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Scholarly Article Evaluation

Wenzhen Xu, and Jiro Takai. “Why Do People Experience Loneliness While Using Social

Media?” *Intercultural Communication Studies*, vol. 29, no. 2, Dec. 2020, pp. 99–115.

*EBSCOhost*,

<https://search-ebSCOhost-com.snc.idm.oclc.org/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ufh&AN=150737424&site=ehost-live&scope=site>.

While evaluating the article “Why do People Experience Loneliness While Using Social Media?” by Wenzhen Xu and Jiro Takai I noticed many strengths and few weaknesses throughout the article. The Article provided well explained research with credible sources and a well written conclusion, however a few details and the purpose of the research was unidentified in the article.

“Why do People Experience Loneliness While Using Social Media?” by Wenzhen Xu and Jiro Takai, explains a research study that was conducted based off of the research question of why do people feel lonely after or during the use of social media. In the first section of the article a literature review is done. They draw their first hypothesis from this review: “Quality of SNS communication for the purpose of —deepening existing relationships (DER)/ (strong ties) is a more potent predictor of loneliness than other types of use” (Xu 3). In the section after the literature review, a definition of loneliness is given along with a description of The Cognitive Discrepancy Model of Loneliness (CDML) is provided. Along with that information, a second hypothesis is given: “Perceived discrepancies of SNS social activity predict satisfaction and feeling of loneliness over and above the influence of actual quality of SNS social contacts” (Xu

4). The next section of the article provides information on a recent research study that has been conducted, along with information such as participants, materials, and procedure was given. Following this information tables describing the outcome of the research study was shown. The research conducted in their article provided them with a conclusion that was stated at the end of the article. The conclusion that was stated was, the overall quality of the connections made on social networking sites has the most influence on the overall level of satisfaction with the site and level of feeling of loneliness. The limitations on the research were also noted at the end of the article.

As I stated above, the article has many strengths and I only noticed a few weaknesses. The first strength I noticed in the article was the incredible amount of credibility through different sources and research studies. The overall research question was very easy to follow, understand, and it seemed to have a well thought out purpose. The limitations of the research study being included was very clear, as it had its own section in the article. Lastly, the researcher included a literature review, which means the research has been framed well within other research. After reading the article I can agree that the conclusions made based on the research were very convincing and made sense after reviewing the outcome of the research. The only weaknesses I noticed in the article personally was the significant use of acronyms, making it more difficult to follow along. Along with, in my opinion, a poorly developed conclusion. I think a better written, more thought out conclusion would finish off the article much nicer than the two sentence conclusion that the researchers provided.

To conclude, The scholarly article “Why do People Experience Loneliness While Using Social Media?” by Wenzhen Xu, and Jiro Takai was overall very well written and I noticed many more strengths than weaknesses throughout the research article. The research was overall very

well stated and useful. I believe this article is generally useful in today's day and age, with the way that social media continues to take over society. It not only explained their research but also sourced back to other research projects as well, making it very credible.