Impact of Social Networking at School Level Students

Nancy Trivedi*

Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Rajat College Lucknow, U.P., India.

*Corresponding author

Abstract

The proliferation and ubiquity of social media platforms have a profound effect on students' personal, attitude, and knowledge development as well as their overall academic performance in the classroom and in society. This article examines how social networks affect students' education and training. College students' use of social networking has grown more and more important to their academic careers. The increased use of social networking sites and the amount of time spent on them has made smartphones extremely promising. Information overload may result from spending a lot of time online and having simultaneous access to various sources of information. In addition to having trouble sorting through the information they are given; students may also struggle to decide which sources to believe and thus which to choose.

Keywords: Proliferation, Ubiquity, Academic Performance, Social Networks

1. Introduction

The way that students develop and interact with one another is greatly impacted by the internet's ongoing growth. Online social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and others are now commonplace in college students' daily lives as a means of communication, information sharing, and—perhaps most importantly—for establishing and sustaining long-term relationships. This website also actively contributes to learning, teaching, motivation, personality, and academic achievement. Social networking gained popularity after Facebook and Myspace were founded in 2004. With more than 500 million users, Facebook is still expanding every day. Facebook is used by about 85% of undergraduate students. [1]

Numerous research has been conducted on the effects of social networking on learning and the psychological well-being of students. The 1000 students at Whittemore School of Business and Economics [2] participated in a survey. They performed a survey to find out which social media platforms people used, how long they spent on each, and what their grade point average (GPA) was. It was found that there is no connection between the amount of time spent on social networking sites and grades. According to a study by Northwestern University, social networking sites have no impact on students' GPAs. Additionally, according to a study, parental education has a greater impact than social media usage [1]. Every story has more than one side. Karpinski concentrated on the connection between students' academic achievement and the amount of time they spent on Facebook (San Miguel, 2009).

2. Impact of Social Media on Education

These days, a large percentage of students have daily access to social media and smart devices, which they use to scroll through in their free time. As a result, it's a fantastic way to make the most of that time, learn, and accomplish something worthwhile. Social media sites and apps have evolved to work with and meet the needs of educational institutions. The impact of social media on education is profound and multifaceted, shaping the way students learn, interact, and access information. While social media offers numerous opportunities for educational enrichment, collaboration, and communication, it also presents challenges and concerns that educators, policymakers, and students must navigate effectively.

One of the most significant benefits of social media in education is its ability to facilitate communication and collaboration among students and educators. Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn provide forums for discussion, resource sharing, and networking,

enabling students to connect with peers, mentors, and experts worldwide. This connectivity transcends geographic boundaries and traditional classroom settings, fostering a global learning community where diverse perspectives and experiences enrich the educational experience.

Furthermore, social media platforms offer access to a vast array of educational resources, including articles, videos, podcasts, and online courses. Platforms like YouTube, Khan Academy, and Coursera have democratized education, making high-quality content accessible to learners of all ages and backgrounds. This democratization of knowledge empowers students to pursue self-directed learning and explore subjects beyond the confines of the traditional curriculum. Social media also enhances student engagement and participation in the learning process. Platforms like Instagram and Pinterest provide visual tools for creativity and expression, allowing students to showcase their projects, artwork, and ideas. Additionally, interactive features such as polls, quizzes, and live streams encourage active participation and feedback, transforming passive consumption into active learning experiences.

The resources and online study materials are very helpful to educators, parents, and students [2].

1. **LinkedIn:** It's a popular website where you can create a professional profile, hunt for jobs, and get updates on a range of subjects and industries. However, did you know that it also offers courses to help you improve your learning and upskill? To aid students in learning more, it provides both paid and free course materials.

2. **YouTube:** Since then, students have used YouTube to access videos for education as well as entertainment. However, students were worried about the app's scant study

material availability. Many educators and educational organizations posted videos on a variety of subjects following the lockdown. Thus, students can now use YouTube as a teaching tool with greater ease.

3. **Instagram:** Instagram took a while to become as popular as it deserved. These days, students can use hashtags to reach a global audience, upload their projects and innovations, and find instructional videos. It is a useful tool for establishing connections with individuals and groups that your child is interested in.

4. **Quora:** Posting questions and receiving answers is Quora's main use for students, despite its many other features. Students can also search Quora for relevant subjects and read articles or answers that have already been uploaded. It's a social networking site, so you can use it to make new online friends.

5. **Reddit, Telegram and Facebook:** Millions of people use these social media platforms all over the country, and as a result, there are numerous communities that contribute to their diversity. Through these social media platforms, students can increase their knowledge by interacting with a variety of experts, making new friends, and joining related communities.

However, alongside these benefits, social media's impact on education also raises concerns and challenges. One significant concern is the potential for distraction and decreased productivity. The constant barrage of notifications, messages, and updates can disrupt students' focus and attention, leading to decreased academic performance and time management issues.

Moreover, social media usage can exacerbate issues such as cyberbullying, privacy breaches, and misinformation. Students may encounter harmful content or engage in inappropriate online behavior, posing risks to their emotional well-being and safety. Educators and parents must educate students about digital citizenship, online safety, and critical thinking skills to navigate the complexities of the digital landscape responsibly.

It is a good platform for sharing and improving your education as well. Teachers have created multiple Telegram channels to share study materials and information simultaneously [3].

3. Conclusion

In conclusion, the impact of social networking on school-level students is multifaceted, presenting both opportunities and challenges. On one hand, social networking platforms offer avenues for communication, collaboration, and learning beyond the traditional classroom setting. Students can engage in meaningful discussions, share resources, and connect with peers and educators worldwide, fostering a sense of belonging and intellectual growth.

However, the pervasive presence of social networking also poses risks to students' well-being and academic performance. Excessive use may lead to distraction, decreased productivity, and even addiction, affecting students' ability to focus on their studies and maintain healthy offline relationships. Moreover, issues such as cyberbullying, privacy concerns, and exposure to inappropriate content underscore the importance of educating students about responsible online behavior and digital literacy skills.

REFERENCES

[1]. Stollat, Matthew J. et all, Getting Social: The impact of Social Networking usage on Grades among College Students, ASBBS Annual Conference: Las Vegas, February 2011.

[2]. Capano, Nicholas et all, Social Networking Usage and Grades Among College students, Whittemore School of Businessand Economics, http://www.unh.edu/news/docs/UNHsocialmedia.pdf, 2010

[3]. Alson M Wolfe, Student Attitudes Towards Social Networks and Learning Modalities, a paper studied on internet name Students_Attitudes_Socialnetwork2.pdf (Secured).

Page | 69