platforms.
- Extracting the effects of social media on Intellectual Security: Extract the various impacts of social media platforms on intellectual security and provide university members with sufficient concepts and clear facts to enable them to play positive roles in addressing intellectual security challenges.
- Developing Course Descriptions: Develop course specifications at the university to ensure the integration and utilization of social media platforms in serving various scientific disciplines.
- Establishing an Educational Platform: Create an educational platform at the university to design guidance programs that promote positive interaction with social media content and prevent the negative effects of social media.
- Encouraging Research and Studies: Foster research and studies among diverse teams—at both the national and regional levels—to examine the effects of different levels of thinking, psychological components, and interactions with social media content.
- Conducting Training Programs: The university should implement training programs aimed at creating a collaborative learning environment between professors and students while encouraging students to use social media platforms for academic purposes.
- Strengthening Laws and Legislation: Enforce strict laws and regulations to limit the dissemination of content that incites extremism or promotes destructive ideas through social media platforms.

- Collaborating with Social Media Companies: Work with social media companies to develop algorithms that reduce the spread of false information and extremist content.

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