

# Influence of Social Network on The Education Process



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## Abstract

It is said that information is like a double-edged sword. On the one hand it can be used to spread confusion and havoc, on the other hand it can also be used in creative works. Questions have always been raised about the role of social media in this modern era of information revolution.

Information revolution has played an important role in economic, political and social progress, but the product of information revolution, social media questions are also important. These are the questions- Is social media causing polarization in our society and what role should social media play in the progress of society?

We live in a world where we are not only consumers of information, but also producers. This contradiction removes us from its control. Every day several billion people log in to Facebook. Tweets are tweeted on Twitter every second and many pictures are posted on Instagram.

Use of social networks is not limited only to the grown up people these days. Even the students in schools and colleges are seen using social networks in the school or college campus and even in classrooms.

Designed on the inductive method and secondary data, the research paper falls in the class of qualitative research. The paper deals with the impact of social networks on the education process both on the part of the teachers and the students.

**Keywords:** Influence, Social Network, Education Process, Concentration, Class-Disturbance, Loss of Confidence.

## Introduction

With the introduction of IT sector, the worldwide scenario is changed. Social network has influenced all the individuals both in primitive and the modern societies. It has even affected the education process at the school level and the college or university level. Once there was the time that the students would stay at their teacher's house, sit on the ground and learn the lessons in a natural environment. The education would mean the all round development of the personality.

Now social network has taken the students in its grip in a way that social network hinders the process of education. In the context of the Indian students, it is not wrong to comment that mobile, or say android is accessible to all the children. Even some of the school children are found using mobiles stealingly in the classrooms. The use of social network by the students of senior secondary schools, colleges and universities is so common.

They are found having chats on whatsapp, facebook and other apps without any hesitation. It will not be an exaggeration to say that every grown up student is enslaved by social network, and wastes his time in using social network. More or less the same is true on the part of the teachers who do not hesitate to use the same apps in the classrooms. Indeed, social network affects the education process both positively and negatively, but mainly, negatively.

If we talk about polarization by social media, in the past many experiments were done in this regard. A full range of psychological experiments were initiated in the 1950s by social psychologist Solomon Asch. These experiments were conducted to determine how the opinion of a person is affected in front of the majority opinion. This led to the conclusion that a person was ready to give wrong answers simply because he was involved with the majority opinion.

Some people gave wrong answers for not letting their fellow beings ridicule them. Although this form of communication has evolved and

appeared in a new form since the 1950s, human nature has not been able to reconcile with it. To some extent this perception also points to the influence of online fake news, which has contributed to the expansion of polarization in society.

Social media sites also play a catalytic role. For example, Twitter regularly inspires people who share the same viewpoint as us. Any human communication through computer, tablet or mobile or sharing information on internet is called social media. Many websites and apps contribute to this process.

Social media has emerged as the largest means of communication in present times and its popularity is increasing day by day. Ideas, content, information and news can be shared among people at a rapid pace through social media. On one side, while people consider social media as a boon, on the other hand people also see it as a curse.

Talking about the positive effects of social media, it helps in social development of the society. Tools such as social media marketing provided by it can reach millions of potential customers and send news. Social media is considered to be a great tool in terms of generating awareness on social issues. Through this, contact with like-minded people can also be established. It has become one of the best means to reach out to the all the corners of the world at a rapid pace in a short time to the maximum people.

Social media is considered to be an excellent tool in terms of providing education. This leads to fast transfer of online information. It provides excellent online employment opportunities. It also has an important role in influencing business, medicine, policy making. Currently, platforms like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn etc. are being used by teachers and students. By this, the distance between the teacher and the students has been reduced. Professors chat live on Skype, Twitter and elsewhere with its help. Education has become easier due to social media.

However, many physicists believe that social media is one of the biggest causes of depression and anxiety in people. Excessive use of social media has led to changes in sleeping habits, cyber crime, ever increasing pressure towards children and an impressive profile affecting youth in a big way.

Due to excessive busyness in it, very little time is left for other tasks and other serious issues arise such as lack of attention, anxiety and other issues. Its excessive use and privacy leads to loss of privacy. This makes the user vulnerable to cyber crimes such as hacking, identity thief phishing crimes etc.

Social media is also being misused in many forms. Through this, not only social and religious frenzy is being spread, but wrong information is also being conveyed for political selfishness. This not only promotes violence in the society, it also controls our thinking.

According to a report by the World Economic Forum, the spread of false information via social media is one of the emerging risks. Of course, this is a hindrance in the way of the country's progress and

in such a situation it becomes necessary that our government intervenes and try to curb it.

The central government attempted to determine the accountability of companies like Facebook and Google by drafting amendments to Section 79 of the Information Technology Act. Under this, IT companies will be accountable not only to the court and government institutions but also to the general public on the complaints of fake news.

As the country progresses on the path of modernization, the challenges are also increasing. In such a situation, India needs a tough law like Germany which was made to curb the use of objectionable content on social media. Apart from this, it is also necessary to keep analyzing social media activities through 'Social Media Intelligence'. By this, objectionable materials can be removed without delay.

Social media has given a new dimension to the right to freedom of expression. Today everyone can share their thoughts and reach thousands of people through social media without any fear, but the misuse of social media has also established it as a dangerous tool due to which the need for its regulation is constantly being felt. It is therefore necessary that new options should be explored in consultation with all parties to prevent misuse of social media without violating the right to privacy, so as to avoid its possible side effects.

#### **Objectives of the Study**

1. Developing an understanding of the contemporary social scenario
2. Paying special attention to the modern environment in the schools and colleges or universities
3. Focusing the computer education in schools and colleges
4. Discussing the inclination of the students to computer education
5. Elaborating the increasing scope of information technology
6. Highlighting the growing interest of the students in social networks
7. Producing examples from the classrooms with special focus on the changed methods of teaching-learning
8. Analyzing the contemporary education process
9. Commenting on the impact of social network on the students and the teachers
10. Interpreting the cause and effect relationship of the problem.

#### **Review of Literature**

Ilaria Llicardi & Others (2007), in The role of social networks in students' learning experiences, defines social networks saying that social networks are a social structure of nodes that represent individuals (or organizations) and the relationships between them within a certain domain. Therefore, social networks are usually built based on the strength of relationships and trust between the members (nodes). Scrutiny of the ways in which these nodes are connected has resulted in the identification of varying types of ties between nodes. the authors discuss the notion of describing connections in terms

of strong and weak ties, or formal and informal relationships, respectively. In this context, a strong tie is one established directly between two people in the same network, whereas a weak tie is a relationship between two people connected through another person (two levels of separation).

Allen Shembilu (2013), in Importance of Social Networking for Student Participation in Education in Tanzania, holds the idea that the effects of Blogs, Wikis, Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, Moodle, RSS feeds and other related social networking tools in the formal and informal education, is vividly seen. Educators all over the World are keen to implement them into educational practices.

Elham Mukhaini, Wafa S Al-Qayuodhi and Ali Al-Badi (2014), in The Adoption of Social Networking in Education: A Study of the Use of Social Networks by Higher Education Students in Oman, explained that the use of social networks is a growing phenomenon, being increasingly important in both private and academic life. Social networks are used as tools to enable users to have social interaction. The use of social networks (SNs) complements and enhances the teaching in traditional classrooms. For example, YouTube, Facebook, wikis, and blogs provide a huge amount of material on a wide range of subjects. This research aims to explore the need to change the traditional style of teaching and learning after the innovation of Web 2.0.

Rasmita Kalasi (2014), in The Impact of Social Networking on New Age Teaching and Learning: An Overview, illustrates how social media has influenced teaching and learning at present and how it's a biggest and most comfortable communication zone. In present scenario, social networking seems to have had a deep impact on our social structure and intrasocial interaction. It has proved to be a concept that has caught the human society by storm. One of the monumental achievement is, this Social Media has created a realm of digital environment in today's New Age Teaching And Learning. However, social networking can be defined as an online computer network through which people interact and bond with each other. In simple words, it is virtually, society, where one can know other people and communicate with them. Undoubtedly and unquestionably, it is an emphatic assertion, that social networking has caused a huge paradigm shift in the world of New Age Teaching and Learning and in the field of communication.

Emad Abu-Shanab and Heyam Al-Tarawneh (2015) in The Influence of Social Networks on High School Students' Performance discussed that social networks are becoming an integral part of people's lives. Students are spending much time on social media and are considered the largest category that uses such application. This study tries to explore the influence of social media use, and especially Facebook, on high school students' performance. The study used the GPA of students in four courses and their responses regarding the use of social media. Statistical analysis is used to infer this relationship and its implications. Results indicated a support of this study aim and the relationship between the different

dimensions of Facebook influence on students with respect to the time spent on the Internet and Facebook specifically. Conclusions and future work are stated at the end.

Niall McCarroll and Kevin Curran (2015), in Social Networking in Education, explained that Social networking has become one of the most popular communication tools to have evolved over the past decade, making it a powerful new information sharing resource in society. To date realising the potential of Social Networking Sites (SNSs) beyond their leisure uses has been severely restricted in a number of areas. This paper focuses on the application of SNSs in a learning environment and the impact this could have on academic practices. While undoubtedly, due to the very casual nature of social networking, there are serious concerns over how it could be integrated in a learning environment; the potential positive outcomes are many and varied. As a communication tool, its effectiveness is already manifesting in the millions who use these networks to communicate on a daily basis.

Sudipta Deb Roy and Dr. Sankar Kumar Chakraborty (2015), in Impact of Social Media / Social Networks on Education and life of Undergraduate level students of Karimganj town-A survey, discussed that the positive and negative impact of social networks on education of undergraduate level students as well as on their life, depending on one's interest to use it in a positive manner for education and vice versa. Last but not the least, some suggestive measures may be taken in to effect. Social Networks is only an electronic connection between users but unfortunately it has become an addiction for students, teenagers, and even adults. The impact of social websites can be good on students. But if we have a closer look on the real impact of social networks, we will find its worst sides too. The main focus of students should be education but today's students are emphasizing more on such sites which is a complete wastage of time.

#### **Hypothesis**

1. The contemporary social scenario reflects a tremendous change in the social life and culture
2. In the schools and colleges or universities, there is the modern environment and the teacher-student relationship has lost the ancient values associated with this relationship
3. Computer education is compulsory at the school level and the college level for the students
4. All the students are expected to get inclined to computer education
5. The scope of information technology is increasing day-by-day
6. Social network has changed the conventional trends of student life
7. All the students are on a move to join the main stream of information technology
8. The methods of teaching-learning are changed
9. The contemporary education process is affected by social network both positively and negatively
10. The impact of social network on the students and the teachers affects the entire education process

11. Social network is the demand of time with certain limitations

#### Methodology

Designed entirely on the secondary data which the author found available on the various internet sites, the research paper is a theoretical study which can be placed in the category of qualitative research. All scientific in its spirit, it follows all the steps that are considered essential for research and studies as well as for preparing and writing research papers.

#### Findings

1. The contemporary social scenario reflects a tremendous change in the social life and culture. The impact of modernization on the people of all the classes can be evidently noticed through their ways of living, behaving and exercising modernity
2. In the schools and colleges or universities, there is the modern environment and the teacher-student relationship has lost the ancient values associated with this relationship. The relationship is just formal lacking in values associated with it.
3. Computer education is compulsory at the school level and the college level for the students. The government wants each and every student to join the digital world through the computer education
4. Computer education is imparted in the computer labs where, through the practicals, the students learn about the various aspects of computers and their use
5. The scope of information technology is increasing day-by-day making it binding on the students to exercise it in their practical life
6. Social network has changed the conventional trends of student life with the growing interest of the students in the internet sites, search engines, virtual communication etc.
7. All the students are on a move to join the main stream of information technology
8. The methods of teaching-learning are changed as the teachers teach using power point presentations, and the students take interest in them
9. The contemporary education process is affected by social network both positively and negatively.

Positively speaking, it facilitates the lesson providing instantly the required stuff, and negatively speaking, the students are always found involved in social network which finally has an adverse effect on their mental and physical health.

10. The entire education process is changed through the growing interest of the teachers and the students in social network.
11. Social network is the demand of time with certain limitations, and so it should not be used excessively.

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