

The Role of Electronic Promotion of Terrorism through Social Networks in the spread of terrorists recruiting the youth "Applied to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia"

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Abstract:

Introduction:

Despite the great technological advance in today's world, including the Internet and social networks, it has also come with deadly and destructive disadvantages of humanity: recruitment of young people electronically to be used as living fuel for the bloody terrorism.

Problem:

The problem of the study has been the following questions:
Do social networks have an active role in promoting terrorist groups? Would terrorist groups succeed in recruiting young people through electronic promotion of them through social networks? What are the means of terrorist groups to promote them and recruit young people through social networks? What are the means of combating terrorists' promotion of their websites?

Methodology:

The study used the descriptive approach. The study sample was the male and female students of Tabuk University. The study was based on open questions and on the Likert Scale to measure the variables. It also relied on the stepwise regression coefficient to test the hypotheses.

Results:

The electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks plays a key role in the recruitment of young people by terrorists. The means used in the electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks are a major factor in recruiting young people. The degree of recruitment varies according to these means. This increasing recruitment can be combated by some means, most of which are electronic.

Recommendations:

The main recommendations of the study have been the need for awareness and counter-promotion, penetration of these sites, exploitation of the gaps of these terrorist groups, implementation of strong international and domestic sanctions and development of a comprehensive national program to confront them.

Keywords: Electronic promotion; electronic terrorism, electronic Commerce, electronic recruitment, social networks.

1. Introduction:

Despite the great technological advances in today's world, including the Internet, it has also come with deadly and destructive disadvantages of humanity: recruitment of young people electronically to be used as living fuel for the bloody terrorism. The process of electronic recruitment of young people is the use of the Internet, especially through social networks as a means of promoting terrorism by various means.

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are the most popular social networking sites on the Internet, which are in more than one form such as forums, blogs and others. Despite the importance of these means and their many advantages, they have many disadvantages, the most important of which is the use by terrorist groups of these networks to disseminate their terrorist ideas as well as their use in communicating with members of these groups to organize their terrorist acts. Hence, the danger is to attract and recruit youth, particularly those who are young, to join these groups and carry out terrorist acts. These groups are not targeted at only young people but also young women, and their recent targeting appears to be intensive. They are recruited for marrying them (very illegally) to members of these terrorist groups and cells.

The use of social networks to recruit young people varies in their forms and means, such as telling fascinating stories (far from reality) showing the fulfilling and stable life of members of these groups and how they live a wonderful marital and family life. They also tell the stories that show the dignity of those who are killed (martyred as they claim), broadcast horrific images and videos showing slaughtering, burning and killing those who do not respond to them. There are games that raise and strengthen the motivation of blood and love of murder among young people, as well as the direct invitation to join these groups until the word of Islam prevails (as they claim). The promising young people who are not fully aware and are seeking the new and the constant change are the easiest prey to the electronic terrorism promoters.

Therefore, it is necessary to reveal, to identify closely and to educate the youth on this topic so as not to fall prey to it. Like the rest of the Arab youth, the young people of the Kingdom have been crudely targeted. They are the ones who are used in the firewood of these battles and explosive belts. Terrorist groups have a large and constantly evolving capacity to attract young people, and we all have to unite to save our promising youth.

This research is a simple contribution to this purpose. To determine the problem of the research more accurately and tightly, the study will initially review the pilot study, literature, and then address the problem of the research.

• The Pilot Study:

The pilot study was conducted on some Saudi young men and women. The aim was to identify the problem and the explanatory variables of the research problem and to reach the hypotheses of the study.

The study attempted to identify the impact of the Internet on the terrorists electronically recruiting young people, to what extent the electronic promotion of terrorism succeeded in recruiting young people, promotional means used by terrorists to promote terrorism electronically, how to reduce the spread of electronic promotion of terrorism.

The study found that the electronic promotion of terrorism was a significant impact on attracting young people to join the terrorists. The study also showed that many sympathizers of terrorism might be born. The study also revealed the multiplicity of electronic promotion of terrorism means. Finally, the study pointed out that solutions must be found to overcome this phenomenon, which is spreading.

- **Literature:**

Although the research on this topic is rare, the literature was divided in three sections as follows:

Section I: The literature that dealt with electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks in general:

(Assakina Campaign for Dialogue ,2014) [1]conducted a study aimed at identifying the crimes of electronic terrorism. It found that the “propagandistic” electronic environment to promote terrorism spread after the social networks had been widely used, which attracted both men and women, where women were recruited into suicide attacks, join their husbands in camps, or used for popular influence. The discourse language now evolved and expressions of "tribal jealousy", "religious jealousy" or "sectarian sentiment" were introduced to match the culture of the countries where introduced.

(Assakina Campaign for Dialogue ,2015) [2] did another study aimed at identifying the e-mails addressed to the Kingdom to promote terrorism. It found that it monitored 90 tweets / minute against the Kingdom, i.e. 129,600 systematic tweets a day. The study also found there were 6000 accounts on Twitter addressed against the Kingdom to sow discord and frustrate the Saudi society. Another 4000 accounts also retweeted these tweets.

(Hassan ,2017) [3] did a study for the purpose of identifying the role of social networking sites in promoting extremist terrorist ideology. The study found that terrorists used social networks as they enabled them to communicate with others, especially young people, to promote terrorism and disseminate their ideas in deliberate and accurate ways to convince them of extremist thought, whether through religion, principles or extremist ideas that are violent in their approach. They exploited youth’s energy and impulsiveness, aspiration for the best and unawareness of these ideas used to mislead and attract them to extremist terrorist groups and made them actors to carry out their terrorist operations each in their homeland. Having done so, they could widespread all over the world. In addition, the security services were unable to monitor those elements that were recruited through social networks where they were identified only when they committed their terrorist operations. The study added that the content of electronic promotion broadcast through social networks, posed a threat to the security of countries, particularly chatting through which information was exchanged compromising national security and recruitment of young people to terrorist organizations and cells that worked for hostile forces targeting homeland security and stability. The young people were enticed and mobilized through forums and pages of communication via Facebook and Twitter, or were recruited by extremist thought and attracted by religion and jihad for God, martyrdom and paradise. They could also be solicited by posting information about themselves and their jobs via Facebook or Twitter and then studying the aspects of their personalities their posts on their personal pages and thus identifying the means of enticing them to fall into the clutches of terrorists and persuading them to carry out terrorist acts that harm the society and the state.

(Mantel ,2009) [4] carried out a study showed the stages of the emergence of electronic promotion of terrorism. The study said that the beginning was in the early nineties as the collection of donations and promotion of terrorism on the Internet. In 1996, The Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement then created an online website to publish its work. In 1998, Al Nida website of Al-Qaeda was discovered. In 1999, 30 foreign terrorist organization in the United States were then discovered over the Internet. Over the period 2000-2005, the extremist websites and discussion forums have proliferated. In 2003, Abdul Aziz al-Muqrin, Al-Qaeda leader in Saudi Arabia, published several digital magazines, including the Voice of Jihad magazine, as a means of promoting terrorism electronically. In 2005, YouTube became a repository of jihadist video content that promoted terrorism. In the Arab Spring revolutions, the electronic promotion of terrorism was used through social networking sites in many pages, such as the Knights of Justice, the Voice of the Salafist Jihadi Prisoners in Jordan, the Forum of Tawhid and Jihad in Jordan, the High Heaven (the Caliphate’s

Heaven), Ansar al-Mujahideen Network, Soldiers of Tawheed, Knights of martyrdom, Ansar al-Sharia Forum, and Ansar al-Sharia in the Arabian Peninsula.

The study of (Al Rubaie,2017) [5] that aimed to identify the impact of social media on youth, found that 80% of those who joined the ISIS was recruited through the electronic promotion of terrorism through social media, Twitter. Twitter is more than "jihadist" websites. Although its space and number of words are limited, it became more influential, especially in the Gulf States. The study reported that the Saudis recorded the highest growth rate of Twitter users in the world. The study also showed that 51% of Saudi network users regularly used the Twitter social networking site. The Kingdom also faced 90 abusive tweets a minute targeted the Kingdom in an attempt to sow discord among the Saudis, as over 129,600 abusive tweets a day were monitored.

The study of (Al Ghafri ,2015)[6] aimed at identifying groups classified as terrorists in Saudi Arabia, and found that these groups were:

- Al-Qaeda (founded by Osama bin Laden and aimed at jihad against governments),
- Al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia (one of its most prominent operations is a series of simultaneous attacks in Riyadh),
- Al-Qaeda in Iraq (founded by Abu Musab al-Zarqani but after his death, Abu Omar al-Baghdadi and Abu Hamza al-Masri swore allegiance to Osama bin Laden),
- Ansar Allah "Houthis" (a Yemeni group with military training and possessing an arsenal of heavy, medium and light weapons),
- Al-Qaeda in Yemen (led by Abu Basir Nasser al-Wahayshi, formed in the Arabian Peninsula),
- Al-Nusra Front, ISIS (The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, its leader is Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, called Abu Duaa, his real name is Ibrahim bin Awad bin Ibrahim al-Badri Al-Radawi al-Husseini al-Samarrai, it was originally the wing of al-Qaeda in Iraq),
- The Saudi Hezbollah (the military wing of the Organization of the Islamic Revolution in the Arabian Peninsula, it was founded by Saudi Shiite oppositionists backed by Iran and Syria, its cadres moved from the Eastern Province to Riyadh to Jazan and finally settled in Khobar Towers), and
- The Muslim Brotherhood (one of the oldest and largest Islamic organizations in Egypt, it is distinguished by linking its political work with Islamic charity work. It was declared as a terrorist group by the Egyptian government).

Recently, it also has several other entities (Sky News; 2017) [7] namely:

- Qatar Center for Voluntary Activities (Qatar), Doha Apple Company (Internet and technology support company) (Qatar), Qatar Charity (Qatar), Sheikh Eid Al Thani Charity Foundation (Qatar), Sheikh Thani Bin Abdullah Humanitarian Services Est. (Qatar), Benghazi Defense Brigades (Libya), Saraya Al-Ashtar (Bahrain), 14 February Coalition (Bahrain), Resistance Brigades (Bahrain), Bahraini Hezbollah (Bahrain), Saraya Al Mukhtar (Bahrain), Bahrain Freedom Movement (Bahrain), and In addition to 59 individuals from different countries.

Section II: The literature that dealt with electronic promotion means of terrorism through social networks:

One of the studies that dealt with this subject was the study of (Assakina ;2014) [8] aimed at identifying how terrorist organizations recruit young people online. It concluded that the terrorists used the forums to attract the large number of sympathetic youth; they called that the "electronic jihad." It took various methods such as "video games" designed to simulate jihadist operations. They followed up the elite in these games and attracted and recruited them to become effective killers after having sent them to Syria and Iraq to blow themselves up. Thus, they attracted a segment that had never been religiously committed. The study also concluded that terrorists used the so-called "Media Jihad" through social networks that coincided with the Arab Spring revolutions. The events are filmed and documented, then broadcast or re-broadcast if they are blocked with the help of experts of "Electronic Jihad", who are skilled in piracy and media production, which stimulates jihad and revolution. The primary role of "Media Jihad" was to promote and commercialize these businesses. Most of the producers of jihadist films were not members of the organization but were sympathetic.

Sympathy is the the most important weapon of Al Qaeda's thought speech. 95% of networks targeting the Kingdom are also non-Saudis.

There is also the study of (Al Sharkawy ;2014) [9] It aimed at identifying the relationship between social networks and the electronic promotion of terrorism. It concluded that the stages of online polarization through promotion through social networks are promoting terrorism and disseminating terrorist ideas. When they are accepted, they pass by four stages:

- The First Stage: Pre-radicalization.
- The Second Stage: Loss of Identity (where the addressee gradually moves away from their identity and adopts the hard-line ideology).
- The Third Stage: Education and Intensive Indoctrination (systematic dissolution of values, principles and ideas by washing the brains and empathizing with new ideas).
- The Fourth Stage: Readiness to carry out any terrorist operation.

(Assakina ;2015) [9] study that aimed at identifying the media organizations that promote electronic terrorism, especially targeting Saudi Arabia, and concluded that the most important:

- Al-Nida website (the official website of Al-Qaeda, releases media statements),
- Thurwat al-Sinam website (an electronic newspaper issued by al-Qaeda),
- The Voice of Jihad website (a magazine issued by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, it specialized in statements and dialogs with the leaders of the organization),
- Al-Battar website (military electronic magazine specialized in military information and recruitment, issued by al-Qaeda),
- As-Sahab Media Production Company (produces audio recordings of Ayman al-Zawahiri, and before him, bin Laden),
- Al-Furqan Foundation for Media Production (belongs to Al-Qaeda in Iraq),
- Al Andalus Foundation for Media Production (serving Al-Qaeda in Morocco),
- Voice of Jihad for Media Production (serving Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula),
- Al Yaqeen Foundation (the international Islamic media platform), Al-Fajr Media Center, Al Ansar Media Foundation, Media Center of the Emirate of Afghanistan, Al-Malahim Establishment for Media Production, Al-I'tisam Media Foundation, Al Hayat Media Center, Amaq News Agency, Dabiq Media Foundation, Khilafah Media Foundation, Ajnad Foundation for Media Production, Al Ghurbaa Foundation for Media, Al Sakeel Foundation, Al Isra Media Production Foundation, and Al Wafa Foundation.

(Al Sanad ;2010) [10] study that aimed at identifying the judgment of Islam on the electronic terrorism and found that the most important means of electronic promotion of terrorism are:

- E-mailing (to spread poisonous ideas via e-mails, and to penetrate e-mails of others to use in terrorist operations).
- Creating websites on the Internet (for the purpose of disseminating, promoting and advocating their principles, as well as teaching the means and methods that assist in carrying out terrorist operations, teaching the explosives making, teaching access to blocked sites and how to spread viruses).

Section III: The literature that dealt with combating electronic promotion of terrorism:

The study of(Al Sanad ;2010) [11] is of the studies that dealt with this topic. It aimed at identifying the means used in the electronic promotion of terrorism and methods of solving them, as well as knowing the judgment according to Islam. The study found that the methods of combating the electronic promotion of terrorism are: Blocking terrorist websites, and creating systems to control electronic business.

The study of (Qirat ;2015) [12] along with the previous study aimed at identifying the means of electronic promotion of terrorism and methods of remedy. It concluded that terrorist websites could not be blocked. Whenever a site is blocked, the terrorists will again show it in a new form and address.

The study of (Al Mezmaah ;2016) [13] aimed at identifying how to counter the electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks. It found that one of the most important methods to confront terrorists through social networks is the media confrontation through:

- Coordinating national media policies among different media on terrorism issues.
- Avoiding media analyzes and opinions that serve the terrorists claiming neutrality and freedom of opinion, where there is no neutrality in the face of terrorism.
- Avoiding dealing terrorist events as being a beat or just news, but dealing with them as an aggression against the homeland.
- Focusing attention on the damage and destruction of terrorist acts cause for states and peoples, so that the issue of terrorism is a personal issue for every citizen.
- Training TV program presenters and adapters to deal with terrorism-related issues.
- Verifying terrorism-related news before publication.
- Augmenting human stories to attract sympathy among citizens to confront terrorism, and presenting media messages that breathe hope in the future and the need to prevail the terrorists, raising the morale of citizens.
- Directing personal media messages through social media through specialists dedicated to disseminating anti-terrorist ideology, exposing, and clarifying all their false claims.
- Highlighting the role of security and military personnel in the face of terrorism, and the need to work to support and help them by providing information about terrorists.
- Refuting terrorist ideology using specialists in terrorist groups and returnees from these groups through presenting information seminars on television, radio, newspapers and social media.
- The study adds that besides the specialized media confrontation, there must be other confrontations such as:
 - Continuously reaching out to university students and Twitter users to use the social networks in a positive way and patriotic spirit to confront ideologically extremists and making them aware of being caught in the clutches of terrorists through these websites.
 - Tracking and closing terrorist pages and accounts immediately.
 - Identifying ways and methods of extremists in spreading their stray thought through social media and suggesting scientific methods to refute these poisonous ideas.
 - Spawning a team with professional expertise to deal with suspicious accounts and pages of terrorists, as well as providing technical expertise for Twitter users on how to block suspicious websites on themselves.
 - Cooperating with known Twitter users, giving them experience in confronting terrorists and exposing their methods through social networks, in addition to blocking their accounts from following and closing them.

Abstract of Literature:

The literature concluded that electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks is dangerous, targeting young people. It also concluded the various means used for this promotion, and methods to combat its promotion. However, it did not address these topics sufficiently and adequately, which is a deficiency in the literature, to be covered by the present study.

• Problem:

As technological development has many advantages and benefits, it also has serious disadvantages not only for people but also for entire peoples. The terrorist groups used information technology and the Internet, especially social networks to promote them and recruit our promising youth, which is a serious problem for which we must unite to find ways to combat. Therefore, the problem of the study is the following questions:

- a) Do social networks have an active role in promoting terrorist groups?

- b) Would terrorist groups succeed in recruiting young people through electronic promotion of them through social networks?
- c) What are the means of terrorist groups to promote them and recruit young people through social networks?
- d) What are the means of combating terrorists' promotion of their websites via social networks?

• **Hypotheses:**

First Hypothesis: There would be no statistically significant relationship between the electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and the spread of terrorists recruiting the Saudi youth.

Second Hypothesis: There would be no statistically significant relationship between the means of electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and the spread of terrorist recruitment of Saudi youth.

Third Hypothesis: There would be no statistically significant relationship between the methods of combating the electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and the spread of terrorist recruitment of Saudi youth.

• **Variables:**

The following figure illustrates the research model of the study

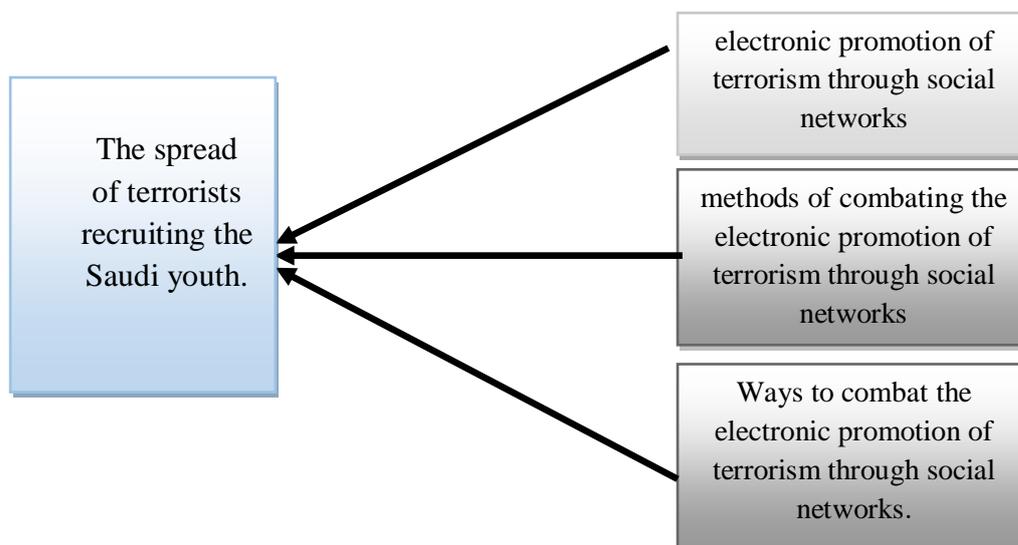


Fig (1): shows Research model

Study variables can be divided into :

Independent Variables: Electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks; means of electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks; methods to combat electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks.

Dependent Variable: There is a single dependent variable, the spread of terrorists recruiting the Saudi youth

• **Objectives:**

In light of the study problem, the research seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- a) To identify the role of social networks in promoting terrorist groups.
- b) To identify the extent to which terrorist groups succeed in recruiting young people by promoting terrorism through social networks.

- c) To explain what means terrorist groups use to promote themselves and their terrorist operations through social networks.
- d) To identify methods to combat the electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks.

- **Research Significance:**

The importance of research stems from scientific importance and practical (applied) importance as follows:

- a. **Scientific Significance:**

The scientific significance is due to the scarcity of Arab research on the electronic promotion of terrorism through social media, its relation to the recruitment of young people and the impact of promotional websites of terrorism on young people. This research is one of the first researches that examines this topic.

- b. **Practical (Applied) Significance:**

- This research deals with the topic of terrorism, which is of utmost importance to peoples, not just individuals. We know how the terrorists are targeting the Arab world, especially the Kingdom. Therefore, this topic has become very important for being addressed and closely explored by research.
- This research deals with the harmful aspect of technology and the Internet, especially social networks, which in itself has become an addiction to the Saudi youth. The visitors of these websites exploit them to spread the deadly poison among our promising youth.
- It addresses an attempt to help parents on how to monitor their children and avoid falling into this deadly problem.
- It also tackles help to the officials in the Kingdom to learn how to avoid this problem, develop solutions to address it, and benefit from this study to educate the Saudi youth against these deadly websites.

- c. **Limitations:**

- a. Objectivity Limitations: Due to the nature of women in the city, the non-random sample was relied on, the control sample. The research was limited to political terrorism.
- b. Geographic Limitations: It was limited to Tabuk due to the geographical expansion of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, making it difficult to cover all parts of the Kingdom.
- c. Time Limitations: The primary data were collected from the study sample during 03/06/2017.

2. Definition of study terms:

- a. **Social networks [14]:**

Web sites are built on a certain basis, that allow people to express themselves and identify other people who share the same interests are virtual communities that enable users to share ideas and interests and form new friendships.

- b. **Electronic terrorism [15]:**

The use of the Internet, mobile phones and related electronic services in the dissemination, transmission, reception and construction of sites and services that assist in the transmission and promotion of ideas in support of intellectual extremism, in particular inciting violence, encouraging or funding anything that promotes such activities.

- c. **Terrorism [16]:**

Any act or act that causes harm and violence to individuals, deprives them of security and safety in a country and creates tension and fear. Its purpose is political and prejudices a religious community, or its objective is ideological, which harms the lives and installations of individuals, Terrorist groups impose their own criminal laws and adopt similar tactics.

3. Study Procedures :

This research is a descriptive one as it describes the status of electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and how to combat it. The researcher prepared a pilot study to figure out the problem. The secondary data were collected. The previous studies were identified. The points that they were not addressed were fulfilled. The hypotheses of the study were identified. The primary data were collected to determine the validity or error of the study hypotheses and thus to reach the conclusions and recommendations of the study.

a. Population:

The study population is composed of all male and female students at Tabuk University.

b. Sample:

A non-random sample was selected from the male and female students at Tabuk University (based on a control sample). The questionnaire forms were distributed to them. The number of forms distributed was 200 forms, 150 forms to the male students and 50 forms to the female students as the male students are targeted more than the female students. The number of valid forms returned were 191 forms, 95%; it was high rates with significant results.

c. Type and Sources of Data Collection:

Two types of data were used:

- a. Secondary data: Through research, books, references and theses on this topic.
- b. Primary Data: Through distributing a questionnaire on the search items.

d. Methods of Data Analysis:

The study relied on some statistical methods included in the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). The stepwise regression coefficient was relied on. The correlation coefficient R , the coefficient of determination R^2 , t -test, F-test, beta coefficient (β), along with some descriptive statistics analysis were reached.

e. Scales Used to Measure Variables:

The variables were measured through the closed-ended, pre-defined questions. In addition, the researcher used the Likert Scale of 5 points (where 5 refers to full agreement and zero to no agreement at all). The researcher relied on a set of statements obtained from the previous studies

4. Results and discussion:

- **Validity and Reliability Testing:** To reduce the error rate of measurement and verification of the primary data collection tool prior to the use of the data in the statistical tests and generalization of results, the validity and reliability test of the questionnaire list of questions was conducted as follows:
- **Scale Reliability Testing:** The Cronbach's alpha was used. The scale is acceptable if the value of Cronbach's alpha exceeds 60%. The value of Cronbach's alpha for questions of the questionnaire ranged between 0.729 and 0.959. Thus, it is clear that they are significant coefficients to achieve the objectives and purposes of the research. Therefore, they can be relied upon in generalizing the results of the questionnaire.
- **Scale Validity Testing:** The validity expresses the achieved extent to which the measure of the variables the researcher wants to measure. The questionnaire list was presented to some specialized faculty members.

- **Descriptive Analysis of Data:** The results showed that: 95% of respondents used the Internet for social communication, approximately 80% for games, 40% for shopping purposes, and 20% for information search only, (As shown in Figure 1 of the Appendix of Figures and Tables).
- The study also showed that 80% of students knew what electronic terrorism was, and that about 20% of the sample did not know it. (As shown in Figure 2 of the Appendix of Figures and Tables).
- **Analysis of the Research Hypotheses Results:**

First Hypothesis Testing:

There would be no statistically significant relationship between the electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and the spread of terrorists recruiting the Saudi youth.

The results (shown in Table 1 in the Appendix of Figures and Tables) indicates that the independent variables collectively explain 95% of the change in the spread of terrorist recruitment of youth. It is a statistically significant percentage at a significance level (0.000). The remaining percentage relates to other independent variables and the random error. The variable of access to a website by chance is the most influential independent variables in the spread of terrorist recruitment of young people, where it individually interprets 46.4%. It is followed by the variable of access to the website due to curiosity, which explains 15%, followed by the variable of access to the website intermittently, which explains 14%. It is followed by access to the website as a result of attracting more attention than the previous times of access, and then, access to the website while fully aware of the website before, followed by access to the site only once and refraining from access again, and then, access to the website as a result of full conviction of its content, and then, constant access to the website. Finally, it is access to the website once and not being able to have access again as the last variable affecting the spread of terrorist recruitment of young people. The correlation coefficient value 0.939 indicates a very positive and strong correlation between the electronic promotion of terrorism and the spread of terrorist recruitment of Saudi youth. The t-test results indicate that all variables are significant and affect the dependent variable, except for the variable of access to the website once and not being able to access again.

The regression equation can be formulated as follows:

$$Y = 4.471 + 0.507 M1 + (0.492) M2 + (0.426) M3 + 0.811 M4 + (0.605) M5 + 0.088 M6 + (0.417) M7 + (0.132) M8 + 0.043 M9.$$

Second Hypothesis Testing:

There would be no statistically significant relationship between the means of electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and the spread of terrorist recruitment of Saudi youth.

The results (shown in Table 2 in the Appendix of Figures and Tables) indicates that the independent variables collectively explain approximately 93% of the change in the spread of terrorist recruitment of youth. It is a statistically significant percentage at a significance level (0.000). The remaining percentage relates to other independent variables and the random error. The variable of unidentifiable websites that recruit young people is the most influential independent variables in the spread of terrorist recruitment of young people, where it individually interprets 37.4%. Then, it is the variable of telling stories and tales about the beautiful life enjoyed by terrorists in their camps between their wives and their children, which explains approximately 12%. It is followed by the variable of chatting in the forums, which explains approximately 9.4%. It is followed by the direct call to recruit young people, then, video games, followed by targeting of specific youth and penetrating their pages, and finally, posting horrific images and videos as the last variable affecting the spread of terrorist recruitment of young people. The correlation coefficient value 0.912 indicates a very positive and strong correlation between the electronic promotion of terrorism means and the

spread of terrorist recruitment of Saudi youth. The t-test results indicate that all variables are significant and affect the dependent variable, except for the variable of posting horrible images and videos.

The regression equation can be formulated as follows:

$$Y = 4.170 + 0.245 M1 + (0.087) M2 + (0.139) M3 + (0.267) M4 + (0.180) M5 + (0.001) M6.$$

Third Hypothesis Testing:

There would be no statistically significant relationship between the methods of combating the electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and the spread of terrorist recruitment of Saudi youth.

The results (shown in Table 2 in the Appendix of Figures and Tables) indicates that the independent variables collectively explain 93.4% of the change in the spread of terrorist recruitment of youth. It is a statistically significant percentage at a significance level 0.000. The remaining percentage relates to other independent variables and the random error. The variable of youth outreach in schools and universities against these websites is the most influential independent variables in the spread of terrorist recruitment of young people, where it individually interprets 32.5%. Then, it is followed by the variable of counter-promotion by creating promotion websites of true religion, correct ideas and providing correct information about terrorists, which explains about 17%. It is followed by the variable of penetrating websites promoting terrorism, correcting information and providing correct ideas and awareness, which explains about 12.4%. It is followed by deepening gaps in terrorist groups, which interprets 12%, then, variable of listing names of websites and announcing them. That is followed by the variable of blocking websites promoting terrorism, and then, the variable of raising awareness among citizens to report on these websites. It is followed by the variable of coordination of government efforts to follow up websites and information materials for these groups, and then, variable of awareness of families to observe their children, and then, the variable of international coordination to report on these websites. Finally, it is the variable of developing a unified international law against the electronic terrorism. The correlation coefficient value 0.934 indicates a very positive and strong correlation between the methods to combat electronic promotion of terrorism and the spread of terrorist recruitment of Saudi youth. The t-test results indicate that all variables are significant and affect the dependent variable, except for the variable of international coordination for reporting these websites and the variable of developing a unified international law against electronic terrorism.

The regression equation can be formulated as follows:

$$(0.328) M3 + 0.225 M4 + 0.127 M5 + Y = 3.891 + (0.075) M1 + 0.231 M2 + 0.125 M6 + (0.173) M7 + 0.178 M8 + 0.066 M9.$$

• Findings:

The research findings can be clarified as follows:

- First Hypothesis: Null Hypothesis (H0): There would be no statistically significant relationship between the electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and the spread of terrorists recruiting the Saudi youth.
- Alternative Hypothesis (H1): There would be statistically significant relationship between the electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and the spread of terrorists recruiting the Saudi youth.

The results showed a positive correlation between the independent variable and the dependent variable of the hypothesis. Thus, the null hypothesis can be rejected, and the alternative hypothesis of the first hypothesis can be accepted.

Accordingly, the result of the hypothesis is consistent with the literature (which was presented previously), such as Assakina study (2014), Assakina study (2015), Hassan study (2017) and Al Rubaie study (2017).

- Second Hypothesis: Null Hypothesis (H0): There would be no statistically significant relationship between the means of electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and the spread of terrorist recruitment of Saudi youth.
- Alternative Hypothesis (H1): There would be statistically significant relationship between the means of electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and the spread of terrorist recruitment of Saudi youth.

The results showed a positive correlation between the independent variable and the dependent variable of the hypothesis. Thus, the null hypothesis can be rejected, and the alternative hypothesis of the second hypothesis can be accepted.

Therefore, the result of the hypothesis is consistent with the literature (which was presented previously), such as Assakina study (2014), Al Sharqawy study (2014) and Al Sanad study (2010).

- Third Hypothesis: Null Hypothesis (H0): There would be no statistically significant relationship between the methods of combating the electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and the spread of terrorist recruitment of Saudi youth.
- Alternative Hypothesis (H1): There would be statistically significant relationship between the methods of combating the electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and the spread of terrorist recruitment of Saudi youth.

The results showed a positive correlation between the independent variable and the dependent variable of the hypothesis. Thus, the null hypothesis can be rejected, and the alternative hypothesis of the third hypothesis can be accepted.

Accordingly, the result of the hypothesis is consistent with the literature (which was presented previously), such as Al Sanad study (2010) and Al Mezmaah study (2016).

- Accordingly, all study hypotheses were rejected. That means:
- There is statistically significant relationship between the electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and the spread of terrorists recruiting the Saudi youth.
- There is statistically significant relationship between the means of electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and the spread of terrorist recruitment of Saudi youth.
- There is statistically significant relationship between the methods of combating the electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks and the spread of terrorist recruitment of Saudi youth.

5. Recommendations:

- a. Awareness raising is to be widespread, including awareness raising in universities, institutes and schools, and non-blackout of this problem.
- b. The websites promoting electronic terrorism through social networks is to be penetrated and to provide the true information.
- c. These websites are to be counter-promoted by creating websites providing the true information and the true religion.
- d. Methods of contact with the concerned authorities to report these websites are to be published and awareness is to be raised among citizens.
- e. Gaps in these cells are to be used, deepened and explained to young people.
- f. A comprehensive national plan that includes the Ministry of Education, Interior, Justice and Communication Technology is needed to be made.
- g. Electronic ways to reduce the spread of these websites are to be found.
- h. Legislation with severe penalties against websites promoting such websites is to be enacted.
- i. Developing a unified international law within a broad international cooperation to limit the spread of electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks is to be participated in.
- j. Awareness is to be raised among parents to follow up their children.

6. Conclusion:

The study reviewed the role of electronic promotion of terrorism through social networks in recruiting youth by terrorist groups. As this topic is observed to be important, terrorism now befall all the countries of the world and everyone knows how it targets our Arab nation and at the head of the Arab targeted countries is Saudi Arabia in its promising male and female youth. That is why we must all unite to confront this evil terrorism, which makes no distinction between a child, an elder, a woman and a man, leading the nations to total destruction.

The study reviewed how terrorists could attract our promising young who has not yet developed fully their cognition and identity, and who has future burning ambition. They exploit the youth's rush to learn all new and often exploit the great leisure time of young people to attract them to the abyss of terrorism.

The study also reviewed the means of terrorists to promote terrorism through social media, attracting young people, which vary between stories and novels that are unrealistic and attractive to the young people's potential motives, either, with religious preaching and attraction, attraction and development of criminal aspect, or stimulating video games. After they master these games, they are attracted to implement them on the ground. Sometimes they are attracted by drawing beautiful fictional and false images of reality of the wonderful life experienced by the Mujahideen and the family life they live with their wives who were recruited only to be illegal wives of these terrorists. Sometimes they are attracted through intimidation by posting professional images and films of slaughtering and burning those who disagree with them.

The study also reviewed ways to overcome this phenomenon, as it is necessary to unite the Kingdom's international, regional and local efforts to overcome this evil terrorism. The ministries concerned must be united. It is also necessary to review the religious discourse that calls for extremism and replace it with religious discourse that refutes extremist terrorist ideas. The media must be united. There is no doubt that the media plays a key role in this issue and it is necessary to declare the war against terrorism. It is also necessary to raise awareness, especially in schools and universities, which are the most targeted group by terrorist groups. Parents' awareness must also be raised to monitor their children. The pioneers of social networks and people with experience in this area are to be cooperated with to raise awareness of young people because they will have more acceptance among young people. They can also teach young people how to block terrorist websites. In addition, patriotism is to be planted among young people in all ways to increase their sense of security in their homeland, love their homeland, combat these websites and be the shield of their homeland against terrorists.

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دور الترويج الإلكتروني للإرهاب من خلال الشبكات الاجتماعية في انتشار الإرهابيين تجنيد الشباب " تطبق على المملكة العربية السعودية "

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المخلص:

المقدمة:

على الرغم من التقدم التكنولوجي الكبير في عالم اليوم، بما في ذلك الإنترنت والشبكات الاجتماعية، فقد جاء أيضاً مع مساوئ مميتة ومدمرة للإنسانية: تجنيد الشباب إلكترونياً لاستخدامه كوقود حي للإرهاب الدموي.

مشكلة:

مشكلة الدراسة كانت الأسئلة التالية:

هل تلعب الشبكات الاجتماعية دوراً فعالاً في تعزيز الجماعات الإرهابية؟ هل تنجح المجموعات الإرهابية في تجنيد الشباب من خلال الترويج الإلكتروني لهم من خلال الشبكات الاجتماعية؟ ما هي وسائل الجماعات الإرهابية للترويج لها وتجنيد الشباب من خلال الشبكات الاجتماعية؟ ما وسائل مكافحة تعزيز الإرهابيين لمواقعهم على الإنترنت؟

المنهجية:

استخدمت الدراسة المنهج الوصفي، كانت عينة الدراسة من الطلاب والطالبات في جامعة تبوك. اعتمدت الدراسة على أسئلة مفتوحة وعلى مقياس ليكرت لقياس المتغيرات. كما اعتمدت على معامل الانحدار التدريجي لاختبار الفرضيات.

النتائج:

يلعب الترويج الإلكتروني للإرهاب من خلال الشبكات الاجتماعية دوراً رئيسياً في تجنيد الشباب من قبل الإرهابيين. تعتبر الوسائل المستخدمة في الترويج الإلكتروني للإرهاب من خلال الشبكات الاجتماعية عاملاً رئيسياً في توظيف الشباب. درجة التوظيف تختلف وفقاً لهذه الوسائل. هذا التجنيد المتزايد يمكن مكافحته ببعض الوسائل، ومعظمها إلكتروني.

التوصيات:

وكانت التوصيات الرئيسية للدراسة هي الحاجة إلى الوعي والترويج المضاد، واختراق هذه المواقع، واستغلال الثغرات في هذه الجماعات الإرهابية، وتطبيق عقوبات دولية ومحلية قوية، ووضع برنامج وطني شامل لمواجهةها.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الترويج الإلكتروني، الإرهاب الإلكتروني، التجارة الإلكترونية، التوظيف الإلكتروني، الشبكات الاجتماعية

Appendices
(Questionnaire Form)

1. Do you use the Internet? Yes No
2. Here are some of the uses of the Internet. Please, specify what suits you.

Degree of Agreement Statement	Absolutely agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Absolutely disagree (1)
- Shopping					
- Social communication					
- Search for information					
- Games					
- Other, mention					

3. Do you know what electronic promotion of terrorism is? Yes No
4. Have you had access to promotion websites of electronic terrorism? Yes No
5. Please specify the ability of websites promoting electronic terrorism in recruiting young people.

Degree of Agreement Statement	Absolutely agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Absolutely disagree (1)
- Had access to the website by chance					
- Had access to the website while fully aware of the website before					
- Had access to the website only once and refrained from access again					
- Had access to the website once and not having been able to have access again					
- Had access the website intermittently					
- Continuous and constant access to the website					
- Had access to the website as a result of curiosity					
- Had access to the website as a result of attracting more attention than the previous times of access					
- Had access to the website as a result of full conviction of its content					
- Are you satisfied with what these sites provide?					
- Do you think these websites have succeeded in recruiting young people?					
- Other, mention					

6. Please specify the means used by terrorist groups to promote themselves and recruit young people.

Degree of Agreement Statement	Absolutely agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Absolutely disagree (1)
- Direct call to recruit youth					
- Telling stories and tales about the beautiful life enjoyed by terrorists in their camps between their wives and their children					
- Chatting in forums					
- Through their unidentifiable websites that recruit young people					
- Posting horrific images and videos					
- Video games					
- Targeting specific youth and penetrating their pages					

7. Please, specify methods to combat the electronic promotion of terrorism.

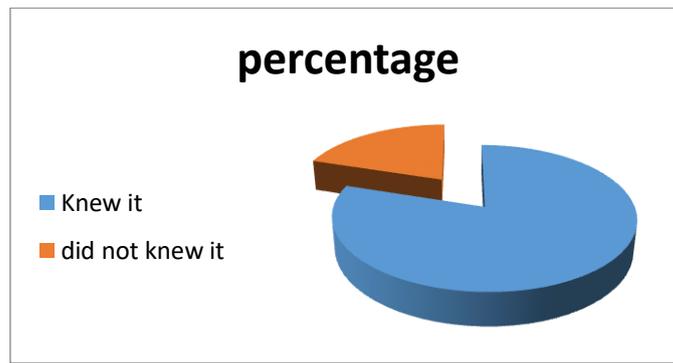


Figure (2) Sample's Knowledge Degree of Electronic Terrorism

Second: Tables

Table (1) Results of the Stepwise Regression Analysis for the First Hypothesis

Independent Variables	R	R²	F	Sig. F	T	Sig. T	β
– Had access to the website by chance M1	0.499	0.464	741.441	0.000	1.656	0.000	0.507
– Had access to the website as a result of curiosity M2	0.650	0.615	533.140	0.000	-1.987	0.000	-0.492
– Had access to the website intermittently M3	0.763	0.758	377.229	0.000	-2.108	0.010	-0.426
– Had access to the website as a result of attracting more attention than the previous times of access M4	0.798	0.821	292.037	0.000	1.651	0.020	0.811
– Had access to the website for my knowledge of their success in recruiting young people M5	0.896	0.880	237.909	0.000	-1.196	0.036	-0.605
– Had access to the website while fully aware of the website before M6	0.921	0.918	199.672	0.000	-0.375	0.032	-0.088
– Had access to the website only once and refrained from access again M7	0.937	0.925	171.588	0.000	-1.120	0.041	-0.417
– Had access to the website as a result of full conviction of its content M8	0.931	0.932	155.301	0.000	-0.536	0.038	-0.132
– Continuous and constant access to the website M9	0.935	0.941	139.912	0.000	0.460	0.043	0.043
– Had access to the website once and not having been able to have access again M10	0.939	0.952	124.924	0.000	0.705	0.724	0.254

– **Dependent Variable: The spread of terrorist recruitment of young people.**

Table (2) Results of the Stepwise Regression Analysis for the Second Hypothesis

<i>Independent Variables</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>R²</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sig. F</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>Sig. T</i>	<i>β</i>
– Through their unidentifiable websites that recruit young people M1	0.497	0.374	59.406	0.000	1.643	0.000	0.245
– Telling stories and tales about the beautiful life enjoyed by terrorists in their camps between their wives and their children M2	0.510	0.497	67.835	0.000	-0.527	0.040	-0.087
– Chatting in forums M3	0.608	0.591	46.083	0.000	-1.081	0.016	-0.139
– Direct call to recruit youth M4	0.697	0.682	29.779	0.000	-1.125	0.033	-0.267
– Video games M5	0.786	0.771	26.000	0.000	-0.831	0.032	-0.180
– Targeting specific youth and penetrating their pages M6	0.899	0.854	14.206	0.000	-0.177	0.046	-0.011
– Posting horrific images and videos M7	0.912	0.928	12.252	0.000	0.096	0.639	0.031

– **Dependent Variable: The spread of terrorist recruitment of young people.**

Table (3) Results of the Stepwise Regression Analysis for the Third Hypothesis

<i>Independent Variables</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>R²</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sig. F</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>Sig. T</i>	<i>β</i>
– Raising awareness among youth in schools and universities against these websites M1	0.396	0.325	63.820	0.000	-2.968	0.000	-0.075
– Counter-promoting by creating promotion websites of true religion, correct ideas and providing correct information about terrorists M2	0.502	0.494	56.178	0.000	2.287	0.000	0.231
– Penetrating websites that promote terrorism, correcting information, and providing correct ideas and awareness M3	0.633	0.618	44.200	0.000	-2.470	0.001	-0.328
– Deepening gaps in terrorist groups M4	0.752	0.736	36.868	0.000	3.352	0.008	0.225
– Making a list of websites and announcing them M5	0.864	0.824	31.497	0.000	2.326	0.029	0.127
– Blocking websites promoting terrorism M6	0.916	0.902	27.995	0.000	0.911	0.028	0.125
– raising awareness among citizens to report on these websites M7	0.920	0.910	24.619	0.000	-1.775	0.012	-0.173
– Coordinating government efforts to follow up websites and information materials for these groups M8	0.931	0.924	21.064	0.000	1.939	0.040	0.178
– Raising awareness among families to observe their children M9	0.933	0.929	19.146	0.000	0.988	0.044	0.066
– International coordination of reporting on these websites M10	0.933	0.932	17.091	0.000	-0.832	0.787	-0.53
– Developing a unified international law against the electronic terrorism M11	0.935	0.944	15.011	0.000	-0.832	0.787	-0.53

– **Dependent Variable: The spread of terrorist recruitment of young people**