Utilization of social media to Enhance Learnability among Secondary School Students (CBSE AND ICSE)

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ABSTRACT

We are currently in a technological era where inventions and discoveries are prevalent due to the latest technological advancements worldwide. One of the most significant technological developments is social media, which greatly impacts youth, especially teenagers. We can observe that the youth are increasingly connected to social media, particularly through online platforms that have emerged and are still emerging. These platforms allow the youth to connect with a world of ideas, thoughts, facts, and possibilities.

The concept of learnability involves the desire and the ability to develop and adapt one's skills to remain mainstream. It is a multifaceted process that requires a shift from occasional learning to a lifestyle of continuous learning. This involves actively seeking out new skills to acquire and accumulate over time, which can enhance creativity and build upon existing knowledge.

Social media is a term used to describe the various virtual platforms and networks where students can interact, share, and exchange information and ideas. In this particular study, social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, Telegram, Instagram, and WhatsApp are included in the definition of social media.

Keywords: Social, Media, Learnability.

INTRODUCTION: Education is one of the key components in one's life and in an individual's success in various fields. It plays a vital role in shaping the individual's life in the right direction. We can say that education is the acquisition of knowledge and

development skills in various fields in the competitive world. Nelson Mandela said ''Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world''. The education process has changed immensely over a century. In the 21st century, the world is far ahead in technology when compared to the previous era. With the introduction of the internet, most individuals' lives have changed personally and professionally. The sharing of information has become easier with the use of the internet. The sources or information we get online are in different forms.

As technology is improving day by day, different platforms for internet users to search and share information according to their requirements arise. One such interesting and credible platform is social media. It creates a platform for educational institutions to link up with one another. We can say that it has become one of the effective mediums for interacting and exchanging information. A platform enhances the education system by inculcating new and possible teaching and learning processes in teachers and students of the educational institutions.

It is a transitional period in learning, and the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted all of us from offline to online inevitably. In this scenario, social media plays a vital role in reaching the learner in multiple ways simultaneously. Social media is a broad term as its meaning varies from person to person. A broader perspective is essential to understanding the meaning of social media. Social media is an Internet web-based application that enables us to share or communicate information. Here text, audio, video, or any type of information can be exchanged. It is used enormously in different sectors including educational institutions.

Social media creates an impact in the educational sector on aspects like general knowledge, study habits, and mental health especially when secondary school students are focused. Social media enables access through mobile or smartphones tablets, laptops, desktops, and different types of electronic gadgets.

EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The concept of social media arose much earlier than in the 21st century. It all began in the year 1844 on May 24 with a series of electronic dots and dashes tapped out by hand on a telegraphic machine by Samuel Morse.

Gradually in 1969, it led to the emergence of the modern origin of today's internet and social media point called ARPANET

(Advanced Research Projects Agency Network) created by the United States (Department of Defence) *Error! Reference source not found.*

and used by scientists. In 1987 came into being (The National Science Foundation) which is a direct precursor to today's internet with moves robust and nationwide digital network. Later after a decade, in 1997 the first true social media platform was launched.

According to '' The History of Social Networking '' on the technology news site Digital Trends, the internet came up with online communication services such as CompuServe, America Online, and Prodigy. Here digital communication was used through email, bulletin board messaging, and online chatting.

The first social media began with the platform called Six Degree founded by (**Error! Reference source not found.**) This allowed users to set up profiles, connect to family, and friends, and text them. It brought

1 million users to social networking. Later, in the mid-90 various search engines slowly started to emerge. Later in the 20th century, a rudimentary platform arose and attracted millions of users called Friendster launched in 2001. Gradually many social media platforms came into existence consecutively. There are more than 100 social media platforms around the world. The following are some of the social media platforms along with the founders, the year of launch, its headquarters, the users, and the purpose of the social media platform accessed in various fields and by different age groups depending on their requirements.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF THE TERMS USED

Learnability refers to the ability to acquire knowledge efficiently and effectively.

Social Media refers to the means of interaction among students in which they create, share, and /or exchange information and ideas in virtual communities and networks. For the present

study, social media refers to the following Social Media Platforms such as Facebook,

YouTube, Telegram, Instagram, WhatsApp etc.

The Secondary School refers to a school or a school of the corresponding grade, ranking between a primary school and a college. In the present study secondary school refers to 9th the standard class recognized by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**Error! Reference source not found.** and the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE**). Error! Reference source not found.**

Different platforms of social media commonly used by Youth/Teenagers –

Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.

These online platforms create a pathway to get connected with their friends and simultaneously develop a sense of identity and develop new social media relationships in and around the world. These platforms have enabled access to the youth which helps them in portraying their creativity, skills, talents, opinions, and gaming activities. However, adults have always been concerned about social media by their children.

Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, Instagram, etc. Average monthly social media usage according to statista.com during the year 2023 is 4.9 billion globally. The users are not tied to single platform usage, they use at least six to seven platforms every month.

FACEBOOK - 2.9 million

YouTube - 2.5 million

WhatsApp – 2.0 million

INSTAGRAM – 2.0 million

These are the monthly active users of the social media platform. The number of internet users is increasing tremendously every day. People started using their smartphones, laptops, tablets, desktops, etc. 84% of youth use at least one social media every month. These online platforms create a pathway to get connected with their friends and simultaneously develop a sense of identity and develop new social media relationships in and around the world. These platforms have enabled access to the youth which helps them in portraying their creativity, skills, talents, opinions, and gaming activities. However, adults have always been concerned about social media by their children.

PROS AND CONS OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND YOUTH Error! Reference source not found.

● **Building up connections**

The youth use social media to build up relationships with peers, friends, and family residing far from their place to have good

communication share their thoughts, and have a healthy discussion. On the other side, there may also be hindrances in the relationship which may not be true as they are. They may also experience threats, bullying, or criticisms which leads to miscommunication and misunderstanding. Most of students get bullied when they are shy or introverted.

● **Developing Identity**

In their youth, there are always expectations regarding their self-identity. They crave for the identity by which they want to become popular in social media and create their stardom in their discipline. They express thoughts, post images, and creatively represent themselves. The discussion of their activities on social media creates curiosity in the peer group which provokes them to challenge and to be competent. On the other side, they may also experience an inauthentic representation of self and become self-conscious about their selfies, and posts. They also experience the feeling of not having self-worth when they fail to reach up to the expectations which lowers their self-confidence and paves the way to diversion.

● **Learning**

Social media sometimes supports and hinders the students in education aspects. Most of them use social media platforms to broaden their perspectives acquire knowledge and express their new ideas or topics to make a better version of themselves. They use the platform to improve their communication and creative skills though the geographical areas and their networking background differs. COVID-19 is the best situation that proves the effectiveness of learning and teaching with the usage of online platforms and apps. Students' understanding increases when there are practical learning experiments that are showcased through platforms which helps them to present a better seminar presentation. Learning or gaining knowledge has never stopped them despite facing obstacles and social issues. On the other hand, there are also hindrances where the students sometimes get distracted due to the popping up of notifications and constant checking of the phone. Due to this, their academic performance or work schedule is disrupted due to their absence at school. Their study habit is also varied accordingly.

● **Emotions**

There is always an emotional balance or imbalance in human behavior depending on

the circumstances. Especially when students are considered the emotions are sometimes not under control. Social media acts as a pathway and a barrier to conveying the feelings of oneself. They are provoked to share their mood changes that is how they feel, excited, and also promoted laughter situations. On the other side social media alleviates mood swings, and behavioral changes can also be seen such as annoyance, aggressiveness, and stress. They become judgmental when going through the posts of friends and feel embarrassed about themselves. There are chances of self-harm which makes them mentally unstable.

THE MAJOR PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN FOR THE USAGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE CONTEXT OF SECONDARY STUDENT'S KNOWLEDGE

● Parental control should be initiated with screentime limitation and communication with the children to be constant. Parents engaging in outdoor activities along with children minimize the usage of social media.

● The government can take the initiative in promoting third-party digital audits, data protection laws, and accountability of the platforms for their content can be initiated.

● Digital literacy can be brought into practice to prevent students from losing opportunities in the future due to their underprivileged background.

● Platforms that recommend or amplify inappropriate content can be prohibited involve adult material or exploitative content.

● Certain features like auto-play and push alerts can be banned and the products are targeted to youth or teenagers.

● Institutions can give access to only internet about the study materials required with proper assistance for the projects and seminars, debates, etc.

Albert Einstein once said, "I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots. Social media helps to get information about the world. But it is very addictive. Doing away may not be helpful to our society."

In contradiction to the above statement, **Error! Reference source not found.** said, "I believe the key is to help youth maximize the benefits while minimizing risks and we can do this by educating youth about how to use social media in ways that are positive, safe and prosocial." When the above statements are

reviewed, though they are contradictory, it is a known fact that modern life without the use of social media is unimaginable. It is almost near impossible against the strong current of the flow of modern innovations in social media. Hence, the judicious use of social media is the only alternative left.

CONCLUSION

However, the youth who are called Generation Z are always on the edge to come up with creative ideas or thoughts that enhance their survival in the present competitive world to prove themselves and have their own identity. Social media platforms are their gateways to reach the enmities acquire positions and prove their potential from different parts of the world. Though were our pros and cons **Error! Reference source not found.** in every aspect of life, it is up to the capability of young ones to overcome the obstacles with the advice and guidance of adults and getting influenced in positive aspects in enhancing their confidence and creativity to make themselves live in a better world.

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