

THE GIRL OF 672K

Q&A

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1. How does the social network Instagram work?

Instagram is one of the most popular social networks allowing people to share photos or videos privately or publicly. These can go with additional information about the place where they have been made (geotag) or keyword (hashtag) that then enable a connection between published content and a certain subject or topic. Uploaded photos also can be edited via 42 offered filters. Account users are public but the content can be shared privately with selected people or a group of people. The user can follow profiles of people who are interesting for him. Instagram was originally designed for smartphones but after downloading extensions the network can be fully used on tablets and desktop computers.

2. Is self-presentation on social networks specific in something?

Social network users share a lot of information about themselves in one place. In this online platform they can choose not only what they want to communicate about themselves, but often to whom they want to communicate this information to. Self-presentation on social networks is much more a reflection of the ideal self rather than the real self. Within social networks designed for developing new relationships (online dating sites, diverse range of discussion forums) thanks to a wider anonymity, self-presentation is freer and causes a more distant reality because of the absence of social, physical or cultural limits.

3. How can people earn money on social networks?

The majority of social networks are free for users and operation of these platforms is funded by advertising revenues. Advertisers try to take advantage of attractive content that is easy to spread and has a potential to reach a wide audience among users. Authors of such content receive revenue from visible advertisements placed within their content (youtubers gain a percentage for views before or during the video), furthermore they can also gain money from companies that decide to directly make them the sponsors of their content. Companies pay for the promotion of their products. This is called product placement when the product is shown in the content is not as obvious as an ad would be.

4. What are the biggest risks that the social network users can face?

The most frequent risk of using social networks is misuse of sensitive personal data. Personal information about users is often shared. Users of Social media should be aware of who has access to their published information and how it can be misused. Research has shown that people share more information via internet than in real life. If the sensitive information is stolen using manipulative and fraudulent techniques we are talking about social engineering. Social networks users can sometimes be victims of cyberbullying or sexual harassment. Another thing to be aware of in Social Networks is false information and hoaxes. These chain messages can ask for help or warn against viruses and PC attacks. These kinds of messages are often spread in the social network environments.

5. Does Annegien appear as an internet addict in the documentary?

Based on the presented information in the documentary it is difficult to assess whether Annegien has an addiction on the internet or Instagram. In general we talk about addiction if base indicators of addiction are fulfilled at the same time. According to them Annegien would be addicted if she spent so much time on Instagram that it would negatively affect her studies results, cause conflicts with close people and lead to social isolation. This was not captured in the document. Annegien on the contrary was talking in connection with Instagram about several benefits. She claimed that thanks to this social network has discovered her talent in photography and photo editing, so in a frame of activities that are not exclusively connected to the internet. She was also describing that she feels more confident. It seems that Instagram affects her life more positively than negatively.

6. What does Annegien do today? How did Instagram change her life?

In 2017 Annegien Schilling began to cooperate with the UNHCR organization (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) on a project titled The Dream Diaries. Annegien as graphic designer together with young photographer Debra Barraud she traveled over 7 thousand kilometers across Europe to capture dreams of children who were forced to flee their houses due to the war. Annegien did participate in photographs that show the dreams and wishes of children of Syria, Somalia or Afghanistan and how they are starting their new life in Europe.

In 2018 Annegien published her first book Imagine. Shoot. Create. in which she is giving readers practical advice on how to use a cheap camera and software to create impressive surrealistic photos on Instagram. On her Instagram account fetching_tigerss she published her last post in September 2018 and since then she is publishing just on her private one.

Resources

GRIFFITHS, M.: Does Internet and computer „addiction“ exist? Some case study evidence.

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<http://www.lse.ac.uk/media@lse/research/EUKidsOnline/EU%20Kids%20III/Reports/ExcessiveUse.pdf>

YOUNG, K. S.; DE ABREU, N. C.: Internet addiction. John Wiley & Sons, New Jersey 2011.

Links

The Dream Diaries project of UNHCR organization

<https://www.unhcr.org/dream-diaries.html>