

Abstrakt

This study is focused on the effect of the biggest social networking site, Facebook, on friendship. The study first defines friendship itself and then focuses on the functions and needs that are fulfilled for the individual through this kind of a relationship. Later, all of this is put into the bigger frame – specifically Facebook. The thesis is generally focused on trying to figure out whether Facebook changes the general understanding of friendship and the term itself or not. The goal of this thesis is being fulfilled through the analysis of more than ten quantitative researches on this topic. All of the researches mentioned in the thesis have been tested for whether they meet the validity and reliability criteria. Next they have been split into three groups. The first group is focused on the motivation that leads the individual to creating an Facebook account.

The second group is focused on comparing the expression of friendship on Facebook and outside of it. The last group describes the consequences of using Facebook or other social media. Through the conducted research we've come to the conclusion that Facebook doesn't affect fulfilling friendship or friendship functioning in any significant way. On the contrary, it actually supports the function and friendship fulfillment – some users expand their social capital and create new relationships through Facebook that wouldn't be created without it. Using Facebook can of course bring its risks (as was shown at a small percentage of respondents) and therefore the primary prevention needs to never be omitted.