The Impact of Cultural and Socioeconomic Factors on Parental Monitoring, Parental Social Media Use, and Children's Perceptions of Social Media

[1]**Muhammad Asif** & [2]**Majid Ali**

[1]*School of Media, Hunan University of Science and Engineering China*
[2]*School of Information Resources Management, Nanjing University, Nanjing, China*

Abstract

The impact of cultural and socioeconomic factors on parental monitoring, parental social media use, and children's perceptions of social media is a rapidly evolving and important area of research. This mini-review aims to synthesize and summarize the existing literature on this topic, with a focus on the novelty of the findings. The rapid pace of technological change and the increasing role of social media in children's lives has created new challenges and opportunities for parents and educators, and understanding the impact of cultural and socioeconomic factors on these relationships is critical for promoting safe and positive social media use among children. This review highlights the importance of considering cultural and socioeconomic diversity in the development of effective parenting and educational strategies, and underscores the far -reaching implications of social media use for children's well-being, including their mental health, social development, and academic success. The multidisciplinary perspective provided by this mini-review underscores the importance of continued research in this area

Keywords*: Parental monitoring, social media use, Children's perceptions, Cultural & Socioeconomic factors, Digital world*

Corresponding Author: **Muhammad Asif**

Background to the Study

In the digital age, children's online experiences are shaped by a multitude of factors, including parental monitoring and social media use. The internet and social media have opened up a new world of opportunities for children, but they also pose new risks and challenges (Eleuteri, Saladino & Verrastro 2017). To help children navigate this complex landscape, it is essential that parents are proactive in monitoring their online activities and shaping their perceptions of social media. However, the task of balancing parental monitoring and parental social media use is not simple, and it is further complicated by cultural and socioeconomic factors (Sarwatay, Raman & Ramasubramanian 2021). Cultural values and norms, as well as income and education levels, can all have a significant impact on how parents approach this task. For example, cultural attitudes towards social media can influence whether parents are permissive or restrictive in their monitoring practices, and whether they believe that social media has more benefits or risks for their children (Wiese & Akareem 2020). The impact of cultural and socioeconomic factors on the relationships between parental monitoring, parental social media use, and children's perceptions of social media is an important and rapidly evolving area of research (Tariq, Muñoz Sáez & Khan 2022). With the increasing prevalence and influence of social media in children's lives, it is critical to understand the ways in which cultural and socioeconomic factors shape these relationships and their impact on children's well-being (Engel de Abreu et al. 2021; Haffejee et al. 2023).

The purpose of this mini-review is to synthesize and summarize the existing literature on this topic, with a focus on the novelty of the findings. Social media has created new challenges and opportunities for parents and educators, as they navigate its use and influence in children's lives. It is important to consider cultural and socioeconomic diversity in the development of effective parenting and educational strategies that promote safe and positive social media use among children.

Emerging Research Outcome

Research has shown that the relationship between parental monitoring, parental social media use, and children's perceptions of social media is complex and bidirectional (Vidal et al. 2020). Cultural and socioeconomic factors play a significant role in shaping these relationships, and can have far-reaching implications for children's well-being, including their mental health, social development, and academic success (Wente et al. 2022). For example, research has shown that cultural norms and values can shape parental attitudes and behaviors towards social media use (Holden et al. 2022), and can impact the level of parental monitoring (Ethier et al. 2016) and involvement in their children's online activities (Aljasir & Alsebaei 2022). Socioeconomic factors, such as income and education level, can also play a role in shaping these relationships, as they are often associated with access to technology and the availability of resources for parental monitoring (Laraia et al. 2017; Easterbrook et al. 2023).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the topic of the impact of parental monitoring and social media use on children's well-being is of great significance in today's digital age. As technology continues to play a more prominent role in our daily lives, it is important for parents and caregivers to be informed about the potential effects on children's well-being. Parental monitoring refers to the

extent to which parents' control, regulate, and monitor their children's online activities, including their social media use, while social media use refers to the extent to which children engage with online platforms and the type of content they interact with. Both of these factors can have positive and negative effects on children's well-being, and the impact can vary depending on various factors such as age, personality, and cultural background.

The importance of understanding the impact of parental monitoring and social media use on children's well-being lies in its ability to help parents and caregivers make informed decisions about how best to support their children's online experiences. Promoting positive online experiences for children requires finding a balance between monitoring and freedom and promoting healthy digital habits. In conclusion, the impact of parental monitoring and social media use on children's well-being is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires careful consideration. By being informed and making informed decisions, parents and caregivers can help to ensure that children have safe, positive, and enriching experiences online.

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