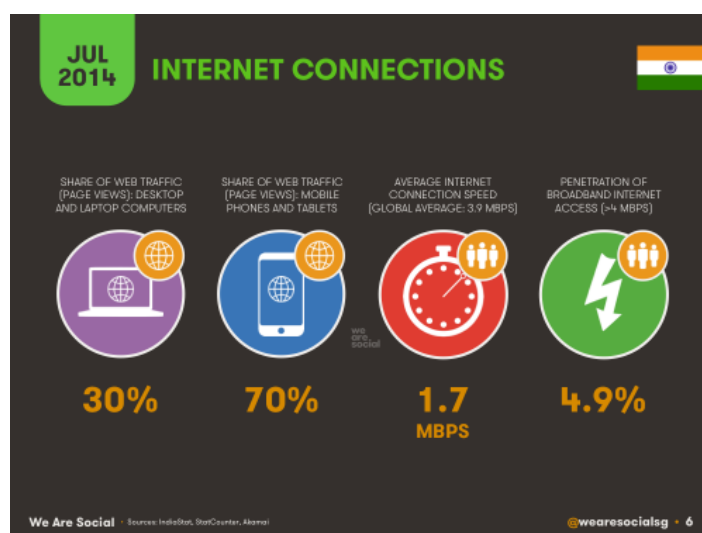


**‘Social Networking: Useful tool for Future Teacher Education’****Suresh Gopichand Isave,**

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*Scholarly Research Journal's is licensed Based on a work at www.srjis.com***1. Introduction –**

Social networking sites are playing important role in social life of youth. Whatsapp messenger makes the social networking more popular in all ages. Indian is standing 3rd in the world in use of internet. In the Near Future the number of users of internet and social networking will grow faster. It is a popular mean to talk informally with friends, especially urban area for younger generation. The young generation is a stakeholder of higher education and teacher education course as well. If teacher communicates with students in interesting way, he can establish rapport effectively and social networking sites are interesting way to communicate with students.



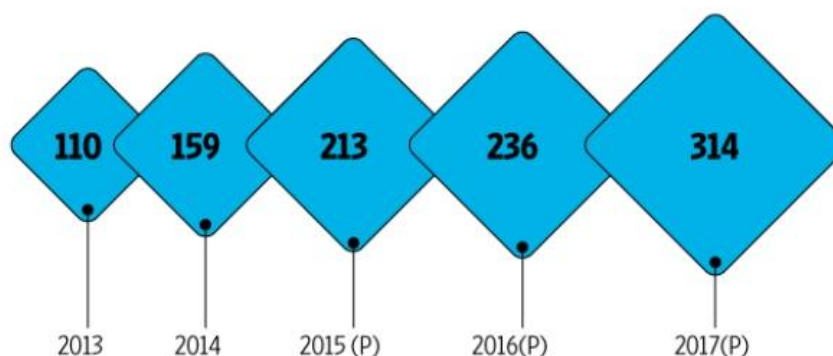
India is emerging one of the most internet using country. The growth become more viral due to popularity of the Whatapp Messenger. Many offices made compulsory to join respective whatsapp group. In some district Educational officers are using whatsapp for attendance, circulation of important instructions to teachers.

India Has 243.2M Internet Users And 106M Active Social Media Users according to the latest report from We Are Social, the digital agency from Singapore

*“India’s digital landscape is evolving fast, but overall penetration remains low in the world’s second most populous country, with fewer than 1 in 5 Indians using the Internet in July 2014,”*says We Are Social in its latest report – Social, Digital and Mobile in India 2014.

MOBILE INTERNET USERS IN INDIA 2013-17 (E)

(in million)

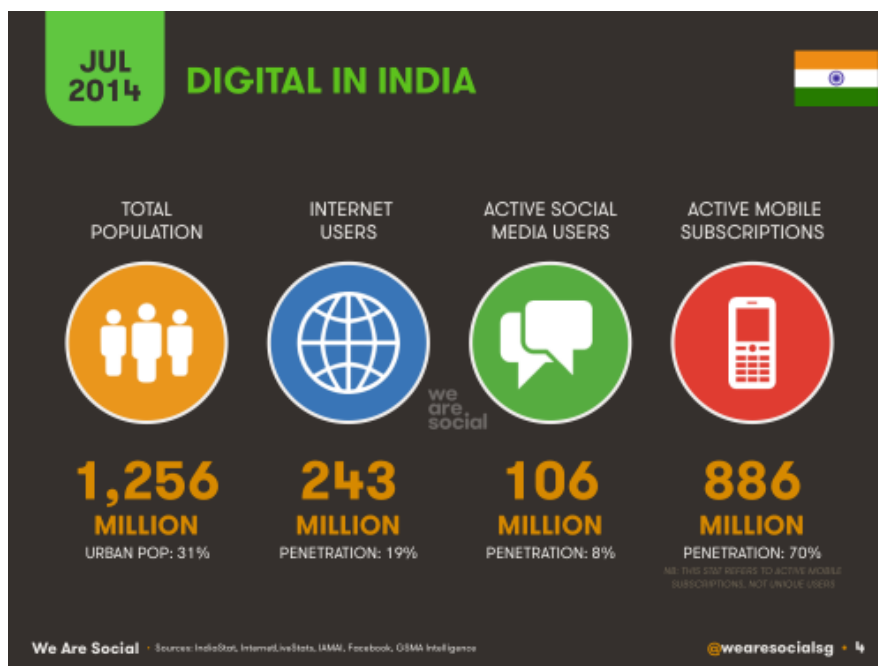


Source: Iamai-IMRB Mobile Internet in India 2014 report; KPMG-Ficci M&E industry report 2015

2. Social Network-

Social networking is a boon of web2.0 technology. As the title indicates it is a group of people, where one kind of positive and unite bond exists. It doesn't exist on any land, but on web site. Such sites are called social networking sites e.g.- Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp, My Space, Google+, Flickr, Panoramio, Authorstream, slideshare, Youtube etc.

Social site provide bundle of facilities which are very attractive and handy. On social networking sites, groups can be created photos, links, documents and videos, events can be managed, survey can be conducted etc. Teacher educator can use these facilities wisely for educational purpose.



3. Social Networking – Facebook is the most popular social networking site in the world. **Mark Zuckerberg** started the site in 2004. It has expanded quickly in markets such as Brazil, India and Indonesia, adding new users and churning others from longstanding local favourites such as Google’s Orkut. In 2016, **900 million people** use Social Networking world wide.

Social networking giant Facebook has added 13 million users in six months to take its user base to 125 million in India, its second-biggest market globally.

Three of the five top social networking markets are also among Social Networking’s largest markets – the US, India and Brazil. However, the Social Network has still to conquer China and Russia.

Since it is very popular social networking site in younger generation, as indicated in the graph, it has a potential to be used higher education. Practically is called as FB.

4. Use of Social Networking in Teacher Education

Social Networking provides various facilities to its user. Making groups, Organising events, sharing links, sharing photos-videos, sharing documents, creating Survey, using Apps etc. These facilities are very effective in online communication. The same facilities can be used for effective interaction between students-teacher and teacher-educators.

Facilities & its’ use in Teacher Education –

i) Making Friends - Teacher-educator can create account on Social Networking and make friends to student-teachers, teacher-educators and researchers worldwide. She can

communicate to past students spread over. She can make friend to researchers and teacher-educators from abroad.

ii) **Chat** – Since it is a messenger, first purpose is to chat one to one. One can make messages in the form of text, images, imojis and videos. Teacher can share many resources to students in various media.

iii) **Groups**- This is the facility which makes the social networking more worthy. On Social Networking any user can create groups. User can decide description and members of groups. These groups may be formal or informal as well. Teacher-educator may create groups of Students, Alumni, teacher-educators, researchers, course wise groups e.g. M.Ed., B.Ed., D.T.Ed. etc., subject wise teachers group e.g. Geography teachers, Science teachers, English Teachers etc. Very useful interaction can be happened in the groups. Instant messaging is possible on Whatsapp. Important circulars, notices, news, conference brochure can be shared in the group. Students and Alumni can share experiences and opportunities even from varied Geographical places. Researcher can invite experts view on a research topic. Subject teacher can share useful resources with each other.

iv) **Events** – Social Networking provides facility to give information about the organised programme and to send invitation to friends. The facility is called Event. In Event facility an organiser can give Date, time, venue, purpose, invitations, registration rules, status of how many attending, not attending or may be attending regularly. Suppose a B.Ed. college is arranging a National Conference, a Teacher-educator can create an event of the same on Social Networking and inform to all world wide.

v) **Sharing Photos/Videos** – Sharing Photos is mostly done activity on Social Networking. Young users don't feel satisfaction of celebration unless it is uploaded and commented by friends. Student-teacher can share their experiences with alumni by uploading photos of their batches. Photos and videos of **co-curricular activities** are very inspiring for students.

Events of various innovations can be shared by Alumni on the social networking, which will give idea and inspiration other alumni.

Demonstration **lesson**, Model Lessons, skill lessons in Micro lessons etc. lessons' videos would be worthy for newbie. Uploading photos and thoughts of great educationists play role of boosters to all learners. Students or teachers can greet each other on special

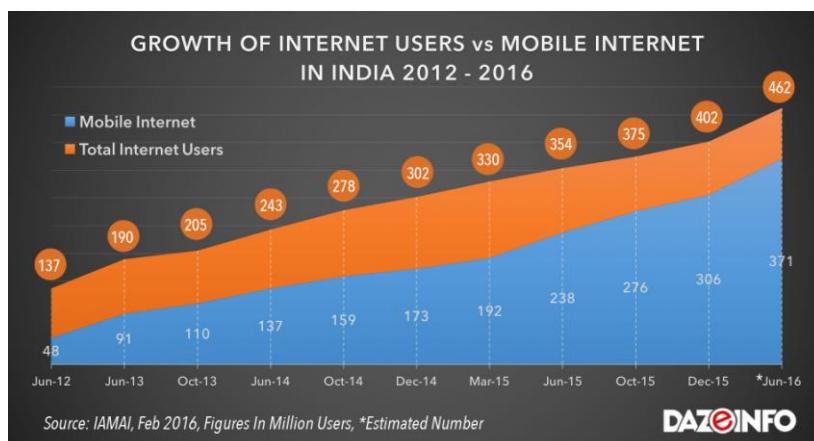
occasions like 'Teacher Day', 'New Year', 'Birth Day' etc; which helps to strengthen the bond of relation.

vi) Links – There are various online educational resources available on internet. Resources like teaching plans, clip arts, free software, conferences, videos, news etc can be shared in groups. So everybody can be updated by simple way. The assimilation of information happens in multiplication. Shared link can be shared with their friends who are not a member of a group. Various important notices issued by apex authorities like universities, **NCTE, NAAC, UGC, TET**, Applications for examination, results, central and state govt. etc. which are very essential to receive by every teacher education institutes. Such links can be shared in a group on Social Networking.

vii) Sharing Documents / Presentations – Lesson notes, points of practical work, list of references, notices can be shared in form of word document which cab be downloaded. Alumni can guide to student-teachers by sharing useful samples. Researchers can share their research paper, research tools and ask for suggestions. Presentations can be shared and linked with slide sharing sites. Teacher-educators can share classroom presentations with student-teacher and other teacher-educators as well. Researchers can upload research based presentation with friends.

viii) Survey – A survey can be created and votes can be counted automatically by Social Networking. Multiple choices or yes/no type questions can be developed. Teacher-educator can develop survey for getting **feedback form student-teacher**, testing content knowledge, understanding opinion, testing attitudes of student-teachers. Subject teacher can prepare survey to know which teaching method is suitable for particular unit. Most exciting thing is result of total votes updated continuously and automatically. Researcher may ask other researcher which tool is suitable for a specific kind of data collection.

ix) Using Apps – There are so many applications are available with Social Networking. The collection is called App Centre. The categories in the collections are game, utility, learning etc. These apps make interaction more informal, interesting and memorable e.g. by using birthday calendar teacher can establish a rapport with student teacher by greeting them on their birthday. The **slideshows** uploaded on various sites can be shared on Social Networking e.g. slideshare.com, authorstream.com etc. **educational games** also can be shared and played together on a team basis.



5. Conclusion -

Internet is a huge matrix of facilities which are very useful. Since education is social interaction the same would be done with help of social networking site. Internet users and Social networking users in India is growing which cant be stopped, so teachers should increase the involvement of its in education. There are many limitations of the internet. Social networking shouldn't be used for under 18 age of students i.e. for school students. It is useful more for PG students and teachers who are mature enough to tackle the threats. Social Networking is commonly used site in India and world which can be used for educational interaction with appropriate care from internet threats.

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(All online resources cited in Jan 2016)