**Dr. S. CHOUCHANE**

**First-Year Oral Expression Module**

**Academic Year: 2024-2025**

**Lesson 8**

**The Impact of Social Media on Society**

**1. Vocabulary for Discussing Social Media's Impact**

* **Influence**: The ability to have an effect on someone or something.
* **Addiction**: A condition where a person is unable to stop doing something, even if it’s harmful.
* **Echo chamber**: A situation where people are exposed only to opinions that reinforce their own.
* **Filter bubble**: The effect of algorithms that personalize online content, often limiting exposure to diverse viewpoints.
* **Activism**: Using social media to promote social, political, or environmental causes.
* **Digital footprint**: The trail of data one leaves behind on the internet, such as posts, likes, and comments.
* **Misinformation**: False or inaccurate information spread online.
* **Identity**: How people represent themselves on social media.
* **Privacy**: The control over one’s personal information shared online.

**2. The Positive Impact of Social Media**

* **Connection and Communication**: Social media keeps people connected across distances, helping them maintain relationships.
* **Access to Information**: It provides access to a wide range of information on topics from news to education.
* **Support Networks**: People can find support communities for mental health, chronic illness, hobbies, etc.
* **Activism and Change**: Social media has played a crucial role in organizing protests, raising awareness about social issues, and advocating for change.
* **Business and Careers**: It has become an important tool for marketing, job networking, and building a career.

**3. The Negative Impact of Social Media**

* **Cyberbullying**: Social media can be a platform for harmful behavior, leading to bullying or harassment.
* **Mental Health Issues**: Social media use can contribute to anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem, especially among young people.
* **Privacy Issues**: Sharing personal details online can lead to privacy breaches, identity theft, or data misuse.
* **Echo Chambers and Polarization**: Social media can create filter bubbles, where users only encounter information that aligns with their views, leading to polarization and misunderstanding.
* **Misinformation**: False or misleading information can spread quickly, influencing opinions and behaviors in harmful ways.