Use of social networking sites by the youth in the context of personality and family variables

Korzystanie z portali społecznościowych przez młodzież w kontekście zmiennych osobowościowych i rodzinnych

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Abstract

The aim of the work was to compare chosen personality and family variables and online activity by the adolescents who have a profile on a social networking site and those who do not have such a profile.

Studied group: The study encompassed 255 respondents (64% girls and 36% boys) aged from 13 to 19. The average age was 16.5 years. 45% of individuals came from the urban areas and 55% from the rural areas. 35% of pupils attended junior high schools and 65% high schools.

Methods: The research methods used in the study include the Survey of our own design, the Adjective Check List (ACL) by Gough and Heilbrun, the Coping with Stress Questionnaire [KRS] by Janke, Erdmann and Boucsein and the Aggression Inventory by Buss-Durkee.

Results: Statistically significant differences were found in the self-image and methods of coping with stress between the adolescents who have a profile on a social networking site and those who do not have such a profile.

Conclusions:
1. The adolescents who have a profile on a social networking site have a more negative self-image and show more often non-adaptive methods of coping with stress as compared to the youth who do not have such a profile.
2. The adolescents who have a profile on a social networking site significantly more often shop online and provide their own personal data to unknown online interlocutors as compared to the youth not having such a profile.

Keywords: social networks sites, Internet addiction

Streszczenie

Celem pracy było porównanie wybranych zmiennych osobowościowych i rodzinnych oraz aktywności prowadzonej w Internecie przez młodzież posiadającą i nieposiadającą profilu na portalu społecznościowym.

Grupa badana: Badaniami objęto 255 osób (64% dziewcząt i 36% chłopców). w wieku od 13 do 19 roku życia. Średni wiek badanych wynosił 16,5 lat. Z miasta pochodziło 45% osoby a ze wsi – 55% uczniów. Do gimnazjum uczęszczało 35% badanych , a do liceum – 65% osób.

Metody badawcze: W pracy zastosowano Ankietę własnej konstrukcji, Test Przymiotnikowy ACL Gogha i Heilbruna, Kwestionariusz Radzenia Sobie ze Stresem Janke, Erdman i Boucsein oraz Kwestionariusz Nastroje i Humory Buss-Durkee.

Wyniki: Stwierdzono istotne statystycznie różnice w zakresie obrazu siebie oraz sposobów radzenia sobie ze stresem między młodzieżą posiadająca i nieposiadającą profilu na portalu społecznościowym.

Wnioski:
1. Młodzież posiadająca profil na portalu społecznościowym ma bardziej negatywny obraz siebie i przejawia częściej nieadaptacyjne sposoby radzenia sobie ze stresem niż młodzież nieposiadająca profilu.
2. Młodzież posiadająca profil na portalu społecznościowym znacząco częściej dokonuje zakupów w Internecie oraz podaje swoje dane osobowe w sieci nieznajomym rozmówcom, niż młodzież nieposiadająca profilu.

Słowa kluczowe: portale społecznościowe, uzależnienie od Internetu

Introduction

Social networking sites are very popular now. Significantly more girls than boys have profiles on social networking sites [1]. These profiles serve not only to exchange information but also serve as tools for educational or work-related purposed or just for fun. But spending too much time online and the lack of control over it may cause addiction. There are various names for

this addiction: webaholism, infoholism, pathological use of the Internet and many others. The results of such an addiction are visible in the social, mental and physical spheres of adolescents' lives. Children and teenagers , in particular, spend more and more time developing interactions with online communities. They find virtual friends there who can fill the empty space in the real world [2]. It is the Internet that is the most important medium in the adolescent population [3]. As one of the symptoms of infoholism Woronowicz names spending too much time on the computer, which results in neglecting other interests. It is accompanied by neglecting school and family [4]. If a young person has problems with social interactions, he or she often escapes into a virtual world [5]. According to C. Guerreschi Internet addiction is manifested by the fact that the person "(…) *remains online long hours, completely losing track of time. The main problem of such an individual is the inability to control the need to stay online, which becomes the centre of anxiety and frustration of the addicted subject"* [6]. One of the most popular social networking sites in Poland is Nasza Klasa [Our Classmates], which was created on the basis of classmate.com. It was an idea of students from Wrocław and now it has millions of users [7].

Pawłowska et al. [1] showed that the main motivation for young people to have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site is to stay in touch with friends, obtain new information about friends, brag. On social networking site the adolescents comment photos placed by other users, place their own photos from holidays, family photos and those presenting family celebrations [1]. Pawłowska et al. [1] demonstrated that looking for friends on a networking website by girls, commenting other users' photos and placing own photos from holidays coexist with intensified impulsivity, desire to get immediate gratification, seeking new stimuli and experiences, greater boldness and self-confidence. Using social networking sites to gain friends, place photos by boys coexist with greater need for affiliation and for heterosexuality.

The research conducted so far shows that such personal traits as low self-esteem [8,9], low level of openness to experience [10], low self-efficacy [9] and high level of neuroticism and conscientiousness [11] are correlated to excessive social networking sites use. Kim and Davis [12] as well as Tazghini and Siedlecki [8] state that severe extraversion does not predispose to overuse of social networking sites. Amichai-Hamburger i Vinitzky [11] claim that high level of extraversion is connected to addiction to social networking sites according to assumption that "rich get richer". Kuss and Griffiths [13] formulated a hypothesis that extraverts use such web sites for social enhancement, while introverts for social compensation. Barker [14] informs that the girls using social networking sites have low self-esteem, greater overall use and use

social networking sites for communicating with their peers, while the boys who have profiles on such sites are characterized by low self-esteem and use social networking sites for social compensation and social identity gratifications.

The aim of the work was to compare chosen personality and family variables and online activity in the group of young people who have a profile on a social networking site and those who do not have such a profile.

Studied group

The examined group encompassed 255 individuals (64% girls and 36% boys), aged from 13 to 19. The average age of the group was 16.5. 45% of respondents came from the urban areas, whereas 55% from the country. Junior high school was attended by 35% of the group (57% girls and 43% boys) and high school by 65% (69% girls and 31% boys). 85% of adolescents were raised in a full family, 12% in a single parent family and 3% in a reconstructed one.

Methods

The research methods used in the study include the Survey of our own design, the Adjective Check List (ACL) by Gough and Heilbrun [15], the Coping with Stress Questionnaire [KRS] by Janke, Erdmann and Boucsein [16] and the Aggression Inventory by Buss-Durkee [17].

Results

In the first part of study an attempt was made to answer the question what kind of differences occur , if any, as regards personality variables (self-image characteristics, self-evaluation, stress coping methods, severity of aggression syndrome) and family ones between the adolescents who have profiles on social networking site Nasza Klasa and those who do not have them.

In Table 1 a comparison was made using the t test of the average results obtained in the ACL test scales by the adolescents who have profiles of social networking sites (N=218) and those who do not have them (N=37). Calculations were performed for the entire group of respondents (Table1) and next they were disaggregated by sex (Tables 2-3).

As compared to adolescents who do not have a profile on a social networking site, the youth who have such a profile are characterised by a greater shyness, lack of perseverance, initiative, effectiveness in achieving the tasks and self-confidence, tendency to avoid competitions and group tasks. The individuals having a profile on a social networking site are less autonomous, less responsible, they worse cope with everyday tasks and are less tolerant and less caring for other people (Table 1).

In Table 2 the average results achieved in the ACL scales by the girls who have and do not have a profile on a social networking site were compared using the t test.

Table 1. Comparison of self-image between the adolescents who have a profile on a social networking site and those who do not have such a profile

ACL scales	They have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		They do not have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
No-Ckd (total number adjectives checked)	38.27	8.91	36.95	7.21	0.86	n.s.
Fav (number of favorable adjectives)	42.09	8.39	43.76	8.97	-1.11	n.s.
Unfav (number of unfavorable adjectives)	54.81	11.85	52.84	11.37	0.94	n.s.
Com (communality)	31.59	9.95	35.86	9.91	-2.42	0,016
Ach (need for achievement)	45.89	7.47	48.95	9.06	-2.22	0,027
Dom (need for dominance)	47.85	6.84	50.59	8.46	-2.17	0,031
End (need for endurance)	46.19	8.44	48.65	9.48	-1.61	n.s.
Ord (need for order)	46.49	8.51	48.78	8.94	-1.50	n.s.
Int (need for intraception)	40.63	8.10	43.11	8.78	-1.70	n.s.
Nur (need for nurturance)	41.35	8.94	42.62	8.02	-0.81	n.s.
Aff (need for affiliation)	44.78	9.22	44.51	9.55	0.16	n.s.
Het (need for heterosexuality)	48.17	9.86	46.41	10.35	1.00	n.s.
Exh (need for exhibition)	53.55	8.01	52.76	8.19	0.55	n.s.
Aut (need for autonomy)	54.60	7.45	53.46	7.20	0.87	n.s.
Agg (need for aggression)	52.69	8.84	52.05	9.89	0.40	n.s.
Cha (need for change)	45.56	7.17	45.62	5.72	-0.05	n.s.
Suc (need for support)	48.74	8.36	47.08	10.00	1.09	n.s.
Aba (need for abasement)	47.89	8.89	46.16	10.66	1.06	n.s.
Def (need for deference)	46.16	7.93	46.11	8.64	0.03	n.s.
Crs (counselling readiness scale)	47.45	9.42	48.62	11.07	-0.68	n.s.
S-Cn (self-control)	46.87	7.57	47.92	7.45	-0.78	n.s.
S-Cfd (self-confidence)	48.42	9.05	50.54	9.66	-1.31	n.s.
P-adj (personal adjustment)	42.99	8.87	44.89	8.60	-1.21	n.s.
Iss (ideal self scale)	51.75	8.34	53.97	8.38	-1.50	n.s.
Cps (creative personality scale)	50.21	6.89	51.08	7.70	-0.70	n.s.
Mls (military leadership scale)	39.29	8.21	41.97	9.50	-1.79	n.s.
Mas (masculine attributes scale)	50.02	9.10	53.08	10.18	-1.86	n.s.
Fem (feminine attributes scale)	42.66	8.20	40.68	9.45	1.33	n.s.
Cp (critical parent)	51.01	7.44	51.38	8.55	-0.27	n.s.
Np (nurturing parent)	45.73	7.82	48.81	7.41	-2.23	0,027
A (adult)	43.81	6.82	46.89	7.17	-2.52	0,012
Fc (free child)	50.80	7.16	50.68	8.27	0.10	n.s.
Ac (adapted child)	52.47	6.92	50.70	6.37	1.45	n.s.

Table 2. Comparison of the self-image of the girls who have and do not have a profile on a social networking site

ACL scales	They have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		They do not have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
No-Ckd (number of adjectives checked)	38.15	8.89	35.21	7.85	1.19	n.s.
Fav (number of favorable adjectives)	42.41	8.15	41.43	8.59	0.43	n.s.
Unfav (number of unfavorable adjectives)	54.01	11.44	55.57	14.59	-0.48	n.s.
Com (communality)	31.73	9.88	33.36	10.57	-0.59	n.s.
Ach (need for achievement)	45.74	7.31	46.07	7.69	-0.16	n.s.
Dom (need for dominance)	47.85	6.99	49.57	6.73	-0.89	n.s.
End (need for endurance)	46.66	8.25	44.50	8.89	0.93	n.s.
Ord (need for order)	46.89	8.33	45.29	8.18	0.69	n.s.
Int (need for intraception)	40.87	7.99	40.86	10.56	0.00	n.s.
Nur (need for nurturance)	41.34	8.81	40.79	9.18	0.23	n.s.
Aff (need for affiliation)	44.61	9.72	42.43	9.32	0.81	n.s.
Het (need for heterosexuality)	48.34	9.44	43.93	10.69	1.66	n.s.
Exh (need for exhibition)	53.24	8.22	55.43	9.21	-0.94	n.s.
Aut (need for autonomy)	54.31	7.38	55.93	6.84	-0.79	n.s.
Agg (need for aggression)	52.34	8.93	52.86	12.31	-0.20	n.s.
Cha (need for change)	45.76	6.84	47.29	4.48	-0.82	n.s.
Suc (need for succorance)	48.94	8.20	44.57	6.85	1.93	0.055
Aba (need for abasement)	48.83	8.88	45.64	8.78	1.29	n.s.
Def (need for deference)	46.99	7.63	46.43	10.20	0.25	n.s.
Crs (counselling readiness scale)	47.50	9.46	51.29	11.80	-1.41	n.s.
S-Cn (self-control)	47.41	7.89	46.57	7.71	0.38	n.s.
S-Cfd (self-confidence)	48.75	8.87	48.71	9.88	0.01	n.s.
P-adj (personal adjustment)	42.59	8.55	40.64	8.80	0.81	n.s.
Iss (ideal self scale)	52.10	8.60	54.00	9.22	-0.79	n.s.
Cps (creative personality scale)	49.80	6.85	52.14	10.20	-0.84	n.s.
Mls (military leadership scale)	38.99	8.32	36.93	9.84	0.88	n.s.
Mas (masculine attributes scale)	49.20	8.74	54.00	10.23	-1.94	0.054
Fem (feminine attributes scale)	42.29	7.78	39.50	8.24	1.28	n.s.
Cp (critical parent)	50.71	7.80	48.64	10.32	0.93	n.s.
Np (nurturing parent)	45.74	7.61	46.21	6.54	-0.23	n.s.
A (adult)	44.08	6.71	45.86	6.87	-0.95	n.s.
Fc (free child)	50.39	7.25	50.14	8.42	0.12	n.s.
Ac (adapted child)	52.25	6.65	52.36	4.36	-0.06	n.s.

Table 3. Comparison of self-image in the boys who have a profile and who do not have a profile on the social networking site

ACL scales	They have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking profile		They do not have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking profile		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
No-Ckd (number of adjectives checked)	38.59	9.03	38.00	6.76	0.28	n.s.
Fav (number of favorable adjectives)	41.26	8.99	45.17	9.08	-1.77	n.s.
Unfav (number of unfavorable adjectives)	56.89	12.70	51.17	8.85	1.98	0.051
Com (communality)	31.21	10.22	37.39	9.40	-2.52	0.014
Ach (need for achievement)	46.30	7.93	50.70	9.54	-2.14	0.035
Dom (need for dominance)	47.87	6.49	51.22	9.45	-1.57	n.s.
End ((need for endurance)	44.98	8.86	51.17	9.09	-2.84	0.006
Ord (need for order)	45.46	8.95	50.91	8.87	-2.50	0.015
Int (need for itraception)	40.03	8.43	44.48	7.43	-2.22	0.029
Nur (need for nurturance)	41.36	9.34	43.74	7.21	-1.10	n.s.
Aff (need for affiliation)	45.23	7.87	45.78	9.66	-0.27	n.s.
Het (need for heterosexuality)	47.74	10.93	47.91	10.06	-0.07	n.s.
Exh (need for exhibition)	54.33	7.46	51.13	7.23	1.77	n.s.
Aut (need for autonomy)	55.36	7.63	51.96	7.13	1.86	n.s.
Agg (need for aggression)	53.61	8.60	51.57	8.37	0.98	n.s.
Cha (need for change)	45.07	7.99	44.61	6.24	0.25	n.s.
Suc (need for succorance)	48.25	8.79	48.61	11.38	-0.16	n.s.
Aba (need for abasement)	45.46	8.54	46.48	11.84	-0.44	n.s.
Def (need for deference)	44.02	8.33	45.91	7.78	-0.95	n.s.
Crs (counselling readiness scale)	47.33	9.38	47.00	10.54	0.14	n.s.
S-Cn (self-control)	45.48	6.54	48.74	7.34	-1.97	0.052
S-Cfd (self-confidence)	47.56	9.50	51.65	9.58	-1.76	n.s.
P-adj (personal adjustment)	44.03	9.62	47.48	7.54	-1.55	n.s.
Iss (ideal self scale)	50.85	7.62	53.96	8.04	-1.64	n.s.
Cps (creative personality scale)	51.28	6.92	50.43	5.87	0.52	n.s.
Mls (military leadership scale)	40.07	7.95	45.04	8.03	-2.55	0.013
Mas (masculine attributes scale)	52.13	9.70	52.52	10.33	-0.16	n.s.
Fem (feminine attributes scale)	43.62	9.21	41.39	10.23	0.96	n.s.
Cp (critical parent)	51.77	6.43	53.04	6.99	-0.79	n.s.
Np (nurturing parent)	45.72	8.40	50.39	7.59	-2.33	0.022
A (adult)	43.10	7.10	47.52	7.43	-2.51	0.014
Fc (free child)	51.87	6.87	51.00	8.36	0.49	n.s.
Ac (adapted child)	53.03	7.61	49.70	7.23	1.82	n.s.

Table 4. Comparison of the average results obtained in the KRS scales by the young people who had a profile on the social networking site and those who did not have such a profile

KRS scales	They have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		They do not have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
BAG (belittling)	9.18	4.67	8.50	4.36	0.84	n.s.
PZI (comparisons to others)	8.17	4.61	8.03	4.73	0.18	n.s.
OPW (defence against guilt)	8.05	3.92	7.45	3.90	0.88	n.s.
ODW (diverting attention)	9.13	4.19	9.34	4.91	-0.28	n.s.
ZSA (alternative satisfaction)	9.51	5.05	9.13	4.79	0.43	n.s.
PSA (seeking self-affirmation)	9.05	4.55	8.21	4.82	1.05	n.s.
PKPS (attempt to control the situation)	9.49	4.57	9.13	4.49	0.45	n.s.
PKSR (attempt to control one's reactions)	10.25	4.52	9.68	4.88	0.71	n.s.
PIS (positive self-instruction)	9.62	4.89	8.76	4.73	1.00	n.s.
PSW (seeking social support)	9.33	5.70	7.03	4.81	2.36	0.019
TUN (avoiding tendency)	9.61	4.53	9.39	5.15	0.26	n.s.
TUC (escaping tendency)	7.47	4.51	6.82	5.17	0.81	n.s.
IZOL (isolation from other people)	7.06	4.71	7.32	5.55	-0.31	n.s.
DZWM (further preoccupation)	9.38	5.45	8.63	5.57	0.79	n.s.
REZ (resignation)	8.89	4.57	8.47	4.91	0.52	n.s.
UNS (self-pity)	8.48	4.95	8.26	5.56	0.25	n.s.
OS (self-blaming)	8.63	5.15	7.74	5.19	0.99	n.s.
AGR (aggression)	7.77	4.75	6.47	4.96	1.55	n.s.
UZAL (addiction)	3.91	4.18	3.53	3.74	0.53	n.s.

Table 5. Comparison of the average results in the KRS scales achieved by the girls who have a profile on the social networking site and those who do not have it

KRS scales	They have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		They do not have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
BAG (belittling)	9.75	4.67	7.33	3.64	1.95	0.053
PZI (comparisons to others)	7.82	4.15	7.27	4.51	0.49	n.s.
OPW (defence against guilt)	8.15	3.86	7.53	3.85	0.60	n.s.
ODW (diverting attention)	9.43	4.24	8.73	4.71	0.60	n.s.
ZSA (alternative satisfaction)	9.91	5.15	9.47	5.60	0.31	n.s.
PSA (seeking self-affirmation)	9.29	4.55	7.67	5.08	1.31	n.s.
PKPS (attempt to control the situation)	9.63	4.64	8.40	4.52	0.98	n.s.
PKSR (attempt to control one's reactions)	10.34	4.40	9.60	4.97	0.62	n.s.
PIS (positive self-instruction)	9.80	4.73	8.13	4.47	1.31	n.s.
PSW (seeking social support)	10.25	5.49	8.27	4.95	1.35	n.s.
TUN (avoiding tendency)	10.08	4.47	10.40	5.29	-0.26	n.s.
TUC (escaping tendency)	7.95	4.37	8.00	5.98	-0.04	n.s.
IZOL isolation from other people)	7.46	4.69	9.27	5.78	-1.40	n.s.
DZWM (further preoccupation)	10.12	5.52	10.80	6.09	-0.45	n.s.
REZ (resignation)	9.64	4.48	10.40	4.93	-0.63	n.s.
UNS ((self-pity)	9.10	4.59	9.73	6.02	-0.49	n.s.
OS (self-blaming)	9.40	5.20	8.27	6.32	0.79	n.s.
AGR (aggression)	8.08	4.63	7.47	5.95	0.48	n.s.
UZAL (addiction)	3.84	4.15	4.47	4.21	-0.56	n.s.

Table 6. Comparison of the average results in KRS scales achieved by the boys who have a profile on the social networking site and those who do not have it

KRS scales	They have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		They do not have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
BAG (belittling)	7.92	4.46	9.26	4.69	-1.25	n.s.
PZI (comparisons to others)	8.93	5.45	8.52	4.90	0.32	n.s.
OPW (defence against guilt)	7.81	4.06	7.39	4.01	0.43	n.s.
ODW (diverting attention)	8.49	4.02	9.74	5.09	-1.22	n.s.
ZSA (alternative satisfaction)	8.64	4.74	8.91	4.31	-0.25	n.s.
PSA (seeking self-affirmation)	8.53	4.53	8.57	4.72	-0.03	n.s.
PKPS (attempt to control of the situation)	9.18	4.41	9.61	4.50	-0.41	n.s.
PKSR (attempt to controls one's reactions)	10.07	4.81	9.74	4.94	0.28	n.s.
PIS (positive self-instruction)	9.22	5.26	9.17	4.94	0.03	n.s.
PSW (seeking social support)	7.32	5.68	6.22	4.64	0.85	n.s.
TUN (avoiding tendency)	8.57	4.53	8.74	5.07	-0.15	n.s.
TUC (escaping tendency)	6.42	4.65	6.04	4.54	0.34	n.s.
IZOL (isolation from other people)	6.16	4.65	6.04	5.13	0.10	n.s.
DZWM (further preoccupation)	7.76	4.94	7.22	4.82	0.46	n.s.
REZ (resignation)	7.26	4.35	7.22	4.57	0.04	n.s.
UNS (self-pity)	7.12	5.44	7.30	5.15	-0.14	n.s.
OS (self-blaming)	6.96	4.64	7.39	4.42	-0.39	n.s.
AGR (aggression)	7.08	4.97	5.83	4.22	1.09	n.s.
UZAL (addiction)	4.05	4.26	2.91	3.36	1.18	n.s.

Table 7. Comparison of the average results in the Buss-Durkee Inventory scales achieved by the young people having a profile on the social networking site and those who do not have such a profile

	They have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		They do not have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
Physical aggression	0.89	0.48	0.87	0.55	0.29	n.s.
Indirect aggression	0.92	0.43	0.92	0.39	-0.10	n.s.
Irritation	1.10	0.42	1.08	0.39	0.34	n.s.
Negativism	1.10	0.51	1.01	0.53	1.02	n.s.
Resentment	0.95	0.47	0.87	0.52	0.96	n.s.
Suspiciousness	0.95	0.39	0.92	0.45	0.50	n.s.
Verbal aggression	1.04	0.35	0.99	0.37	0.83	n.s.
Guilt	1.03	0.48	0.96	0.56	0.93	n.s.

Table 8. Comparison of the average results in the Buss-Durkee Inventory scales achieved by the girls having a profile on the social networking site and those who do not have such a profile

	The girls who have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		The girls who do not have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
Physical aggression	0.80	0.43	0.61	0.52	1.59	n.s.
Indirect aggression	0.92	0.43	1.02	0.40	-0.88	n.s.
Irritation	1.11	0.42	1.14	0.48	-0.28	n.s.
Negativism	1.09	0.50	1.10	0.59	-0.08	n.s.
Resentment	0.96	0.48	0.93	0.64	0.22	n.s.
Suspiciousness	0.95	0.41	0.93	0.46	0.14	n.s.
Verbal aggression	1.06	0.35	0.99	0.39	0.71	n.s.
Guilt	1.07	0.46	0.97	0.59	0.79	n.s.

Table 9. Comparison of the average results in the Buss-Durkee Inventory scales achieved by the boys having a profile on the social networking site and those who do not have such a profile

	The boys who have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		The boys who do not have a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
Physical aggression	1.11	0.51	1.01	0.53	0.83	n.s.
Indirect aggression	0.91	0.43	0.87	0.38	0.44	n.s.
Irritation	1.07	0.42	1.04	0.34	0.39	n.s.
Negativism	1.12	0.54	0.96	0.50	1.33	n.s.
Resentment	0.93	0.45	0.84	0.45	0.84	n.s.
Suspiciousness	0.96	0.35	0.91	0.45	0.57	n.s.
Verbal aggression	1.01	0.36	1.00	0.37	0.18	n.s.
Guilt	0.95	0.51	0.95	0.55	-0.02	n.s.

Table 10. Comparison of online activity of the teenagers having a profile on the social networking site and those who do not have such a profile

Kind of activity	Not having a profile		Having a profile		Chi-square	p
	N	%	N	%		
Wrzuta website	25	60.98	200	80.32	7.580	0.005
Fotka website	5	12.20	93	37.20	9.86	0.002
Sending own photo to an unknown interlocutor	6	14.63	72	28.80	3.60	0.05
Giving own telephone number to an unknown interlocutor	5	12.20	73	29.20	5.19	0.02
Buying clothes on the Internet	10	24.39	101	40.56	3.90	0.05

Table 11. Comparison of online activity of the girls having a profile on the social networking site and those who do not have such a profile

Kind of activity	Not having a profile		Having a profile		Chi-square	p
	N	%	N	%		
YouTube	13	86.67	169	97.69	5.43	0.02
Giving their telephone number to an unknown interlocutor	1	6.67	53	30.64	3.87	0.05

Table 12. Comparison of online activity of the boys having a profile on the social networking site and those who do not have such a profile

Kind of activity	Not having a profile		Having a profile		Chi-square	p
	N	%	N	%		
Fotka website	0	0	24	31.17	10.57	0.001
Giving personal data	2	7.69	20	25.97	3.87	0.05
Online shopping	15	57.69	59	77.63	3.87	0.05
Online auctions	7	26.92	41	53.95	5.68	0.02

Table 13. Comparison of family relationships in the adolescents having a profile on the social networking site and those adolescents who do not have such a profile

Family relationships	Not having a profile		Having a profile		Chi-square	p
	N	%	N	%		
Conflicts with parents	17	44.74	158	63.20	4.72	0.03

As compared to the girls who do not have not a profile on the social networking site, the girls having such profiles are characterised by a greater need for succorance, difficulties coping with stress, tendency to escape from reality into dreams and striving for support from other people who are viewed upon as more effective and strong (Table 2).

Table 3 presents a comparison of the average scores achieved in the ACL scales by the boys who have a profile

on the social networking website and those who do not have such a profile.

The results (Table 3) show that, as compared to the boys who do not have a profile on the social networking site, the boys who have such a profile assess themselves in a more negative way, are characterized by a greater hostility towards themselves and towards other people, by a lower self-confidence, the lack of insight into motives of their own behaviour and that of other people, greater impulsivity, tendency to break social rules and standards, less responsibility and ability to cope with stress and everyday tasks; they are also less enterprising, ambitious, hard-working and persistent while executing their tasks.

Afterwards, using the t test, a comparison was made of the average results achieved in the Coping with Stress Questionnaire [KRS] scales by the teenagers who had a profile on the social networking site (N=236) and their peers who did not have such a profile (N=38). The calculations were performed for entire examined group (Table 4) and next disaggregated by sex (Tables 5-6).

The individuals having a profile on the social networking site significantly more often ask other people for support and advice in stressful situations as compared to those who do not have such a profile (Table 4).

The girls who have a profile on the social networking site, as compared to those girls who have such a profile, significantly more often use a defence mechanism of repression in stressful situations, try to "forget" about the problem and belittle it (Table 5).

No statistically significant differences were found in the boys' group as regards coping with stress strategies as measured by the KRS Questionnaire (Table 6).

In Table 7, using the t test, a comparison was made of the results achieved in the scales of Buss-Durkee Inventory by the adolescents having a profile on the social networking site and those who do not have it.

As far as severity of aggression is concerned no statistically significant differences were found in the entire examined group (Table 7) as well as in the girls' group (Table 8) and boys' group (Table 9) between the adolescents having a profile on the social networking site and those who do not have such a profile.

During the next step of the study we compared online activity of the teenagers having a profile on the social networking site and those who did not have such a profile.

In order to answer the question whether any differences occurred as regards online activity by the young people who had a profile on Nasza Klasa social networking site and those who did not have it, and if they occurred, what kind of differences they were, the chi square test was used. Its results for the whole group of teenagers as well as for the girls' group and the boys' group are presented in Tables 10-12.

Significantly more teenagers having a profile on the social networking website, as compared to their peers who do not have such a profile, use Wrzuta and Fotka websites, sent their photo or their telephone number to an unknown interlocutor and buy clothes online (Table 10).

Significantly more girls having a profile on the social networking site, as compared to those girls who do not have such a profile, use YouTube and gave own telephone number to an unknown online interlocutor (Table 11).

Significantly more boys who have a profile on the social networking, as compared to the boys who do not have such a profile, use Fotka.PL website, give their personal data to unknown online interlocutors, shop online and participate in online auctions (Table 12).

Afterwards, family relationships were compared between the adolescents who have a profile on the social networking site and those who do not have such a profile.

Table 13 contains the results of the chi-square test used to compare the number of adolescents who have a profile on the social networking site and those who do not have such a profile, reporting conflicts with their parents.

Conflicts with parents are reported by significantly more individuals having a profile on a social networking site as compared to those who do not have such a profile (Table 13).

Discussion

The results of performed statistical analyses show the presence of significant differences in the self-image characteristics, methods of coping with stress, family factors and online activity between the young people having a profile on the social networking site and those adolescents who do not have such a profile. The adolescents who have a profile on the social networking site, as compared to their peers who do not have such a profile, have a more negative self-image, are more shy, avoid competition and group projects, are less tolerant and showing less nurturance, they are less autonomic and responsible, less persistent, enterprising, less effective accomplishing tasks, less self-confident. They more often ask other people for support and advice in stressful situations and are worse at coping with everyday tasks. Significantly more adolescents having a profile on the social network site, as compared to their peers who do not have such a profile, report conflicts with their parents. The comparison of results obtained by the boys and girls using a social networking site, as compared to those who do not use it, revealed differences between the sexes in personality traits and in the stress coping strategies.

The girls having a profile on the social networking site, as compared to those girls who do not have such a profile, are characterized by a greater need to get emotional support from other people who are viewed upon as

more effective and strong, greater difficulties coping with stress, tendency to escape from real world into dreams and more often use defence mechanism of repression and tend to belittle the problem. Significantly more girls who have a profile on the social networking site, as compared to those who do not have such a profile, use YouTube and gave their own telephone number to unknown online interlocutors.

The boys who have a profile on the social networking site, as compared to those who do not have such a profile, are characterized by an intensified hostility towards themselves and towards other people, by lower self-confidence, lack of insight into motives of their own behaviour and other people's behaviours, intensified impulsivity, tendency to break social rules and standards, lower responsibility and ability to cope with everyday stress and tasks, they are less enterprising, less ambitious, diligent and perseverant in accomplishing their tasks. Significantly more boys having a profile on the social networking site, as compared to their peers who do not have such a profile, use the Fotka.pl, site, give their personal data to unknown online interlocutors, shop online and participate in the web auctions.

These results are consistent with the results obtained by Orr et al [18] who found that shy persons spent more time on Facebook as compared to those individuals who did not have this personality trait. Similarly Ryan and Xenos [19] state that the adolescents using Facebook are more shy as compared to those not having a profile on this social networking site.

Milošević-Đorđević and Žeželj [9] revealed that low self-esteem and low self-efficacy predispose to pathologic use of social networking sites. According to Ryan and Xenos [19] Facebook users had significantly higher levels of family loneliness.

The findings also demonstrate that significantly more teenagers having a profile on the social networking site, as compared to those who do not have such a profile, shop online, use online services and sent their photo or telephone number to unknown online interlocutors. Similar results were obtained by Potembska [20] in her earlier research ;where she demonstrated that the adolescents who use the Internet in a pathological way (as compared to the girls and boys using the web in a correct way) spend significantly more time on Nasza Klasa website, significantly more often participate in online auctions, disclose their personal data to unknown online interlocutors, were requested to give personal data or send their photo.

While comparing the results obtained in this study with the findings reported by Potembska [20] concerning online activity of the adolescents who are addicted to the Internet or at risk of developing Internet addiction – the hypothesis can be formulated that individuals having a profile on the social networking site show similar online behaviours as the people who are addicted to the Internet or at risk of developing Internet addiction.

Conclusions

1. The adolescents who have a profile on a social networking site have a more negative self-image and show more often non-adaptive methods of coping with stress as compared to the youth who do not have such a profile.

2. The adolescents who have a profile on a social networking site significantly more often shop online and provide their own personal data to unknown online interlocutors as compared to the youth not having such a profile.

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