



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Open Access, Refereed Journal Multi Disciplinary
Peer Reviewed Edition :

www.ijlra.com

DISCLAIMER

No part of this publication may be reproduced or copied in any form by any means without prior written permission of Managing Editor of IJLRA. The views expressed in this publication are purely personal opinions of the authors and do not reflect the views of the Editorial Team of IJLRA.

Though every effort has been made to ensure that the information in Volume 2 Issue 7 is accurate and appropriately cited/referenced, neither the Editorial Board nor IJLRA shall be held liable or responsible in any manner whatsoever for any consequences for any action taken by anyone on the basis of information in the Journal.

Copyright © International Journal for Legal Research & Analysis

IJLRA

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITORS



Megha Middha

Megha Middha, Assistant Professor of Law in Mody University of Science and Technology, Lakshmangarh, Sikar

Megha Middha, is working as an Assistant Professor of Law in Mody University of Science and Technology, Lakshmangarh, Sikar (Rajasthan). She has an experience in the teaching of almost 3 years. She has completed her graduation in BBA LL.B (H) from Amity University, Rajasthan (Gold Medalist) and did her post-graduation (LL.M in Business Laws) from NLSIU, Bengaluru. Currently, she is enrolled in a Ph.D. course in the Department of Law at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur (Rajasthan). She wishes to excel in academics and research and contribute as much as she can to society. Through her interactions with the students, she tries to inculcate a sense of deep thinking power in her students and enlighten and guide them to the fact how they can bring a change to the society

Dr. Samrat Datta

Dr. Samrat Datta Seedling School of Law and Governance, Jaipur National University, Jaipur. Dr. Samrat Datta is currently associated with Seedling School of Law and Governance, Jaipur National University, Jaipur. Dr. Datta has completed his graduation i.e., B.A.LL.B. from Law College Dehradun, Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar, Uttarakhand. He is an alumnus of KIIT University, Bhubaneswar where he pursued his post-graduation (LL.M.) in Criminal Law and subsequently completed his Ph.D. in Police Law and Information Technology from the Pacific Academy of Higher Education and Research University, Udaipur in 2020. His area of interest and research is Criminal and Police Law. Dr. Datta has a teaching experience of 7 years in various law schools across North India and has held administrative positions like Academic Coordinator, Centre Superintendent for Examinations, Deputy Controller of Examinations, Member of the Proctorial Board



Dr. Namita Jain



Head & Associate Professor

School of Law, JECRC University, Jaipur Ph.D. (Commercial Law) LL.M., UGC -NET Post Graduation Diploma in Taxation law and Practice, Bachelor of Commerce.

Teaching Experience: 12 years, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION of Dr. Namita Jain are - ICF Global Excellence Award 2020 in the category of educationalist by I Can Foundation, India. India Women Empowerment Award in the category of "Emerging Excellence in Academics by Prime Time & Utkrisht Bharat Foundation, New Delhi.(2020). Conferred in FL Book of Top 21 Record Holders in the category of education by Fashion Lifestyle Magazine, New Delhi. (2020). Certificate of Appreciation for organizing and managing the Professional Development Training Program on IPR in Collaboration with Trade Innovations Services, Jaipur on March 14th, 2019

Mrs.S.Kalpana

Assistant professor of Law

Mrs.S.Kalpana, presently Assistant professor of Law, VelTech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala R & D Institute of Science and Technology, Avadi. Formerly Assistant professor of Law, Vels University in the year 2019 to 2020, Worked as Guest Faculty, Chennai Dr.Ambedkar Law College, Pudupakkam. Published one book. Published 8 Articles in various reputed Law Journals. Conducted 1 Moot court competition and participated in nearly 80 National and International seminars and webinars conducted on various subjects of Law. Did ML in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Administration. 10 paper presentations in various National and International seminars. Attended more than 10 FDP programs. Ph.D. in Law pursuing.



Avinash Kumar



Avinash Kumar has completed his Ph.D. in International Investment Law from the Dept. of Law & Governance, Central University of South Bihar. His research work is on "International Investment Agreement and State's right to regulate Foreign Investment." He qualified UGC-NET and has been selected for the prestigious ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship. He is an alumnus of the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. Formerly he has been elected as Students Union President of Law Centre-1, University of Delhi. Moreover, he completed his LL.M. from the University of Delhi (2014-16), dissertation on "Cross-border Merger & Acquisition"; LL.B. from the University of Delhi (2011-14), and B.A. (Hons.) from Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. He has also obtained P.G. Diploma in IPR from the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi. He has qualified UGC - NET examination and has been awarded ICSSR - Doctoral Fellowship. He has published six-plus articles and presented 9 plus papers in national and international seminars/conferences. He participated in several workshops on research methodology and teaching and learning.

ABOUT US

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

ISSN

2582-6433 is an Online Journal is Monthly, Peer Review, Academic Journal, Published online, that seeks to provide an interactive platform for the publication of Short Articles, Long Articles, Book Review, Case Comments, Research Papers, Essay in the field of Law & Multidisciplinary issue. Our aim is to upgrade the level of interaction and discourse about contemporary issues of law. We are eager to become a highly cited academic publication, through quality contributions from students, academics, professionals from the industry, the bar and the bench. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH & ANALYSIS ISSN 2582-6433 welcomes contributions from all legal branches, as long as the work is original, unpublished and is in consonance with the submission guidelines.

THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS.

AUTHORED BY - SRIVARSHINI.K ¹, BAVANA.A² & SHAHIN.M³

ABSTRACT

The advent of social media has ushered in a transformative era in criminal investigations, profoundly influencing the way law enforcement agencies navigate and solve cases. With an unprecedented volume of user-generated content, platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram serve as virtual landscapes teeming with valuable digital evidence. Investigators now leverage these platforms to gather insights, track suspects, and establish connections between individuals. To evaluate the relationship between age and social media platforms cooperate with law enforcement in providing information for investigations. The important findings in my research was (10.24%) of 31 - 40 years age group people were said yes that social media platforms cooperate with law enforcement in providing information for investigations. The research method followed here is descriptive research. A total of 205 samples have been collected out of which all samples have been collected through convenient sampling methods. The sample frame taken here is public areas in and around Chennai, Tamil Nadu like beaches, malls and parks. The independent variables are age, gender, educational qualification, occupation and marital status. The dependent variables are social media platforms that collaborate with law enforcement to provide information for investigations, social media affect the speed of information dissemination in criminal investigations, main impact of social media on criminal law concerning the dissemination of misinformation, social media a reliable and valuable source of evidence for law enforcement in criminal cases, would you rate the impact of social media on witness testimonies in criminal cases. The statistical tools used in my research were graphical representation, Chi square, ANOVA, Independent sample t test and Correlation. In conclusion, the impact of social media on criminal investigations is both revolutionary and intricate. The wealth of information available on these platforms has significantly enhanced law enforcement's ability to solve cases, trace individuals, and unravel complex networks.

¹ Student, Saveetha school of law, srivarshinikathir@gmail.com

² Student, Saveetha school of law, bavanaanandan@gmail.com

³ Student, Saveetha school of law, shahinmujeeb2430@gmail.com

KEYWORDS:

Social media, Crime, Investigations, Misinformation, Digital Forensics, Evidence

INTRODUCTION

The history of this impact reflects a dynamic relationship between law enforcement and social media, with ongoing adaptations and considerations for ethical and legal implications. The impact of social media on criminal investigations has evolved significantly over the years. Initially, platforms were primarily used for communication, but law enforcement soon recognized their potential as valuable tools for gathering evidence. Government initiatives addressing the impact of social media on criminal investigations have become increasingly prevalent. Initiatives often focus on collaboration between government agencies and social media platforms to streamline information sharing, while also addressing privacy and legal considerations. Initiatives were Cyber crime cells, Cyber crime reporting portals, Coordination with social media companies, Training and Capacity Building, Legal Frameworks, Public Awareness Campaigns, International Collaboration. Governments are adapting to the evolving landscape, recognizing both the opportunities and challenges that social media presents in the realm of criminal investigations. Several factors influence the impact of social media on criminal investigations. Privacy concerns play a pivotal role, shaping the boundaries of information access for law enforcement. Collaboration between governments, law enforcement, and social media platforms is crucial, impacting the effectiveness of initiatives. Public awareness and responsible online behaviour also contribute to the overall success or hindrance of leveraging social media in criminal investigations.

Current trends related to the impact of social media on criminal investigations include an increased focus on artificial intelligence and machine learning tools for analysing vast amounts of digital data. Law enforcement agencies are adopting advanced technologies to sift through social media content efficiently. There is also a growing emphasis on international cooperation and data-sharing agreements between countries to address transnational crimes facilitated by social media. States worldwide exhibit diverse approaches to the impact of social media on criminal investigations. For example, in the United States, variations can be observed among states like California, New York, and Texas, each having its own legal and regulatory considerations. Similarly, European countries such as Germany, the United Kingdom, and France may differ in their approaches due to distinct privacy laws and cultural factors. For precise and

current information on specific states or countries, referring to local legal sources or law enforcement agencies is recommended.

OBJECTIVES

- To evaluate the relationship between age and social media platforms co - operate with law enforcement in providing information for investigations.
- To analyse the significant association between area of residence and how social media impacts the speed of information dissemination in criminal investigations.
- To examine the significant difference between gender and what is the primary impact of social media on the law of crimes regarding the spread of misinformation.
- To find the relationship between employment status and do you agree that social media serves as a valuable and reliable source of evidence for law enforcement in criminal cases.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pankhuri Thukral and Vanshika Kainya (2022) had made a research on the objective outlined in the paragraph to shed light on the complex relationship between social media and criminal law. The factors influencing this include the benefits and risks of technology, the misuse of personal information, and the challenges posed by the anonymity and fakeness prevalent on social media platforms. **Galbally Parker (2023)** had made a study on the objective presented in the paragraph to underscore the significant role of social media applications, such as Facebook, Twitter, and TikTok, as crucial tools in police investigations. Factors influencing this evolution include the increased usage of social media, enabling law enforcement to broaden their network and enhance the efficiency of their investigative processes. **Janet E. Katz and Garland F. White (1993)** had made this paper that tells the objective of their modest two-year study, conducted in 1992 by White, Katz, and Scarborough, was to investigate and contribute insights into the relationship between media portrayal of sporting events and its potential impact on violent incidents, specifically directed towards women. Factors explored include the unique angle of studying assaults against women in the context of sporting events, adding a nuanced perspective to existing research on media violence and crime. **Philip Schlesinger, Howard Tumber and Graham Murdock (1991)** had made a research paper on the paper aimed to investigate the portrayal of crime and criminal justice in British national news media, challenging 'media-centric' approaches by emphasising the conflicts within and between social institutions. It explores media strategies employed by sources in the crime and criminal justice fields, considering factors like

institutionalisation of social actors and resource utilisation. **James Walsh and Christopher O'connor (2018)** had made a study on social media's impact on policing across criminology, sociology, and communications that seeks to consolidate existing knowledge and guide future research. It identifies how social media's technical features both empower and constrain police services. These platforms offer opportunities for enhanced surveillance, risk communication, and impression management, allowing police to control their public image and navigate the social landscape. **Richard V. Ericson (1991)** had made the research on the effects of mass media on individuals addresses a gap by considering human agency, technology, and social institutions in communication dynamics. Recent studies challenge the conventional view, depicting mass media as more open, diverse, pervasive, and influential than previously thought. Instead of merely reporting events, mass media actively participate in shaping and constituting these events in the world. **Edward L. Glaeser, Bruce Sacerdote and José A. Scheinkman (1996)** had made a study that delved into the enduring puzzle of high variance in crime rates across time and space, a phenomenon seemingly beyond the scope of changes in the external costs and benefits of crime. The presented model proposes that social interactions play a pivotal role, generating sufficient covariance among individuals to account for the observed diversity in crime rates across cities. **Wim Bernasco, Thomas de Graaff, Jan Rouwendal and Wouter Steenbeek (2017)** had made a study aimed to investigate the impact of neighbourhood characteristics on an individual's criminal involvement, utilising data from over 14 million residents across approximately 4,000 Dutch neighbourhoods. By incorporating age, sex, ethnicity, and criminal involvement information, the researchers develop a binomial discrete choice model for criminal behaviour, considering endogeneity related to unobserved neighbourhood traits and sorting behaviour. **Alyce McGovern and Sanja Milivojevic (2016)** have made a study that explores the transformative impact of social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat on our perception and experience of crime and victimisation. While traditional media was considered the primary source for shaping opinions about crime, social media has now taken precedence. The research aims to understand how these new platforms influence our understanding of crime. It acknowledges concerns regarding victimisation on social media but also highlights positive aspects, such as the opportunities it creates for criminal justice agencies to solve crimes. **Yu Cheng (2023)** had made a research on the objectives of this article to summarise and analyse the impact of social media on deviance and crime through the lenses of social learning theory, routine activity theory, and cyber lifestyle-routine activities theory. Drawing from a diverse range of academic sources, the study aims to explore the intricate connection between online and offline behaviours. The

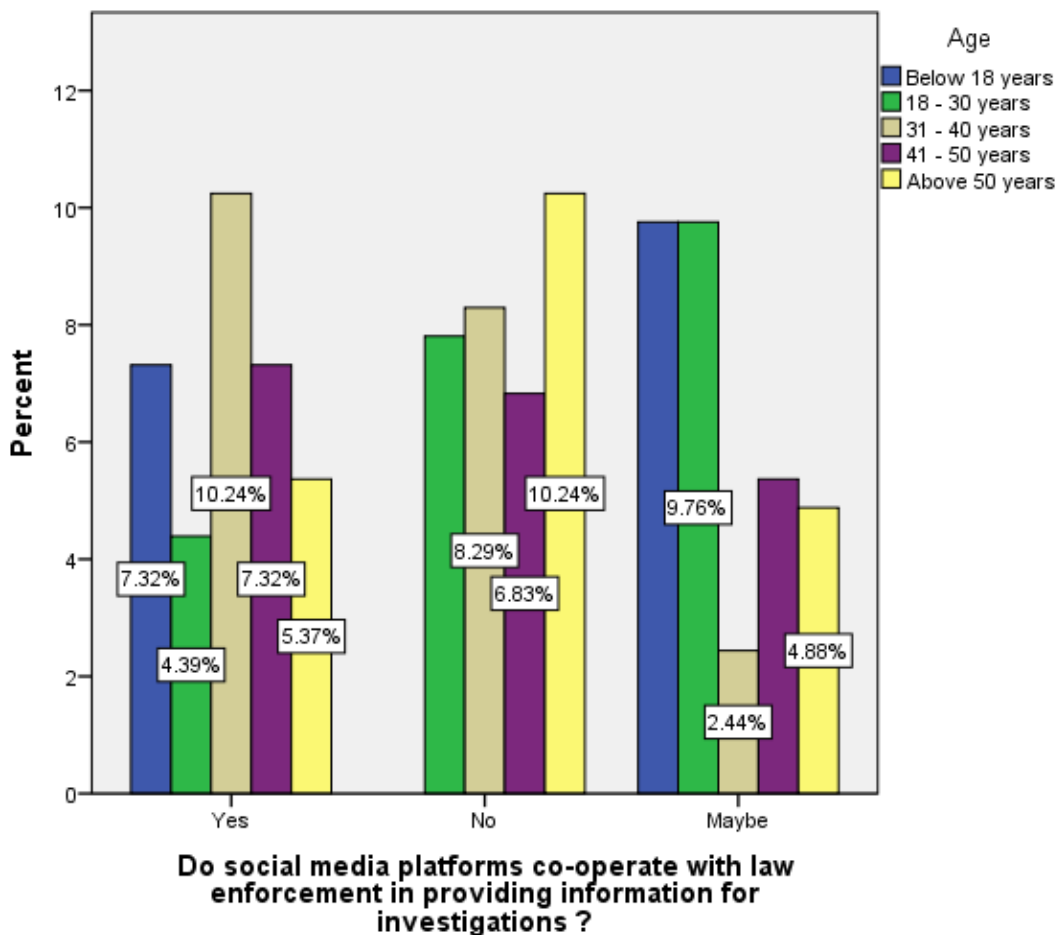
findings reveal a complex interplay between social media and societal issues such as crime and deviance. **Yan Wang and et.al (2019)** had made a study aimed to explore the potential of social media, specifically Twitter, as a tool for crime surveillance and prediction. Collecting data between May and December 2012, the research investigates the association between drug-related tweets and crime data in the United States for the years 2012 and 2013. The findings reveal a strong connection, indicating that tweets from 2012 are significantly associated with county-level crime data for both 2012 and 2013. This study provides preliminary evidence supporting the idea that social media data, particularly from platforms like Twitter, can be utilised to predict future crimes. **Brett M Drury and et.al (2022)** had made a research on the primary objectives of this survey are to comprehensively review and categorise all types of crimes committed on social media, exploring their similarities and examining the corresponding methods employed for crime detection. The research aims to fill a gap in existing literature by providing a holistic overview of crimes in the social media domain and their detection techniques. The findings reveal a need for a unified taxonomy to categorise diverse social media crimes, facilitating the transfer of techniques and data between different crime domains. **Dr.Rekha Pahuja (2018)** had made a study on the objectives of this study to explore the dual nature of the Internet, emphasising its advantages and disadvantages. It focuses on the Internet's role as a worldwide electronic network connecting people and information, highlighting the various benefits it offers while acknowledging its susceptibility to cybercrime. The research delves into the specific realm of social media, the latest form of media with widespread popularity due to its capacity to create virtual social worlds for users. It aims to examine the dynamics of social interactions, relationships, and conflicts within this digital space. **EK Forsgren and et.al (2018)** had made a paper on the objectives of this study to investigate the impact of social media on police activities, specifically within the context of community engagement, and to understand how these dynamics align or conflict with the organisational culture of the police force. As part of a broader examination of the U.K. police force, the research employs a multi-method approach to gather qualitative data from various roles and positions within the organisation. **Lee Klippenstein (2021)** had made a study on objectives of this article to explore the dual role of social media in the context of crime, investigating both its facilitation of criminal activity and its utility as a tool for law enforcement in solving crimes. The research delves into the ways platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram provide opportunities for criminal behaviour, while also enabling police services to leverage publicly available user information for investigative purposes.

METHODOLOGY

The research method followed here is descriptive research. A total of 205 samples have been collected out of which all samples have been collected through convenient sampling methods. The sample frame taken here is public areas in and around Chennai, Tamil Nadu like beaches, malls and parks. The independent variables are age, gender, educational qualification occupation and marital status. The dependent variables are social media platforms that collaborate with law enforcement to provide information for investigations, social media affect the speed of information dissemination in criminal investigations, main impact of social media on criminal law concerning the dissemination of misinformation, social media a reliable and valuable source of evidence for law enforcement in criminal cases, would you rate the impact of social media on witness testimonies in criminal cases. The statistical tools used in my research were graphical representation, Chi square, ANOVA, Independent sample t test and Correlation.

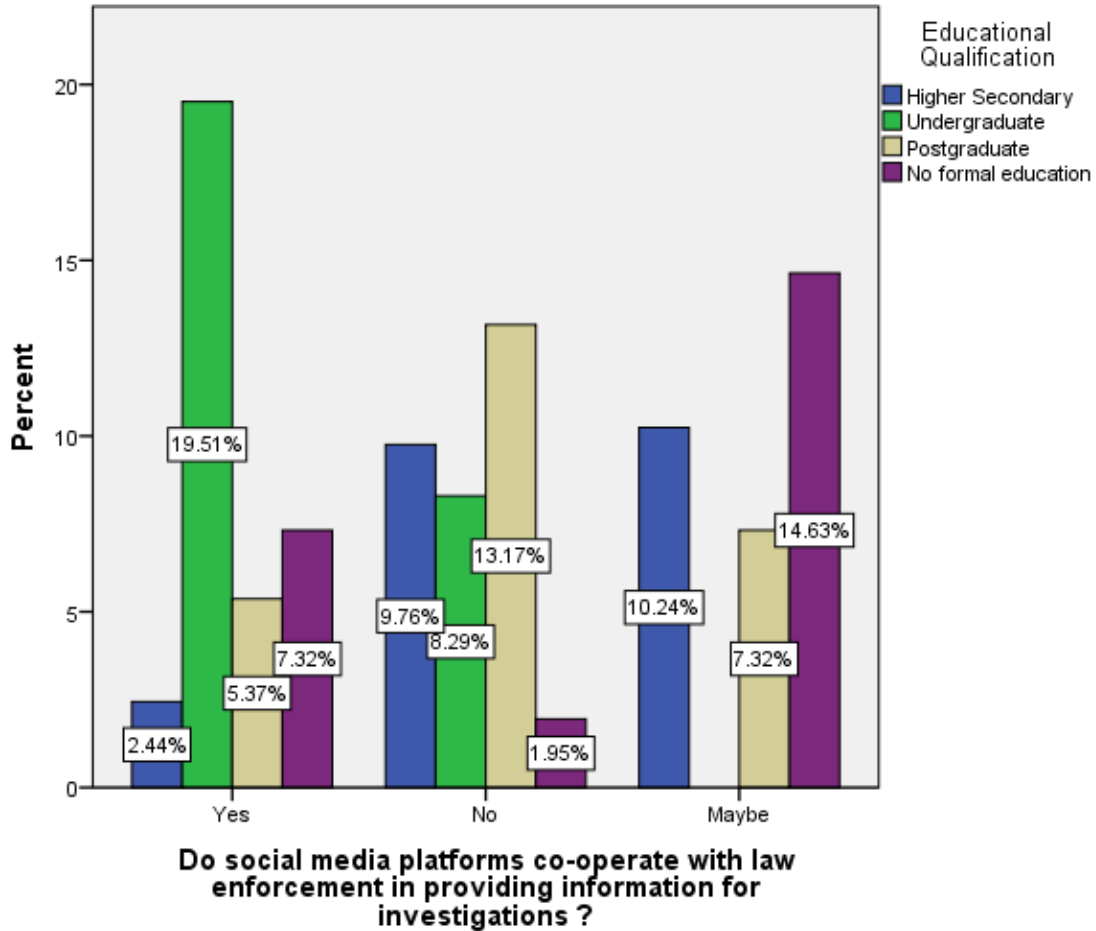
ANALYSIS

Figure 1



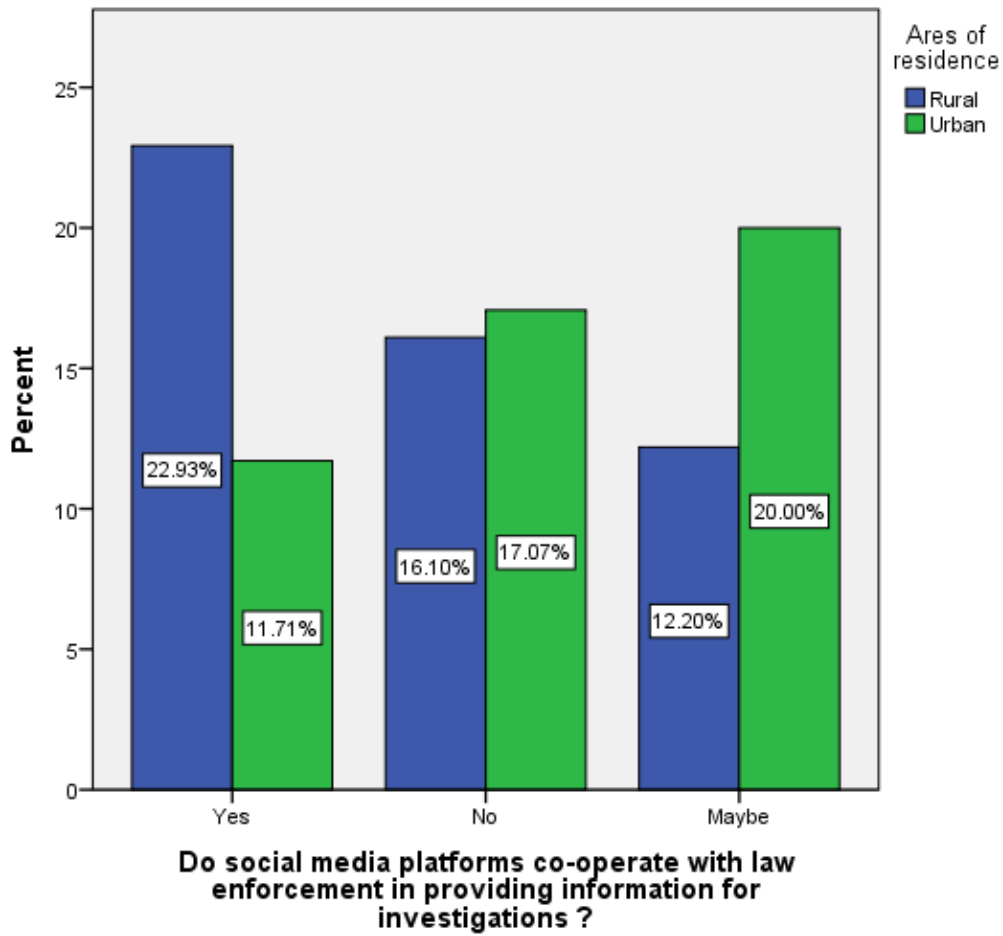
LEGEND: Figure 1, shows the relationship between the age and social media platforms co - operate with law enforcement in providing information for investigations.

Figure 2



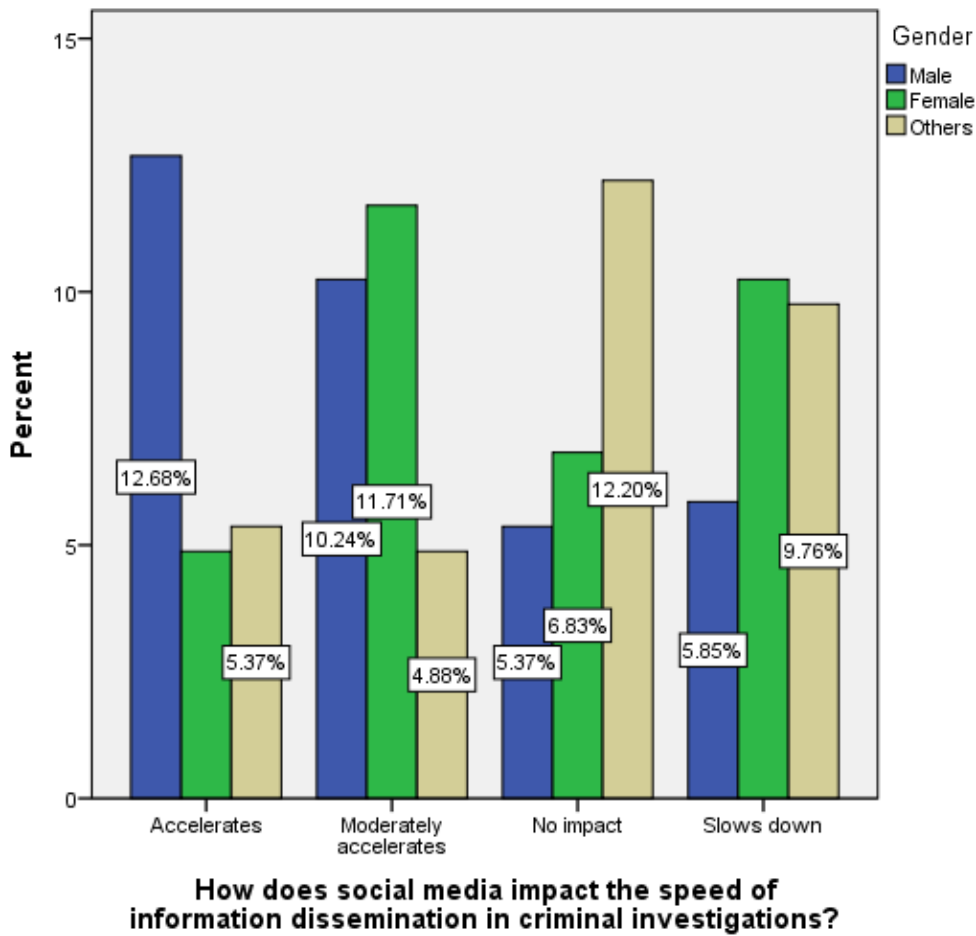
LEGEND : Figure 2 , shows the relationship between educational qualification and social media platforms co - operate with law enforcement in providing information for investigations.

Figure 3



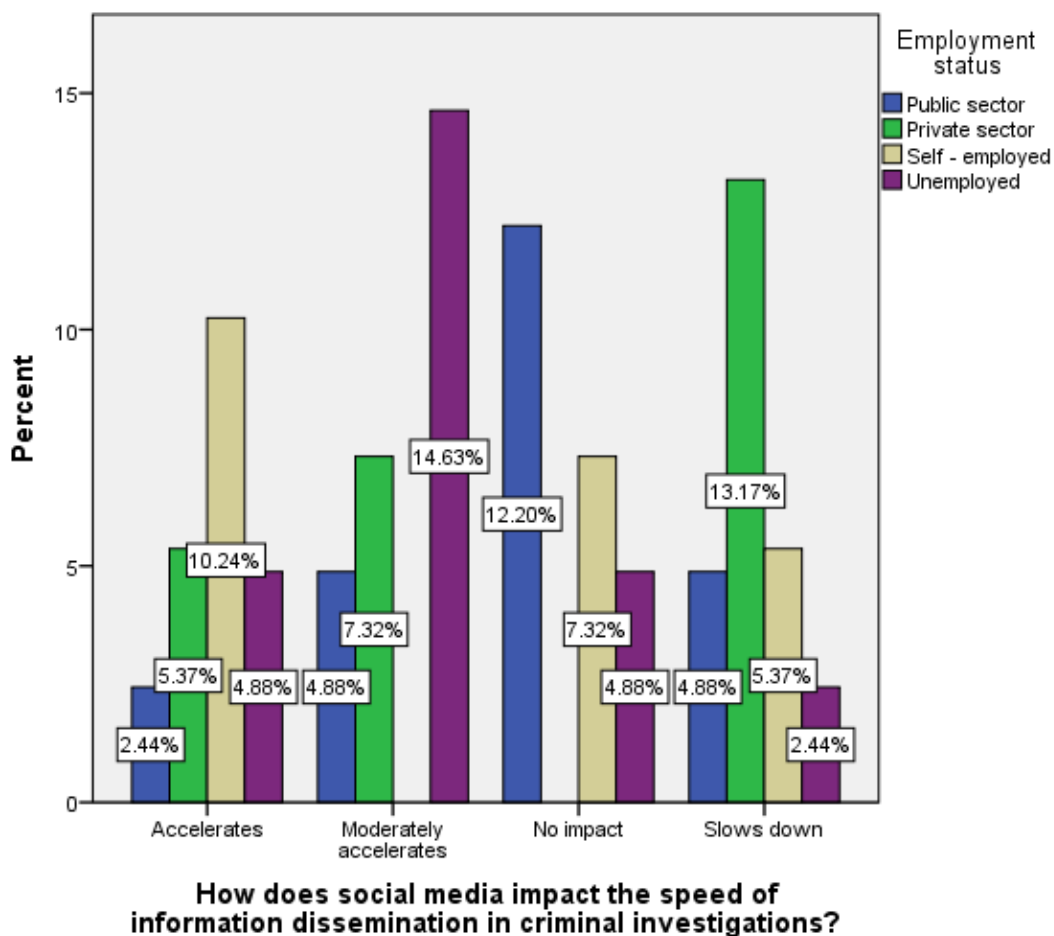
LEGEND : Figure 3 , shows the relationship between area of residence and social media platforms co - operate with law enforcement in providing information for investigations.

Figure 4



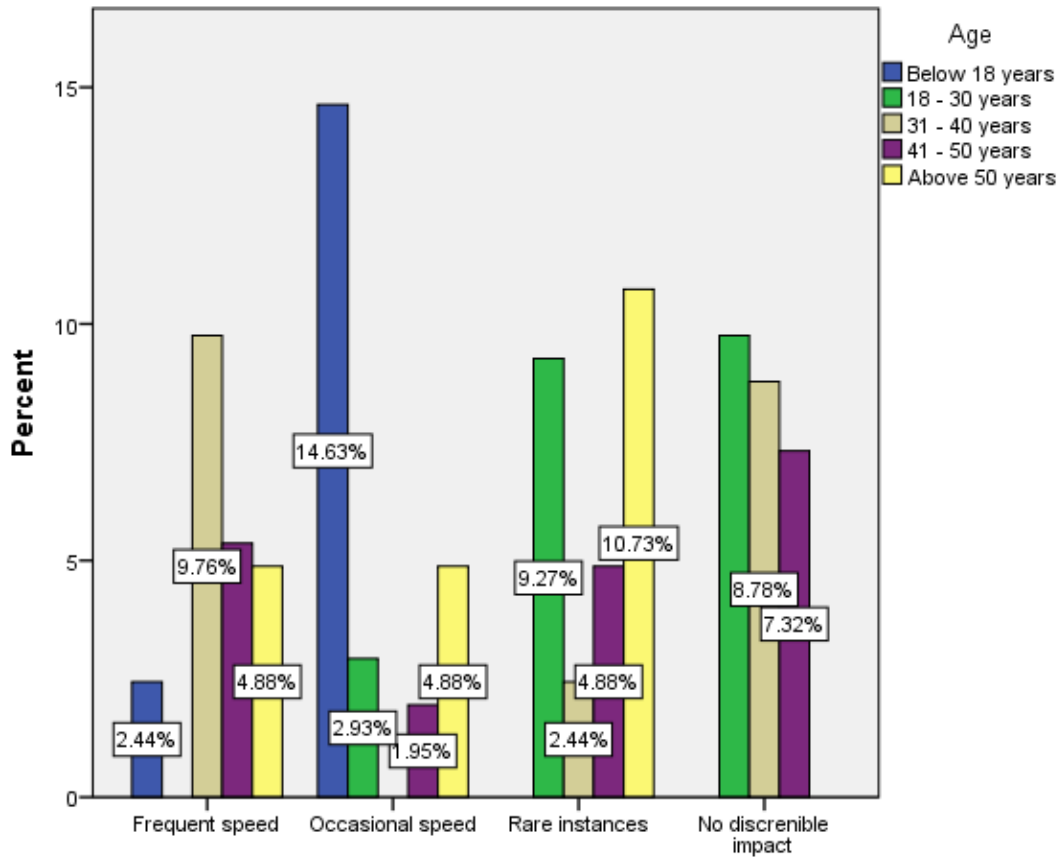
LEGEND : Figure 4 , shows the relationship between gender and does social media impact the speed of information dissemination in criminal investigations.

Figure 5



LEGEND : Figure 5 , shows the relationship between employment status and does social media impact the speed of information dissemination in criminal investigations.

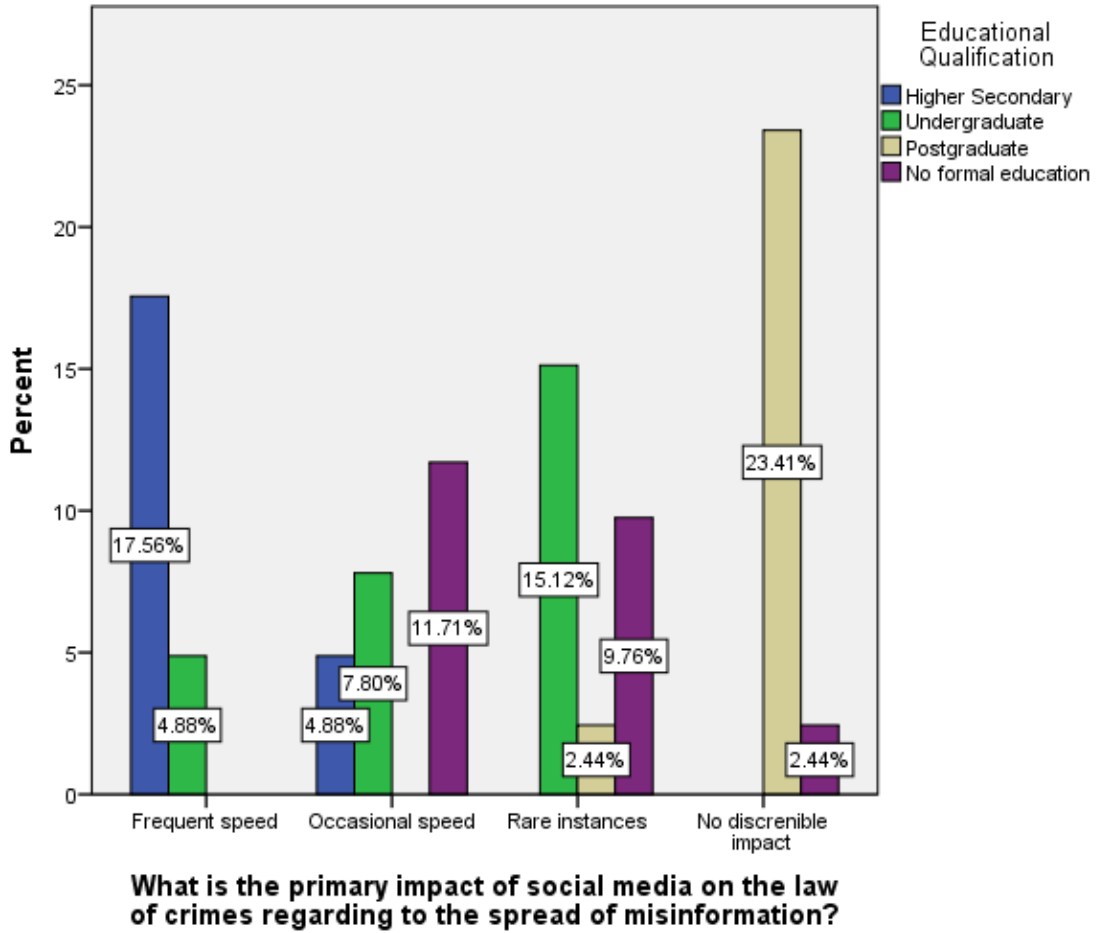
Figure 6



What is the primary impact of social media on the law of crimes regarding the spread of misinformation?

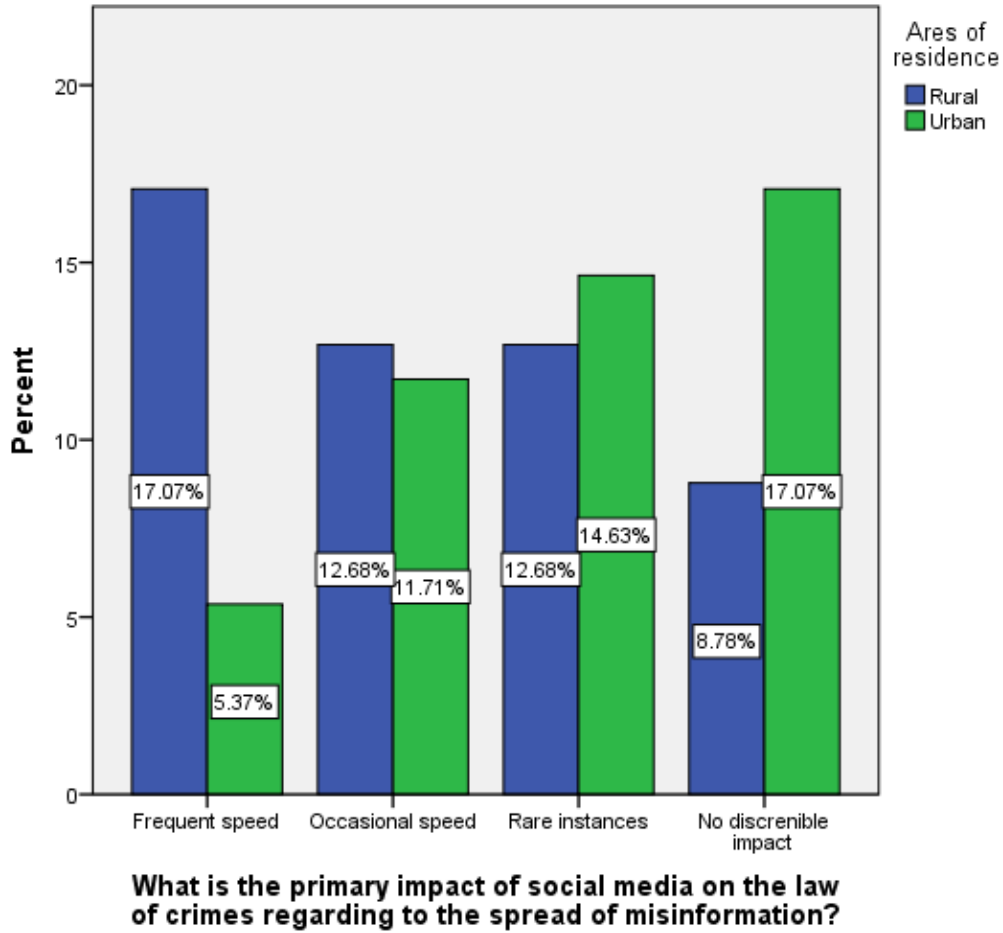
LEGEND : Figure 6 , shows the relationship between age and the primary impact of social media on the law of crimes regarding the spread of misinformation.

Figure 7



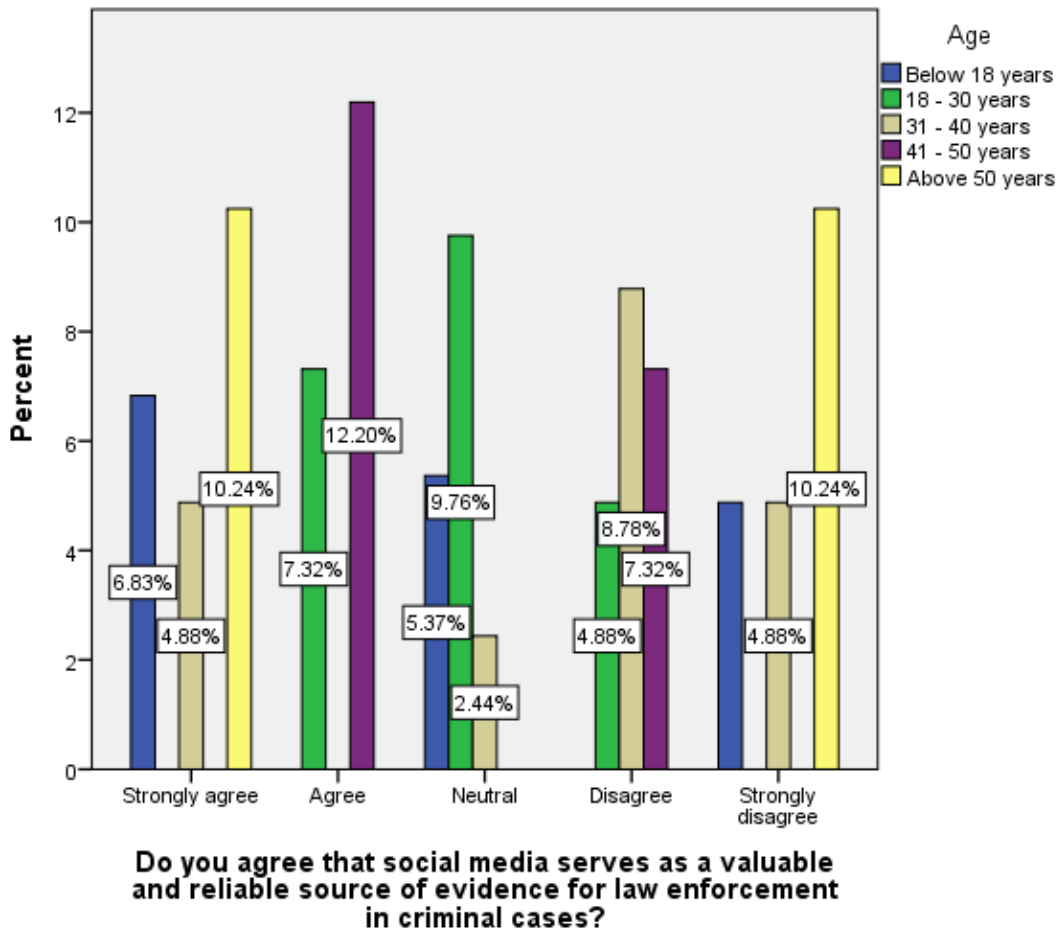
LEGEND : Figure 7 , shows the relationship between educational qualification and the primary impact of social media on the law of crimes regarding the spread of misinformation.

Figure 8



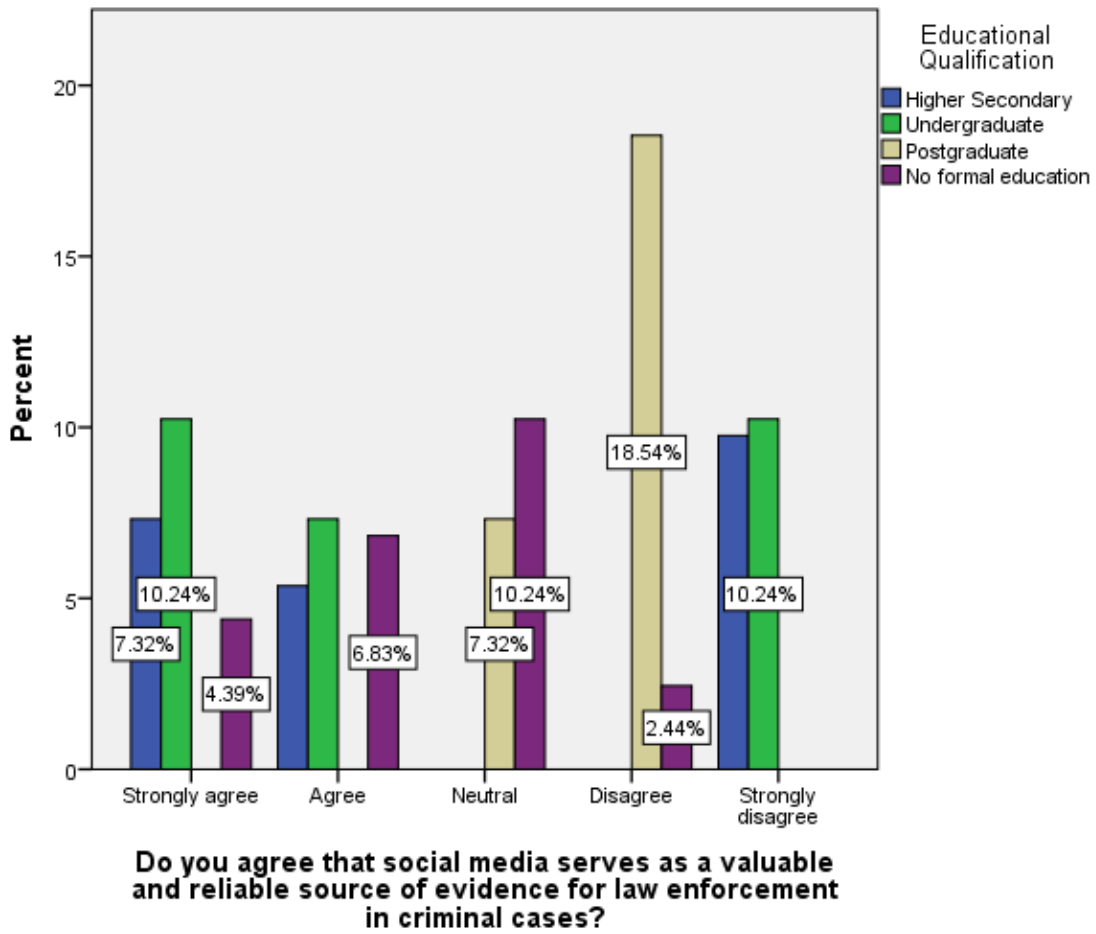
LEGEND : Figure 8 , shows the relationship between area of residence and the primary impact of social media on the law of crimes regarding the spread of misinformation.

Figure 9



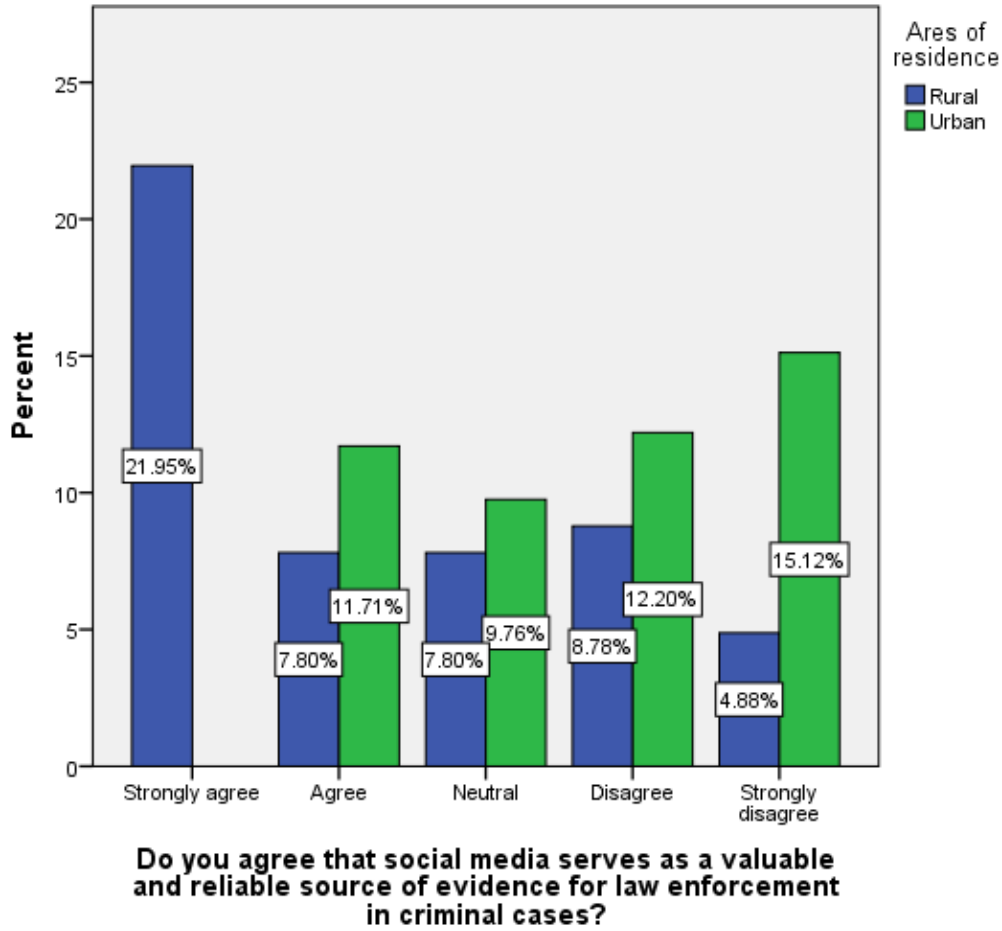
LEGEND : Figure 9 , shows the relationship between age and do you agree that social media serves as a valuable and reliable source of evidence for law enforcement in criminal cases.

Figure 10



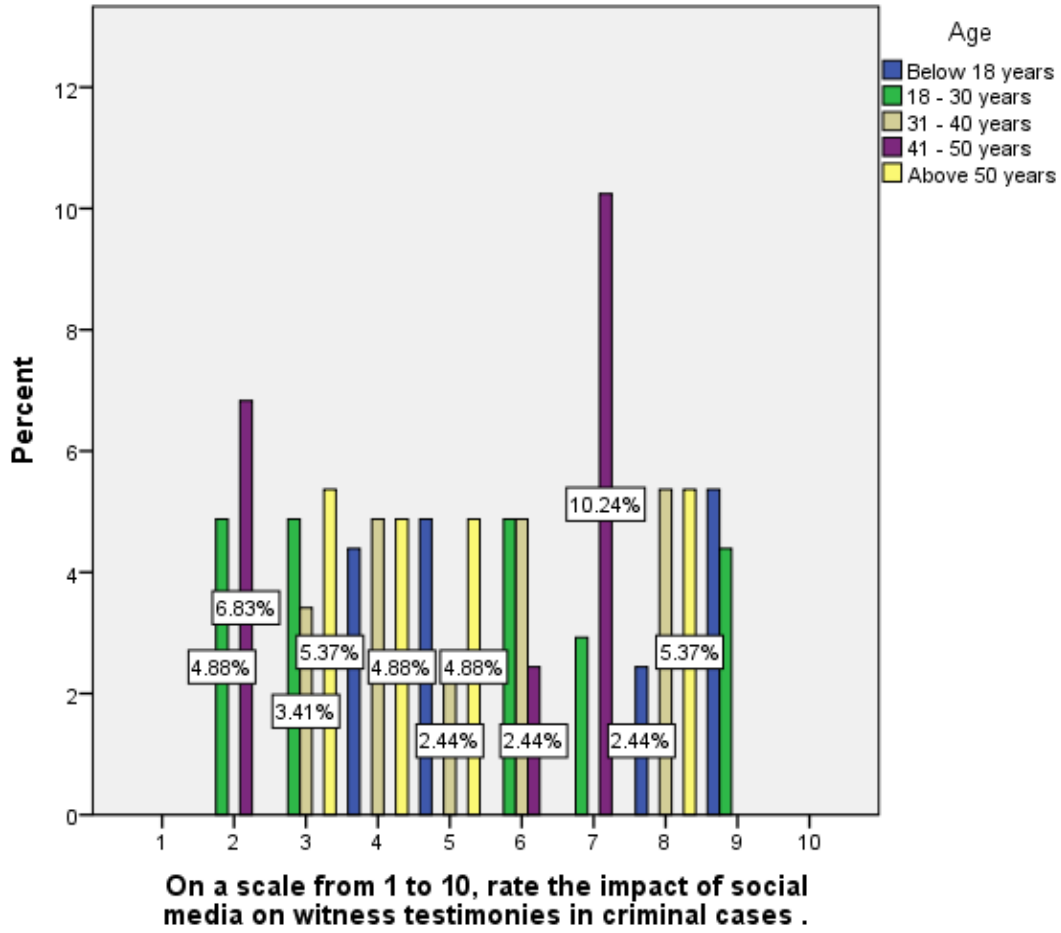
LEGEND : Figure 10 , shows the relationship between educational qualification and do you agree that social media serves as a valuable and reliable source of evidence for law enforcement in criminal cases.

Figure 11



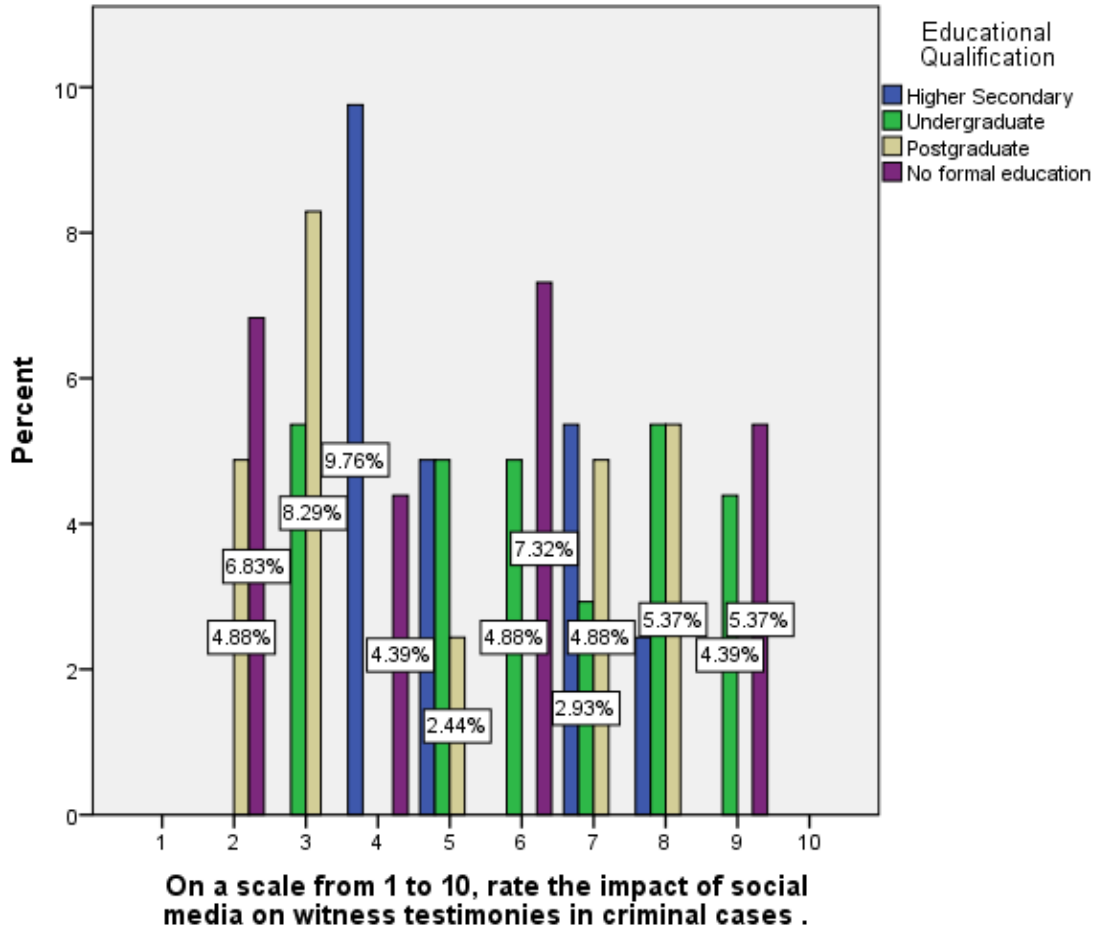
LEGEND : Figure 11 , shows the relationship between area of residence and do you agree that social media serves as a valuable and reliable source of evidence for law enforcement in criminal cases.

Figure 12



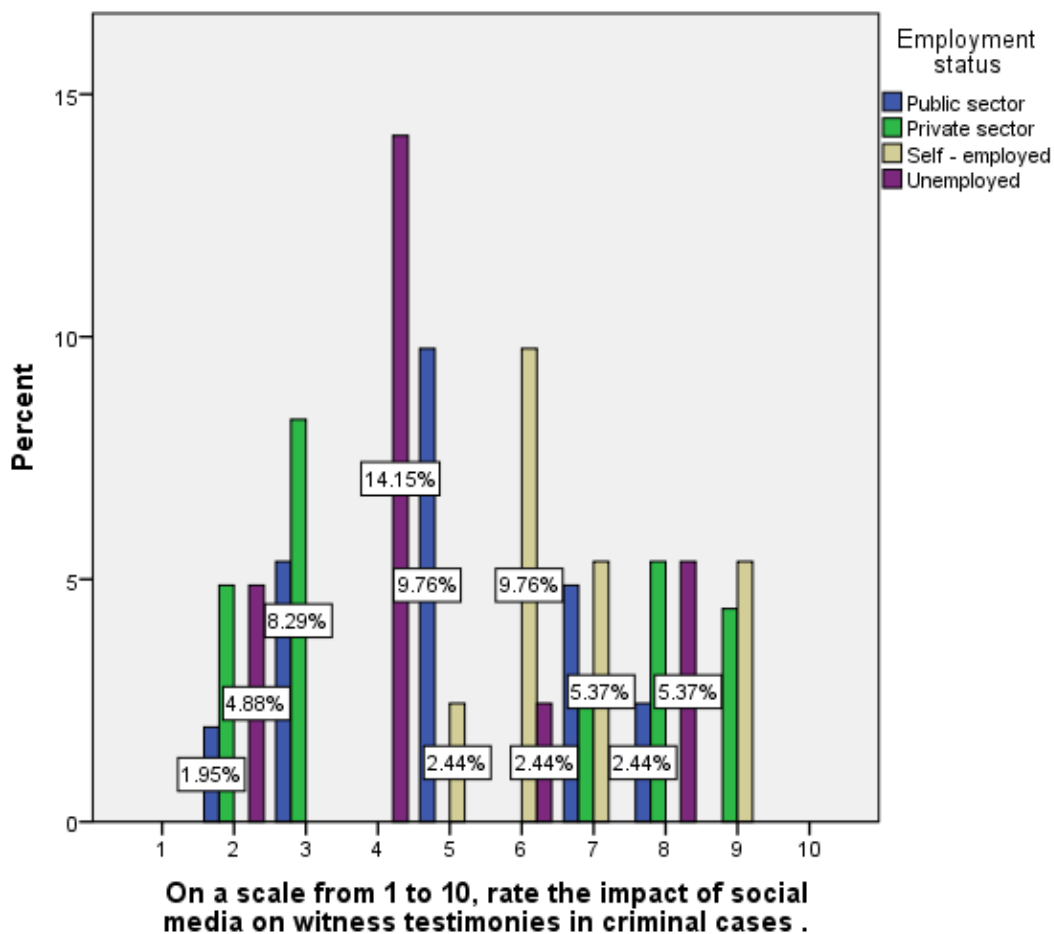
LEGEND : Figure 12 , shows the relationship between age and rate the impact of social media on witness testimonies in criminal cases.

Figure 13



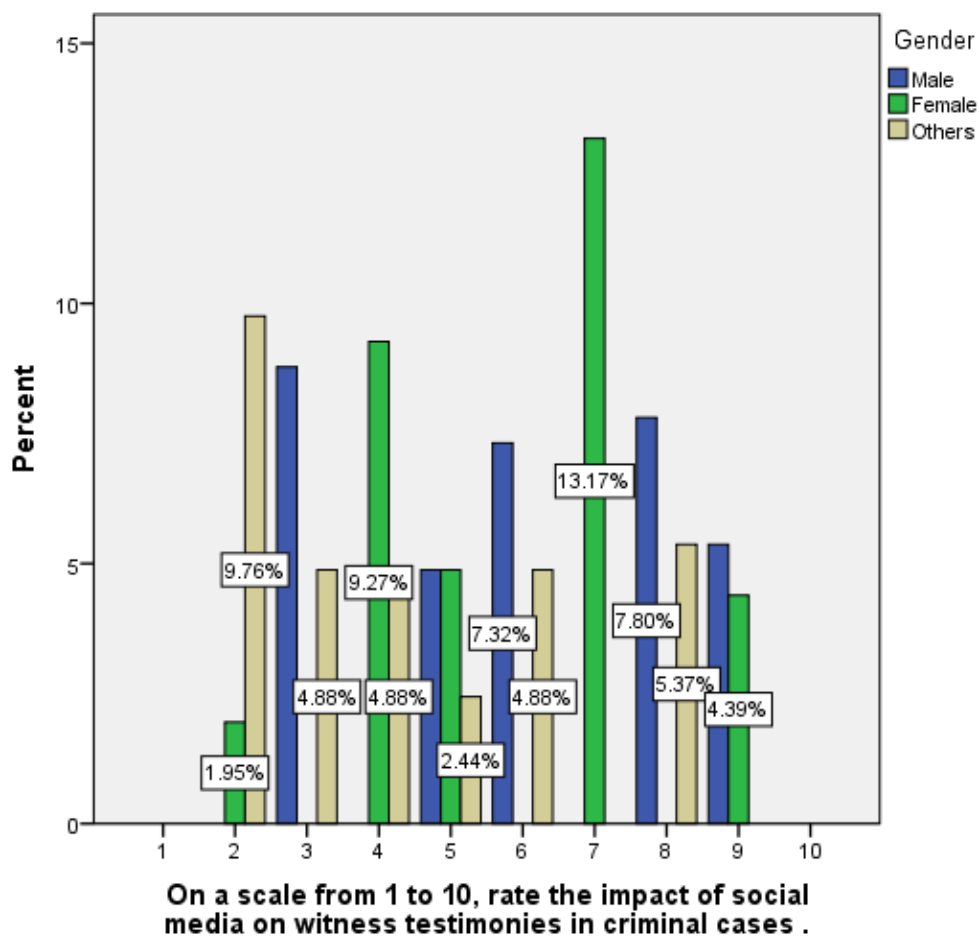
LEGEND : Figure 13 , shows the relationship between educational qualification and rate the impact of social media on witness testimonies in criminal cases.

Figure 14



LEGEND : Figure 14 , shows the relationship between employment status and rate the impact of social media on witness testimonies in criminal cases.

Figure 15



LEGEND : Figure 15 , shows the relationship between gender and rate the impact of social media on witness testimonies in criminal cases.

Table 1

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Age * Do social media platforms co-operate with law enforcement in providing information for investigations ?	205	99.5%	1	0.5%	206	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	38.473 ^a	8	.000
Likelihood Ratio	50.265	8	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.723	1	.099
N of Valid Cases	205		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.27.

LEGEND : Table 1 , shows the relationship between age and social media platforms co - operate with law enforcement in providing information for investigations.

Table 2

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
How does social media impact the speed of information dissemination in criminal investigations?	Equal variances assumed	1.226	.269	-12.202	203	.000	-1.441	.119	-1.674	-1.209
	Equal variances not assumed			-12.275	199.633	.000	-1.441	.117	-1.673	-1.210

LEGEND : Table 2 , shows the significant association between area of residence and how social media impacts the speed of information dissemination in criminal investigations.

Table 3**ANOVA**

What is the primary impact of social media on the law of crimes regarding to the spread of r

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	38.850	2	19.425	18.729	.000
Within Groups	209.511	202	1.037		
Total	248.361	204			

LEGEND : Table 3 , shows the significant difference between gender and what is the primary impact of social media on the law of crimes regarding the spread of misinformation.

RESULTS

The respondents belonging to the age group (10.24%) of 31-40 years were said yes and (2.44%) of 31-40 years were said maybe that social media platforms cooperate with law enforcement in providing information for investigations (**figure 1**). The respondents belonging to the educational qualification group (19.51%) of undergraduates were said yes and (1.95%) of No formal education were said no that social media platforms cooperate with law enforcement in providing information for investigations (**figure 2**). The respondents belonging to the area of residence (22.93%) of rural people and (11.71%) of urban people said yes that social media platforms cooperate with law enforcement in providing information for investigations (**figure 3**). The respondents belonging to the gender group (12.68%) of male were said to accelerate and (4.88%) of others were said moderately accelerates that social media impacts the speed of information dissemination in criminal investigations (**figure 4**). The respondents belonging to the employment status group (14.63%) of unemployed were said moderately accelerates and (2.44%) of unemployed were said that social media impacts the speed of information dissemination in criminal investigations (**figure 5**). The respondents belonging to the age group (14.63%) of below 18 years were said that occasional speed and (1.95%) of 41 - 50 years were said that occasional speed is the primary impact of social media on the law of crimes regarding the spread of misinformation (**figure 6**). The respondents belonging to the educational qualification group (23.41%) of postgraduate and (2.44%) of no formal education said no discernible impact is the primary impact of social media on the law of crimes regarding the spread of misinformation (**figure 7**). The respondents belonging to the area of residence group (17.07%) of rural people

and (5.37%) of urban people said frequent speed is the primary impact of social media on the law of crimes regarding the spread of misinformation (**figure 8**). The respondents belonging to the age group (12.20%) of 41 - 50 years were said to agree and (2.44%) of 31 - 40 years were said neutral that social media serves as a valuable and reliable source of evidence for law enforcement in criminal cases (**figure 9**). The respondents belonging to the educational qualification group (18.54%) of postgraduate and (2.44%) of no formal education said that social media serves as a valuable and reliable source of evidence for law enforcement in criminal cases (**figure 10**). The respondents belonging to the area of residence group (21.95%) of rural people were said to strongly agree and (4.88%) of rural people were said to strongly disagree that social media serves as a valuable and reliable source of evidence for law enforcement in criminal cases (**figure 11**). The respondents belonging to the age group of (10.24%) of 41 - 50 years of them were rated as 7 and (2.44%) of below 18 years were rated as 8 that rate the impact of social media on witness testimonies in criminal cases (**figure 12**). The respondents belonging to the educational qualification group of (9.76%) of higher secondary were rated as 4 and (2.44%) of postgraduate were rated as 5 that rate the impact of social media on witness testimonies in criminal cases (**figure 13**). The respondents belonging to the employment status group (14.15%) of unemployment were rated as 4 and (1.95%) of the public sector were rated as 2 that rate the impact of social media on witness testimonies in criminal cases (**figure 14**). The respondents belonging to the gender group (13.17%) of the female were rated as 7 and (1.95%) of the female were rated as 2 that rate the impact of social media on witness testimonies in criminal cases (**figure 15**). The P value is 0.000 which is less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and an alternative hypothesis is accepted (**table 1**). The P value is 0.000 which is less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and an alternative hypothesis is accepted (**table 2**). The P value is 0.000 which is less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and an alternative hypothesis is accepted (**table 3**).

DISCUSSION

The provided data indicates that respondents in the age group of 31-40 years exhibit a mixed response regarding the cooperation of social media platforms with law enforcement in providing information for investigations. Notably, a relatively higher percentage (10.24%) responded affirmatively with a "yes," suggesting a willingness or belief in the collaboration between social media platforms and law enforcement. Further analysis and exploration of the factors influencing these responses could provide valuable insights into public perceptions and attitudes toward the

relationship between social media and law enforcement (**figure 1**). A substantial percentage (19.51%) of undergraduates expressed agreement, indicating a belief in social media's collaboration with law enforcement for investigations. In contrast, a significantly lower percentage (1.95%) of respondents with no formal education stated a negative response, suggesting a scepticism or lack of belief in such cooperation. This divergence in opinions highlights the potential influence of educational backgrounds on perceptions of the relationship between social media platforms and law enforcement (**figure 2**). A considerably higher percentage (22.93%) of respondents from rural areas affirmed that social media platforms do cooperate with law enforcement in providing information for investigations. In contrast, a lower percentage (11.71%) of urban respondents expressed a similar belief. This discrepancy suggests that individuals in rural areas are more inclined to perceive collaboration between social media and law enforcement compared to their urban counterparts (**figure 3**). A notable percentage (12.68%) of male respondents indicated a belief that social media significantly accelerates this process, suggesting a perception of its effectiveness in swiftly disseminating information. On the other hand, a smaller percentage (4.88%) of individuals identifying as 'others' expressed a belief in a more moderate acceleration. These gender-specific differences in perceptions highlight diverse attitudes toward the role of social media in expediting information flow in criminal investigations (**figure 4**). A noteworthy percentage (14.63%) of unemployed respondents expressed a belief that social media moderately accelerates this process, indicating a nuanced perspective on its role. Conversely, a smaller percentage (2.44%) of unemployed respondents stated that they perceive minimal impact. These variations in responses highlight potential connections between employment status and attitudes toward the effectiveness of social media in expediting information flow in criminal investigations (**figure 5**). A notable percentage (14.63%) of respondents below 18 years indicated that the primary impact is occasional speed, suggesting a belief in sporadic instances of rapid information dissemination. In contrast, a smaller percentage (1.95%) of individuals aged 41-50 years expressed a similar perspective. This age-based disparity underscores varying attitudes toward the frequency of misinformation spread via social media, with younger respondents perceiving occasional speed as a more prevalent issue (**figure 6**). A substantial percentage (23.41%) of those with postgraduate qualifications asserted that there is no discernible impact, indicating a more sceptical stance toward the influence of social media on legal matters. In contrast, a smaller percentage (2.44%) of individuals with no formal education shared a similar perspective. This educational disparity suggests that those with higher educational qualifications may be less likely to perceive a substantial impact of social media on

the spread of misinformation in the realm of criminal law (**figure 7**). A substantial percentage (17.07%) of respondents from rural areas indicated that frequent speed is the primary impact, suggesting a belief in the rapid and recurrent dissemination of misinformation through social media. In contrast, a smaller percentage (5.37%) of urban respondents shared a similar perspective. This rural-urban disparity suggests that those in rural areas are more likely to perceive a higher frequency of misinformation spread via social media in the context of criminal law (**figure 8**). A notable percentage (12.20%) of individuals aged 41-50 years expressed agreement, suggesting a belief in the utility and reliability of social media content as evidence. In contrast, a smaller percentage (2.44%) of respondents aged 31-40 years adopted a neutral stance, indicating a degree of uncertainty or lack of conviction regarding the reliability of social media in criminal investigations (**figure 9**). A substantial percentage (18.54%) of postgraduates asserted that social media serves as a reliable source of evidence, highlighting a positive view on its utility in criminal investigations. In contrast, a smaller percentage (2.44%) of individuals with no formal education expressed a similar belief. This educational divide suggests that those with higher educational qualifications are more likely to consider social media as a valuable resource for law enforcement (**figure 10**). A substantial percentage (21.95%) of respondents from rural areas strongly agreed, suggesting a strong belief in the efficacy of social media as evidence. In contrast, a smaller percentage (4.88%) of rural respondents strongly disagreed, indicating scepticism or opposition to the idea. This rural-urban divide highlights varying attitudes toward the role of social media in providing evidence for law enforcement (**figure 11**). A percentage of 9.76% of individuals with a higher secondary education rated the impact as 4, indicating a moderately positive assessment. In contrast, a smaller percentage (2.44%) of postgraduates gave a higher rating of 5, suggesting a more positive evaluation. This variance in ratings indicates that individuals with higher educational qualifications are more inclined to perceive a stronger impact of social media on witness testimonies (**figure 12**). A notable 9.76% of those with a higher secondary education rated the impact as 4, indicating a moderately positive assessment. In contrast, a smaller percentage (2.44%) of postgraduates gave a higher rating of 5, suggesting a more positive evaluation. This suggests that individuals with higher educational qualifications may perceive a stronger influence of social media on witness testimonies (**figure 13**). A substantial 14.15% of unemployed respondents rated the impact as 4, signifying a moderately positive assessment. Conversely, a smaller percentage (1.95%) of individuals from the public sector gave a lower rating of 2, suggesting a more neutral or cautious evaluation. This divergence in ratings implies that those in the public sector may hold a less positive view of social media's

impact on witness testimonies compared to their unemployed counterparts (**figure 14**). A notable percentage (13.17%) of female respondents rated the impact as 7, indicating a relatively high positive assessment. In contrast, a smaller percentage (1.95%) of females gave a lower rating of 2, suggesting a more cautious evaluation. This gender disparity suggests that, overall, females may be more likely to perceive a significant positive impact of social media on witness testimonies compared to those who rate it lower (**figure 15**). The topic of social media platforms cooperating with law enforcement in providing information for investigations raises complex considerations. While some argue that such collaboration enhances the efficiency of law enforcement by leveraging the vast data available on these platforms, others express concerns about privacy, potential misuse of information, and the ethical implications of extensive surveillance (**table 1**). The impact of social media on the speed of information dissemination in criminal investigations is profound. Social media platforms facilitate rapid sharing of information, enabling law enforcement to receive real-time updates and engage with the public swiftly (**table 2**). The primary impact of social media on the law of crimes concerning the spread of misinformation is significant and multifaceted. Social media platforms serve as rapid conduits for information dissemination, allowing misinformation to spread swiftly and widely (**table 3**).

CONCLUSION

This digital frontier is not without challenges; issues of privacy, misinformation, and the rapid dissemination of unverified content complicate the landscape. Despite the complexities, the impact of social media on criminal investigations is undeniably profound, reshaping traditional investigative methods and demanding a nuanced approach to balance technological advantages with ethical considerations. To evaluate the relationship between age and social media platforms co-operate with law enforcement in providing information for investigations. To navigate the dynamic landscape shaped by social media in criminal investigations, several strategic suggestions emerge. The important findings in my research was (10.24%) of 31 - 40 years age group people were said yes that social media platforms cooperate with law enforcement in providing information for investigations. First and foremost, the development of specialised training programs is essential to equip law enforcement with advanced digital investigative skills. Collaborative efforts with technology experts can facilitate the integration of cutting-edge tools and techniques. Legislative frameworks must be crafted to address the evolving challenges, striking a balance between the imperative to access information and the protection of privacy. The future scope of the impact of social media on criminal investigations is poised for continued

evolution and innovation. Advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning will likely enhance the capabilities of predictive analysis, aiding law enforcement in anticipating and preventing criminal activities based on patterns identified within social media data. Striking a delicate balance between leveraging the benefits of social media in investigations and addressing its potential pitfalls is essential. As technology continues to evolve, law enforcement must adapt their strategies, policies, and ethical frameworks to ensure that the integration of social media remains a powerful ally in the pursuit of justice while upholding fundamental rights and principles.

REFERENCES

- Pankhuri Thukral and Vanshika Kainya; Year of Publication: 2022; Journal name: researchgate.net; Title: How Social Media Influence Crimes; ISSN: 2582 - 8878 ; Volume no : 4 ; Issue no : 2.
- Galbally Parker; Year of Publication: 2023; Journal name: galballyparker.com.au; Title: The impact of Social Media on Criminal Cases.
- Janet E. Katz and Garland F. White ; Year of Publication : 1993 ; Journal name : jstor.org ; Title : Engaging the Media: A Case Study of the Politics of Crime and the Media ; Volume no : 20 ; Issue no : 3/4; PP : 57 - 68 .
- Philip Schlesinger, Howard Tumber and Graham Murdock ; Year of Publication : 1991 ; Journal name : jstor.org ; Title : The Media Politics of Crime and Criminal Justice ; DOI : 10.2307 ; Volume no : 42 ; Issue no : 3 ; PP : 397 - 420.
- James Walsh and Christopher O'connor ; Year of publication ; 2018 ; Journal name : researchgate.net ; Title : Social media and policing : A review of recent research ; DOI : 10.1111.
- Richard V. Ericson ; Year of publication : 1991 ; Journal name : jstor.org ; Title : MASS MEDIA, CRIME, LAW, AND JUSTICE: An Institutional Approach ; Volume no : 31 ; Issue no : 3 ; PP : 219 - 249.
- Edward L. Glaeser, Bruce Sacerdote and José A. Scheinkman ; Year of Publication : 1996 ; Journal name : jstor.org ; Title : Crime and Social Interactions ; DOI : 10.2307 ; Volume no : 111 ; Issue no : 2 ; PP : 507 - 548.
- Wim Bernasco, Thomas de Graaff, Jan Rouwendal and Wouter Steenbeek ; Year of Publication : 2017 ; Journal name : jstor.org ; Title : SOCIAL INTERACTIONS AND CRIME REVISITED ; Volume no : 99 ; Issue no : 4 ; PP : 622 - 636.

- Alyce McGovern , Sanja Milivojevic ; Year of Publication : 2016 ; Journal name : inconversation.com ; Title : Social media and crime: the good, the bad and the ugly
- Yu Cheng ; Year of Publication : 2023 ; Journal name : researchgate.net ; Title : The Impact of social media on Deviance and Crime ; DOI : 10.54097 ; Volume no : 22 ; PP : 873 - 877.
- Yan Wang and et.al ; Year of Publication : 2019 ; Journal name : researchgate.net ; Title : The Relationship Between Social Media Data and Crime Rates in the United States ; DOI : 10.1177 ; Volume no : 5
- Brett M Drury et.al ; Year of Publication : 2022 ; Journal name : researchgate.net ; Title : A social network of crime: A review of the use of social networks for crime and the detection of crime ; DOI : 10.1016 ; Volume no : 30.
- Dr. Rekha Pahuja ; Year of Publication : 2018 ; Journal name : epitomejournals.com ; Title : Impact of Social Networking on Cyber Crimes : A study ; ISSN : 2395 - 6968 ; Volume no : 4 ; Issue no : 4
- EK Forsgren and et.al; Year of Publication: 2018; Journal name : researchgate.net ; Title : Investigating the Influence of Social Media on Police Activities .
- Lee Klippenstein; Year of Publication: 2021; Journal name: lawnow.org; Title: Social Media and Criminal Investigations: Public content and its role in solving crimes.