

ROLE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING AWARENESS IN PRE-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME

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Introduction: -

This is the age of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Information Technology (IT) and Bio technology (BT) are the buzz words in the learning society. Nowadays ICT is used in all walks of life such as personal, family, business, public, industries, banking, insurance, medicine, communication, entertainment, education and what not? It has a very wide scope.

Due to ICT the quality and performance in all sectors are enhanced. Same will be the case of teacher education, if ICT is integrated in teacher Education.

Education is continuous and lifelong process. There are three channels of education such as formal education, non-formal education and informal education. Education is a process which takes place from womb to tomb, or cradle to coffin. It is impossible to provide education to all and all the time by means of formal ways i.e. through the schools and colleges. Education is a complicated process or a system which includes input, process and output. Input consists of curriculum, syllabus, content, text-books, infrastructure, teachers, teaching aids and methods of teaching or teaching experiences. But because of the progress in technology, one more input is added to the education which is unavoidable, but it is important as well as far as the quality of education is concerned. To enhance the quality of classroom instruction technology is essential, but what about the instructions outside the classroom or support to the child at home? Whether ICT will help the child at the home? Whether teacher will be connected to the child and parent with the help of ICT? The answers to these questions are "Yes". Technology is very helpful to the teacher to connect their students and their parents. The learning takes place from teacher to the student, but we all know that, the students can even learn better from the other students, which is called as peer learning. Peer learning can occur in the classroom but nowadays it is possible that if the students are connected with each other with the help of technology then the learning will also take place from the distance. Thus ICT and its tools such as social networking are very important in the

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learning and better understanding of concepts among the students. Though the ICT is important in education, ICT or technology is not the magic but the teachers are. Thus teachers must be aware about the use of ICT and judicious use of ICT. Though the teachers should be born teachers, but it is not possible all the time and their numbers will be less. Thus the teacher training colleges or education colleges are playing a vital role in developing the teacher. Now we are preparing teachers for the next generation schools and colleges, so they must be techno savvy. Today's society is connected society. The students are connected with their friends and parents, so why not with teacher? And if they are ready to connect with the teachers, whether the teachers are ready? For that purpose there should be awareness among the teachers about the social networking and awareness about the ICT and its tools. They should be able to use technology judiciously to enhance the quality of education.

Actually ICT subject is introduced in the teacher education syllabus of some Indian Universities from the year 2000. ICT is very essential to enhance the quality of education system. One cannot think today's education system without ICT. If we want to see the use of ICT in schools, then teacher must be techno-savvy. That is why there should be integration of ICT in Teacher Education Colleges. In future, there will be e- teachers and e- teaching.

It is assumed that today's students have the knowledge about the computers. They can work on computers offline as well as online. The features of online or internet are net surfing, gaming, downloading and uploading, listening music, viewing movies, e-mailing, blogging, messaging, internet telephony, telephone conferencing, video conferencing, chatting, social networking i.e. use of Orkut, Facebook, Twitter, Skype, opera mini etc. With the help of social networking like Facebook, one can increase one's contacts and make one's friends closer, it updates one about the birthdays, anniversaries, and some memorable events, one can send invitations to his or her group through it, one can play game on it, through some love quotes or questions one can know more about his or her friend, One can send his or her photos of vacation or some events on this account etc. are some ways of communication, and education is nothing but communication. Now question arises that, whether in-service teachers are using social networking in education system? Whether Novice teachers can use social networking as the teaching tool? If they are using it, then what is the percentage of users? Marija Matesic, Kristina Vuckovic (2009). If it is less than the students of other streams then, Can we develop any programme to increase the social networking awareness among the Novice-teacher? After implementation of the social networking awareness programme, whether there will be rise in the percentage of users? What is the effectiveness of

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the social networking awareness programme? These are some questions raised in front of the researcher.

Background: -

The term "Social Networking" means the formation of a social group or community on the Internet, facilitating users to interact for a common aims, goals, interests, or sharing mutual views towards various aspects. Online Social Networking helps grouping of friends or family members, relatives, college students, colleagues helping them to share their opinions.

Social networking should be known to every person, "...As new concepts of learning have evolved, teachers are expected to facilitate learning and make it meaningful to individual learners rather than just to provide knowledge and skills. Recent developments of innovative technologies have provided new possibilities to teaching profession but at the same time have placed more demands on teachers to learn how to use these technologies in their teaching..." (Robinson and Latchem, 2003).

All over the world there is great pressure on the educational systems to take initiative and to apply innovative practices, strategies, methodologies and to integrate new information and communication technologies (NICTs) in the teaching and learning process, to prepare students with the knowledge and skills they need in the 21st century. There is paradigm shift in teaching learning process from teacher- centered methods to student- centered methods. Now a day the focus is changed from the teaching or passive learning to the active and interactive learning. NICTs integration means as the application of technology flawlessly for education like curriculum transaction, using technology for the home assignments, practical, submissions and developing power point presentations, and institutional development. Presently NICTs can help not only for teaching but also learning itself. Not only with the help of power point presentations, NICTs gives variety from Video conferencing to websites or online learning this can be the great challenges before the teachers. Information and communication technology can not only be used for classroom teaching of regular students, pre-service teachers but also for the external students and more flexibly and effectively for lifelong professional development of in-service teachers. Because of NICTs challenges and opportunities in education are increased. The educational system should face these new challenges and also take full advantages of the technology. If the teacher training colleges, institutes provide proper technology support, knowledge and practice to their student-teachers and build the confidence among them to use these new technology creatively and fruitfully then these future teacher will integrate the newly emerged technology in their daily

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teaching-learning process, for this the teacher educators should have competencies to integrate technology in the practice. This will lead to use a range of technological tools in all the educational functions such as curriculum transaction, administration, research and extension. A teacher is very important part of teaching and learning process, thus knowledge of ICT, skills and attitude towards ICT in teaching and learning has got great importance among 21st century teachers.

A “social network” is a complex structure made up of human beings as an individual or an organization. In general these individuals or organizations are nothing but units and these units or end user are called as nodes of the network, these nodes are tied or connected with one another as one to many with special reason, such as friendship, relationship, common interest, ideas, views, information, opinions, thoughts, feelings emotions, financial exchange, dislike, sexual relationships, or relationships of beliefs, knowledge or prestige. These connections are forming a kind of structures those are often very [complex](#). Social networks operate on many levels, such as family level, national level and world level or international level, and play a critical role in determining the aims or goals, way of solutions to the problems, functions of organizations, and the degree to which individuals succeed in achieving their goals. The following terms are associated with the social networking such as nodes/contacts/points, links/connections /ties, social networking map/ social networking diagram and social capital. These terms are self explanatory. Social capital of an individual is the number of contacts of that individual and value that an individual gets from the social network. These concepts are often displayed in a social [network diagram](#), where nodes are the points and ties are the lines.

Wayne A. Selcher, discussed and evaluated low cost or cost-free, trustworthy, quality online resource academically important at any level from school, college level upto higher level and international studies, teaching- learning and research. The researcher tried to find the various important search engines, location of sources in the guides, directories repositories and ways of finding the resources. Internet can be used in at various for various purposes such as instructions and home work or assignments and research purposes. There are following Social networking sites such as Facebook, twitter, Club Penguin, linkedin, Flickr.

The other social networking tools are: **Blogs, Media sharing services, Wikis, Bookmarking and tagging etc.**

Blogs – Blog is the abbreviation of web and log. It is social networking tool for publication easy to create to write views and articles. It provides facility for a visitor to rate and comment on the articles posted by the members, thus facilitating an interaction.

Media sharing services – have a primary role to enable its user exchange of different types of data through various social networking tools or social networking sites such as Flickr (2004) to share the photographs, Youtube (2005) to share the videos and Slideshare (2006) to share the power point presentations. These feature of uploading music and videos- thereby give a member tremendous amount of freedom to share with one another and rest of the world.

Wikis- The long form of the wikis is what I know is, These are social networking sites or software programmes with self organized structures that allows its users to browse, create and edit different digital contents e.g. Wikipedia, wikispaces.com.

Bookmarking or tagging- One can classify an internet resource based on his/ her specific needs. The aggregation of these and other users' tags is visible across the network, and following these additional relevant resources can be found. One can find the likeminded users book marking via tag. Social bookmarking services enable these users to join each others' networks.

Marija Matesic, Kristina Vuckovic (2009), discussed that the teachers and students, who were younger people still do not use social software or tools in the teaching and learning process as much as it would expected in the year 2009 because of lack of knowledge about social software or tools and their possibilities as a teaching tool. Social networking has great potential in the collaborative learning and e- learning.

According to Blooms taxonomy of evaluation, there are three domains such as cognitive domain, affective domain and psychomotor domain. Development of awareness is the first step after sensitization, which leads in the development of attitude. Awareness comes under the affective domain. Awareness regarding a particular thing can be developed through the programme. Awareness is very essential for the use of particular thing in the life for the betterment of the life. Its definition has not yet reached a consensus in the scientific community in this general expression.

Awareness about social networking sites is generally high, though the people are not necessarily familiar with the term (ofcom report 2007) Despite young people being a main portion of social networking sites, spontaneous awareness of the generic term 'social networking sites' was significantly lower than that of their parents. Once the term was

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explained, overall awareness was similar to that of their parents. Everyone was familiar to Facebook.

Social networking is one of the tools of communication or it is a kind of software, which is very useful in the communication. Teaching learning process is also based on the effective communication. In present days students and teachers are using technology in the classroom. As well as in future, there will be development in the technology. Thus Novice teachers must be well aware about the Web 2.0 technology or social networking tool.

Understanding existing status or level of social networking awareness of novice teachers and to develop the social networking awareness programme to raise the social networking awareness level, as well as to study its effectiveness were the key challenges before the researcher.

Numerous theoretical frameworks were used by the researcher. These frameworks are valuable as they provide a specific lens to carry out the practice, which enables the researcher to view them in a particular way.

(Davis, Bagozzi, et al 1989) ICT has pervaded all dimensions of the society. If the students find the usage of ICT and its tools helpful then they will integrate the use of ICT in their environment for learning. TAM has been applied to various IT applications such as World Wide Web (Lederer, Maupin, et al, 2000) and (Moon and Kim, 2001). These studies are used to investigate various IT (Information Technology) applications and the reasons why users accept different IT. Ajzen and M.Fishbein theory of Reasoned Action states that if a person recognizes that the result from performing behavior is positive, she/he will have a positive attitude toward performing that behavior and vice versa. If ICTs are integrated well into teacher training colleges and the student-teachers find it helpful in teaching learning then they will have positive attitude towards it and therefore take it more seriously so as to imbibe it in them, thereby improving their competency in ICT activities. Also, the teachers are most likely to introduce it in their regular set up even after teacher training when they join the school as a teacher they will teach their students to learn with the help of ICT and also inculcate skills and attitude among them, disseminate the competency throughout the educational system.

Digital pedagogy means use of digital technology to support traditional teaching learning principles. It includes some hardware such as computer, LCD projector, video recorder cams, MP3 Player, mobile, internet and some software such as various android apps, social

networking sites etc. for teaching-learning process. The researcher used digital pedagogy to deliver the SNAP.

The teacher and students are on social media such as facebook, twitter etc and they are always remain connected to each other due to social networking tools or sites, thus connectivism is a theory of learning put forth by Vygotski. As well as social networking theory is also one of the bases of present research.

The learner can construct his/ her own idea individually as well as with the help of society or peers. It is a social process and knowledge construction depends upon the society as well as culture. According to Vygotsky's theoretical framework social interaction plays a vital role in the cognitive development of a child. According to Vygotsky's socio-cultural theoretical framework every child learns at two levels such as social and individual. The child can learn on his own depending upon his cognition but has some limitations where the learning stops. To achieve the next level or higher level of cognition he/she requires some help i.e. help from the peers or teachers or the society. Thus teachers or more experienced peers are able to provide support to the learner to understand difficult concepts of knowledge domains or development of complex skills. Thus ICTs can be used to support the learner by providing tools for discourse, discussions, collaborative learning techniques, problem-solving, and by providing online support systems to scaffold students' evolving understanding and cognitive growth.

The theory of connectivism emphasizes that in the digital age, Learning is no longer an internal, individualistic activity. It depends up on networks and diverse multi-faceted networks. According to the theory of connectivism knowledge is developed because of connections and contribution of networked entities with the help of social networking. E.g.blogs, wikis, social bookmarking, social networking sites like facebook and twitter.

Social networking Awareness can be defined as; the individual is exposed to a social media or practice but lacks information about social media, social tools, information communication technology, principles of sharing, safety and security measure, threats and consequences.

Awareness of social networking sites is generally high, although people are not necessarily familiar with the term. Ofcom survey (2007) despite young people being a core market of social networking sites, spontaneous awareness of the generic term 'social networking sites' was significantly lower than that of their parents. Once the term was explained, overall awareness was similar to that of their parents. Everyone was familiar to Facebook.

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