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Social Media in Education: Impact on Learners, Teachers, and Parents

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Abstract:

Social media have become an integral part of society and is, widely used by people of all ages. Its usage has significantly grown since its early days in the 2000s. Research indicates a shift, with 4.9 billion people now using social media globally. While many use it for entertainment, its positive impact is evident when used within limits. Social media platforms provide students with many educational resources and allow them to connect with peers, friends, and families. Teachers utilize social media to enhance communication with students, parents, and colleagues, emphasizing the need for maintaining discipline. Parents, too, engage on social media to monitor their children's educational progress. However, social media has many positive impacts along with the negative impacts and challenges that are faced by students, teachers, and parents. This paper explores social media's multifaceted impact and challenges on students, teachers, and parents.

Keywords: social media, education, Impacts, Challenges, Teachers, Students, Parents

INTRODUCTION:

Social media are web-based technologies that allow users to create, share and interact with content using the Internet. Social media helps individuals

connect with family, friends, and strangers worldwide. More than 4.7 billion people worldwide use social media. Popular social media platforms include Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, and Twitter. Today, social media is a source of income for millions of people. Social media is an easy way to show your talent and spread your message to millions of people with the advantage of a direct connection with the audience.

Most students today are studying through social media for free and paid at a very low cost. Parents who were deprived of education in their time, especially women Today, they are also teaching and learning various skills such as stitching, cooking, crafting, and fashion, with the help of social media. In an educational survey, 80% of teachers preferred to share assignments, class schedules, and many other related tasks through social media. Nowadays, social media has become a popular means of interaction between students and teachers and has emerged as a common and useful platform for teaching and learning.

At the time of Covid-19, when all the physical schools and colleges were closed, social media was the only medium of education for students. Parents also became impatient in getting smartphones for their children, and they started spending more and more time on technology, which has both positive and negative effects on parents, teachers, and students. In particular, negative impacts are seen more in primary- and secondary-level students. The impact of social media can be seen physically and as well as mentally.

OBJECTIVES OF MY STUDY

1. To analyze the impact of social media on students, parents and teachers in the education field.
2. To find out the risks and challenges students, teachers, and parents face on social media.
3. To examine the role of social media in shaping teacher-student interaction and involvement of parents.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research utilizes purely qualitative based research, the information presented in this paper is provided from various articles on Google Scholar, reviewing relevant published papers, and other related websites.

The primary focus of collecting information was finding the impacts and challenges faced by students, teachers, and parents by the use of social media in the education domain. Therefore, in this study, I was able to discover detailed information on “social media in education and its impact on students, teachers, and parents” through these resources.

ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN EDUCATION:

Social media is a set of web 2.0-based technologies in which users create and share content through open collaboration. This is the root of the new culture. People spend most of their time on social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. Social media use is higher in higher education than in primary education. With the help of social media, students learn from peers and give feedback to each other, which turns out to be their best way of learning. Kids in nursery classes also benefit from social media platforms, they learn better with the help of animations, so teachers use social media platforms such as YouTube to play animated stories and videos in class to teach them, which also develops a friendly environment between teachers and students. Teachers can keep in touch with students who may be located worldwide. Any student or teacher can quickly find study-related material using social media. We can search Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Instagram to find relevant materials on any topic, and we can also join groups and educational communities on Facebook where we can share and discuss with other students and teachers. Social media is a great tool and it is bringing rapid changes in everyone's life.

LEARNING WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

There is no doubt that today most people have smartphones whether they are educated or uneducated; in fact, there are many applications and web tools that offer social media in an educational context, and a variety of software tools and free web applications are on the rise. In higher education classrooms, when compared to traditional classroom learning where there are few opportunities to maintain learning activities, in online learning with social media, one can manage and control their activities and also can explore their skills. It allows learners to connect outside the formal learning environment, share ideas and thoughts, create groups to share their opinions, and discuss the content.

Currently, we have different types of social media platforms for different purposes: While Instagram is famous for sharing reels and posting pictures, Twitter allows users to share their thoughts and opinions in text format with Images or Videos, YouTube is the most watched platform among others; it is a video-centric platform; WhatsApp is for chats and personal messaging; and Facebook is devoted to bringing people together globally and allowing them to connect.

Therefore, before using these social media platforms for learning, we should know their advantages, disadvantages, and core functions. This will save time and we will be able to avoid their harmful impacts.

IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PARENTS:

IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON STUDENTS

Social media plays a very important role in our lives; students are as connected as ever before; when they are physically away from their parents, friends, and peers they are still connected, social media provides them with many benefits, such as the opportunity to show their creativity and learning opportunities. It is the best medium for communication, along with studies. Social media also acts as a platform to showcase skills to millions of people. Students are encouraged to learn from videos on social media platforms such as YouTube. Easy access to notes, Pdf documents, e-books, and learning via videos, are all major features that commit to educational development through social media.

Apart from being beneficial, social media can harm learners in many ways such as strong addiction, distraction, and cyberbullying. social media is more harmful to young students in the 6 to 14 years of age group, as they cannot understand what to choose and avoid over social media compared to adult students. Therefore, it is important to understand its features and functions so that it cannot impact negatively.

IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON TEACHERS:

The surge in social media platforms once deemed a distraction, has witnessed a transformation in educational landscapes. Initially, teachers apprehended that students' engagement with platforms like YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter might

hamper their studies. Yet, today, educators themselves utilize these platforms to enrich their teaching methods and share insights with peers, thereby elevating their pedagogical standards. Educational institutions are widely embracing technology to amplify learning environments.

Moreover, the teacher-student relationship now transcends school boundaries, fostering global connections and seamless communication. In the past, preparing and delivering lessons through posters and charts posed challenges in ensuring a comprehensive understanding. Social media has revolutionized this approach, offering a wealth of resources such as videos, podcasts, and webinars. Platforms like Wikipedia facilitate easy access to relevant information, enhancing teaching quality.

However, a drawback arises as some teachers become engrossed in the virtual realm, inadvertently neglecting direct student interactions. This oversight can weaken the teacher-student bond. While technology empowers, maintaining discipline in both virtual and physical engagements remains imperative for educators, to ensure effective teaching practices.

IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON PARENTS:

Social media significantly impacts students, teachers, and parents. It serves as a boon for parents, fostering direct connections with teachers to discuss academic performance, concerns, and guidance for home learning. Real-time updates via social media platforms keep parents informed and engaged in their child's educational journey. Parents are motivated by social media's global perspective, encouraging their children to study beyond traditional boundaries. It offers insights into the ever-evolving job market, showcasing the value of diverse skills.

However, over-dependence on social media for school communication can deter in-person engagement. While virtual convenience appeals, physical interactions provide a holistic understanding of a child's education and strengthen the parent-teacher partnership. Social media surveillance in classrooms may unintentionally limit children's freedom, inhibiting exploration and independent learning. Prioritizing open communication, attending meetings, and trusting a child's growth is essential.

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA:

There are many challenges that are being faced by the users of social media.



CHALLENGES FACED BY STUDENTS:

Privacy

Privacy is very important whether it is a real world or a virtual world. Social media has emerged as a great option for keeping in touch with family and friends and a platform for showing your passion and skill to the world; however, maintaining Privacy over social media is a big challenge for its users. Users share Photographs, videos, and various kinds of personal data that can be used in unethical ways, which poses a risk to our privacy.

Cyber Bullying:

Cyberbullying is also known as cyber harassment or online bullying. It is a cybercrime in which some people share abusive posts, spread rumors, harmful and false content, personal information, etc. in the form of text, images, and videos about someone to humiliate, threaten, degrade, or embarrass that person online. This is one of the main challenges that is faced by most social media users, which affects the whole life of a person by impacting them mentally, and emotionally and even leads to self-harm.

Distractions:

Today, social media is distracting students from their educational journey, Students are lost in the virtual world on social media, and they distract from their educational journey and join the race by counting likes on their

posts, getting more followers, making friends, and watching irrelevant content for hours. Some of them are engaged in social media in this way if they hear a notification sound from their smartphones, they instantly check it, leaving their ongoing task or study, which decreases their learning and work productivity. Distraction from social media is a challenge for students, which makes them unable to concentrate on their studies and impacts their mental health and as well as self-improvement.

Health Issues

The use of social media for a long time causes many health-related issues for its users. High screen time causes weak eyesight, anxiety, headache, and other mental problems. Using social media for a long time with the wrong body posture leads to back pain, and muscle pain, which also causes other problems like obesity and sleep disturbance. It is a serious challenge for social media users.

Real friendship

In this modern era, parents are busy in their personal and professional lives; they do not have time to spend with their children, which pushes children to use social media and find friends on it. Today, most students have many friends on social media and they easily trust them; however, this type of friendship might not be real and reliable; this creates a challenge for students to avoid these friends and not trust them.

CHALLENGES FACED BY TEACHERS:

Managing personal and professional life

As a teacher, it is very difficult to manage personal and professional life, especially when you are teaching online most of the time, they are busy in class they don't have time for their family and they do not focus on their personal life.

Maintaining professional boundaries

Professional boundaries are an essential part of the teacher. It is very important to maintain boundaries between teacher-student relations. There are some professional boundaries such as dress code, personal disclosure, use of language and tone, and body posture, which help to maintain respectful behaviour and keep the student on task.

Online Etiquettes

The teacher is a role model for the student, He should never forget this, he should always maintain etiquette but as a teacher following etiquette sometimes becomes very difficult such as sitting in the same position for a long-time, eliminating background noise online lectures, using appropriate body language, and many more. As a teacher following online etiquette is not only a challenge but also a routine to be maintained and followed.

Navigating parental concerns

It is a big deal for teachers to manage parents with differing expectations regarding teaching methods, grading, and student progress. Handling emotionally charged discussions with parents while remaining professional and empathetic, Balancing the need to address parental concerns while maintaining a consistent approach to teaching and classroom management, and overcoming language barriers when communicating with parents who may not be fluent in the language of instruction are some challenges that are faced by teachers.

CHALLENGES FACED BY PARENTS

Monitoring of children's activities

Parents face a tough task monitoring their children's online activities, especially when kids delete their social media history and download various games and platforms. This challenge is particularly pronounced for parents from the older generation who might not be as familiar with social media.

Cybersecurity concerns

There is a challenge for parents to educate their children about cybersecurity on social media and the potential risks that can occur on such platforms. It can be challenging for parents to explain the importance of protecting personal information, and recognizing phishing attempts, with their adolescent children, especially when the youngsters believe their parents lack understanding of social media matters, leading to such conversations.

Dealing with Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying leads to many risks on social media, including blackmail, sexual harassment, abusive behaviour, and harmful pranks. Parents face a challenging task in raising awareness about these dangers to their children. Despite parents' efforts to convey the risks, such as providing examples of games leading to severe outcomes like suicide or mental harm, adolescents often dismiss these concerns.

Understanding Technologies

The evolving technologies and features of social media present a fresh challenge for parents. For instance, YouTube introduced a new feature called YouTube Shorts. Many children now gravitate towards watching shorts, dedicating considerable time to them. This makes parenting in the digital era a complex endeavor.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the above study we realize that social media has both positive and negative effects on students, teachers, and parents in education, while it offers great opportunities. We often overlook its positive aspects. To tackle the negatives, we should limit our time on social media, increase awareness, and take proactive steps.

In summary, the study underscores the significant impact of social media on our lives, particularly among students who gain valuable knowledge from diverse platforms, enabling self-directed learning. However, it is important to acknowledge potential risks such as cyberbullying, and distraction especially for adolescent students. They must exercise cautious and mindful usage of social media.

Teachers are also finding joy in utilizing social media, leveraging it as valuable to enhance professional growth and foster improved communication with parents. However, this dual advantage brings along challenges, particularly in terms of time management and the need to establish clear boundaries. While teachers reap the benefits, they must also navigate the potential drawbacks that come with its usage.

Parents also use social media, which allows them to establish direct connections with their child's educators and engage in online parent-teacher meetings,

facilitating updates on their child's academic progress and education journey. However, online meetings and discussions offer convenience, but they cannot replace the significance of in-person interactions. , overdependence on social media for school communication can deter in-person engagement. Physical interactions provide a holistic understanding of a child's education and strengthen the parent-teacher relationship.

Social media is a versatile platform with both positive and negative aspects, depending on how it is utilized in the field of education, it has significantly impacted students, teachers, and parents alike, offering advantages and disadvantages by limiting excessive social media usage and providing parental support, the drawbacks can be mitigated, ensuring that children feel supported in their studies and avoid loneliness.

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