Technology and Online Dating

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The invention of technology has changed communication techniques in the society including online-based relationships. People are always seeking ways of expressing themselves as a way of personal identification. The history of dating sites dates to 1965 when a history professor developed personal ads as a way of helping British bachelors to get eligible wives. With the launching of the first online dating site in 1995, ‘The Wired Magazine’ predicted that in the next decade, human beings would seek for love using tool available. By 2007, online dating was among the highest online industries for paid content (Baym, 2015). Dating ads advanced with the invention of technology and reached their peak in 2010 when many dating sites arose based on religion, location and even sexual orientation.

Online dating has replaced the traditional forms of introduction where people were needed to refer others to their friends. Traditionally, people met through mutual friends after which they would schedule separate meetings. Today, people’s craving for connection is very high and is facilitated by the connectivity to the internet. The availability of cheap smartphones also ensures that people are always reachable. Dating apps have provided people with a choice of partners. For instance, Tinder which is one of the most popular dating apps, allows individuals to meet single people near you. Here people interact, and if they do not match, then they move on to another person that is interested until they find their match (Baym, 2015). Another way that technology has influenced dating is through the reduced vulnerability in that there are no heartbreaks. One can communicate with over a hundred potential partners, and there is no emotional investment unless they have met the right partner. Online dating has also eliminated the unique experience in meeting a new person, and people are more focused on saving time and cost.

About one in ten internet users has accessed an online dating site. In addition to this, more than thirty percent of internet users state that they are single and willing to meet a partner via online dating sites. The largest cohorts of this online dating are the youths between the ages of 18 and 29 (Smith & Duggan, 2013). Most of the people in this age bracket are more likely to be employed although their salaries might not be significant. Only 11 percent of the adults aged between 30 and 49 years have visited have accessed online dating sites while only 3 percent of adults over sixty-five years have tried online dating sites.

Most of the American adults that have accessed online dating sites are off the market. A quarter of them are already married while the majority of these adults have never been married. About thirty-one percent of online daters are not married because they are divorced or separated (Smith & Duggan, 2013). Some of the reasons why a considerable portion of the online daters are not married or are divorced are because they did not get the time to know each other before they got married. Online dating sites provide users with an opportunity to express their emotions even without physically meeting them.

Online dating is related to the question of how technology will change our lives in the future. The two issues are related because online dating is made possible by the developments in technology. The development of the internet, social media platforms and smartphones has facilitated online dating because people can communicate even without having to meet physically (Baym, 2015). The success of online dating shows that the internet is a useful tool in communication across the globe. In the next few years, technology will revolutionize every sector of the world enhancing even more convenience.

A considerable proportion of online daters have been lucky to cultivate relationships that have led to marriage. However, those that are not lucky enough have ended up being single or divorced. Most of the youths that date online have an average income, and they may end up spending a lot of time and money on the internet in search of eligible partners. Online daters can now meet lovers at their convenient time and according to their preferences. Technology has led to the development of dating sites based on location and sexual orientation.

References

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