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FACEBOOK AS A SOCIALISING AGENT AND ITS IMPACT ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL

PRAKASHA G.S AND JACQUELINE BAREH

Assistant Professor , School of Education Christ University, Bangalore.
School of Education

Abstract:

This article is aiming at creating awareness towards Face-book as a socializing agent and its impact on academic achievement of individuals pursuing education at various levels. Facebook a social networking site very widely used by teenagers and it has both positive and negative effects on an individual over his academic life as well as his or her social life. As parents, teachers and civilians it is very important to understand what goes on in there and what is its aftermath on an individual's life. This article makes its interpretation based on the research review and the data of few informal interviews the researcher had conducted. It concludes that Facebook certainly acts as a socialising agent, nevertheless affects academic- achievement of an individual.

KEYWORDS:

Facebook, Socialisation, Adolescent, Academic achievement, Posts

INTRODUCTION:

Socialisation is a part of the every human being, regardless of gender, culture or geographical location. It is a continuous process from childhood through adulthood. It is a never ending process. But it is important during the early and later childhood of a person's life. In brief, socialization can be described as the process by which an individual acquires his or her own personal identity. He or she learns the values, norms, social behavioural patterns and social skills needed to become a functioning member of their particular society. However with the impact of technology socialisation has taken a different route via social networking websites namely Facebook, Twitter, Orkut and many more. Facebook is one of the most widely used social networking sites in the world. Almost every adolescent is a member on it and it obviously contributes for virtual socialisation and has its effect on academic achievement of an individual.

NEED:

Although we have the drawbacks in digital socialisation such as Facebook but it has strongly become a need in today's socialisation process. The drawbacks, relating to cyber stalking or other negative aspects of Facebook can always be limited if a user chooses to limit his friends or customised his privacy if he chooses too. Hence, Facebook does not act as a potential threat to the society or to an individual's wellbeing; it strongly depends on how an individual chooses to use it to the best of his advantage in a positive manner. However adolescents lack this level of maturity and mostly get into undesirable writing of posts, conversations, and image views etc which damage their mental health, which in turn affects their studies. It was found that many students spend their time in Facebook more than their studies (Aryn

Karpinski, Ohio State University). It calls out for a serious understanding of it and its consequences on socialisation, mental health and studies. It is found that many of the University campuses have banned the Facebook usage on their wi-fi enabled campuses due to its negative impacts on studies.

REVIEWS OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Muise, A., Christofides, E., & Desmarais, S. (2009) conducted a study on “does Facebook bring out the green eye monster of jealousy?” The social networking site on Facebook is a rapidly expanding phenomenon that is changing the nature of social relationships. The objectives of the present study were to explore the role of Facebook in the experience of jealousy and to determine if increased Facebook exposure predicts jealousy above and beyond personal and romantic relationship factors. Three hundred eight undergraduate students completed an online survey that assessed demographic and personality factors and explored respondents Facebook use. A hierarchical multiple regression analysis, controlling for individual, personality, and relationship factors, revealed that increased Facebook use significantly predicts related jealousy. This study provides evidence of Facebook's unique contribution to the experience of jealousy in romantic relationships and friendship. Kalpidou, M., Costin, D., & Morris, J. (2011) had conducted a study on “The Relationship between Facebook and the Well-Being of Undergraduate College Students” and found out that there was a negative correlation between minutes spent on Facebook and self-esteem in college students. This suggests that spending a lot of time on Facebook is associated with low self-esteem. There was a negative correlation between number of Facebook friends and academic college adjustment, indicating that those with many Facebook friends have low academic adjustment scores. Specifically to first year college students, there were negative correlations between the number of Facebook friends and emotional and academic adjustment in first year college students, suggesting students with many Facebook friends did not fare well personally and academically. Urmee Khan, Digital and Media Correspondent (2009) reports that “Students who use Facebook, the social networking site, are underachieving in exams”, The study by Ohio State University questioned 219 US undergraduates and graduates about their study practices and general internet use, as well as their specific use of Facebook. They found that 65 per cent of Facebook users had a “significantly” lower grade point average than those who did not use the site.

FACE-BOOK A SOCIALIZING AGENT:

Socialisation is a process by which individual's acquire the knowledge, language, social skills and value to conform to the norms and roles required for integration into a group or community. It is a combination of both self-imposed and externally imposed rules as well as the expectations of others. The first agency of socialisation that takes place in a child's life is the family and then a school and so on.

However, in today's generation technology is playing a prominent role in socialising an individual. Especially social networking websites like Facebook. Where one can get socialised through virtual, video calls and voice chatting. It is also a channel of emotional release as it provides an opportunity to express certain feelings which you cannot do it on face to face conversation. It also provides you with an opportunity to find friends with whom you had lost contact long ago. It gives life to certain memorable moments you had long back and thereby make an individual socially satisfied.

IMPACT OF FACE-BOOK ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:

Facebook as we know has propagated its growth into our society and our socialisation process as individuals that we are technically, and emotionally handicapped without it. Psychologically Facebook has somehow manage to cause a new psychological syndrome, that young adults and teenagers are valuing themselves by the number of 'likes' and 'comment' box that their friends like on or comment on. Facebook is indeed a very dynamic socialisation process but the only drawback it has is on the psychological threat that it plays in young adults or teenagers, in young adult hood and teenagers, appearances play a significant role, hence choosing to accommodate one's value on oneself by the number of likes or comments an individual receives is unhealthy for the young teenagers and adulthood. This might damage their mental health and thereby affects one's academic achievement or performance. In this study the researcher had interviewed certain Facebook users with a purposive sampling technique and found that those who had spent more time on Facebook than studies had scored less in their academic tests. They are under stress due to some of the critical posts on their Facebook account by their friends and jealousy factor with friends (Muise, A, 2009). This issue has also been discussed by many parents as it is posing a major threat to the self-esteem of young adults and teenagers as well as on their academic achievement.

Socialisation is no longer based on human socialisation but rather digital, although it is indeed

efficient and more convenient to stay in touch with friends from all over the world and different parts of the globe, but it has its threats and risk to it, at times we do not realise what we are posting on face book can lead to a potential threat such as the many cybercrimes that have been happening ever since digital socialisation started to take place and has implemented that we are socially handicapped without it. Hence, although Facebook is not limited to only socialisation, with the various links that are interconnected with Facebook, it has the potential to act as a destructor of mental peace, concentration and thereby low academic achievement.

For example, the various links that are interconnected with Facebook are either of the advertising sector or the news, health, pornography and the entertainment links. Hence with the use of Facebook it does limit users to just socialisation but it also promotes insight into these other various unwanted mentally disturbing topics, which easily divert the young minds from studies.

CONCLUSION:

Hence Facebook as we see has brought about an integral change in the ways of socialisation of individual's but at the same time it is disturbing the minds of young ones which in turn affecting their studies and contributing to the economic loss of the society at large. Researcher appeals to the public that time is precious for economic growth of an individual and of a country, let's not waste time in virtual socialisation process but rather be more productive by using time effectively on studies.

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PRAKASHA GS

Assistant Professor , School of Education Christ University, Bangalore.

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