Many People believe that social networking sites (such as Facebook) have had a huge negative impact on both individuals and society.

To what extent do you agree?

Social media has grown tremendously in the last few years. From 2006 onwards the growth rate is unexpectedly very high. especially Facebook and Twitter have grown much faster and captured millions of users in just a few years. The way technology is growing, it is obvious that more and more people are going to grasp its benefits. Social networking has brought a lot of advantages for ~~the~~ societies from progressed nations to under-developed countries, every nation is utilizing the power of social media to enhance life and use it ~~for~~ to fight the bitterness of the people. However, on the other hand it has also adversely affected ~~the~~ society (in ~~the~~ a negative way) and just like anything which can be used for both good and bad, social media have also provided the negative and positive ways for the people. It is all about the usage and getting things done positively by using the power of social media. It is in the hands of the user to use to its advantage. But willingly or unwillingly it can still have negative impacts on the users.

One of the main targets of social networking sites ~~are~~ is the youth. Regrettably our young generation spend too much of their time on these sites, ~~and this~~which can lead to different side effects such as obesity, depression and cyber bullying. Overweight amongst children and adults is one of the direct results of low physical activity. That a prosperous society requires active members / people is undeniable. Another side effect of such sites is that most members try to show the positive part of their life and hide their failures / hardships. Comparing their own life with parts of others, some members, adolescents included, might become disappointed and depressed. Fraud and cyber bullying ~~is~~ are ~~an~~ other drawbacks of social media~~s~~ on cyberspace. People with Unreal IDs may have access to personal data and privacy and spread them on the Internet or spread rumors and as such create chaos in ~~the~~ society.

On the other hand, the benefits of the internet cannot be ignored. Being connected to most family members and friends around the globe, finding about new job vacancies and using social networking for educational purposes is another advantage individuals and societies benefit from it. Thanks to the Internet and social Media~~s~~ people around the world are living as though they are living next to one another. We are so close~~d~~ that we have never been so before. Another interesting feature of social networking is that people can find their old friends who lost years ago and truly finding such an old friend was not possible ~~10~~ ten years ago. There are lots of ~~opening~~ job vacancies available only on such websites and this can reduce unemployment, let alone the vacancies job seekers can find on LinkedIn, a business and employment-oriented social networking service. Teachers and university professors post their online courses on their pages and students around the world easily can follow their favorite teacher and be updated about ~~the~~ his/her recent post~~sed of him / her~~.

In conclusion, I think social networking websites serves as a double-edged sword. While, it has its own advantages and disadvantages, we should work on it to outweigh its benefits. I think we can make the best of it in cases of showing ordinary people the positive points and legitimate strict rules for the ones who break privacy and personal part of people. I think it is on IT leaders to make people and societies aware of how useful these sites are and merits outweigh its demerits.