



AWARENESS AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA BY PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

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Abstract

Social media have the most popular medium for the exchange of Information and knowledge across the globe. Globally the use of social media has significantly increased and it certainly has for reaching impact on the academic and allied activities of the prospective teachers. The younger generation makes most of the use of social media than any other demographic. In the past several years the use of social networking sites has increased which has become an international issue. Due to increased Technology uses for communicating with others social networking has been a primary activity on the internet with the sites like Facebook, Myspace, WhatsApp, YouTube, Twitter etc. The present study aimed to examine the use of social media among the prospective teachers of B.Ed. to know the awareness and use of social media and to determine how actively prospective teachers are using social media and getting advantage from it. The study used survey method and a well- structured questionnaire was designed and the random sampling technique was used for data collection. The questioner was handed over personally by researchers to 150 prospective teachers and question award received back. The analysis of the data collection is presented in the form of tables and charts followed by it interpretation visibility of a student teachers prefer social media to find Useful information sources and prospective teachers agree that the social media tools are very much useful in pursuing their academic activities.

Keywords: social-media, social-networking, Facebook, WhatsApp, prospective teachers.



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1.1 INTRODUCTION:

Social media is now a very popular and powerful new form of social communication among the present generation. It is an open platform for free and unrestricted conversation between millions of people worldwide without any borders. Social media will refer to any online platform that allows users to link to each other and contribute, to share, content and

comments. It intense to facilitate sharing, collaboration, transparency and conversation. Kaplan and Haenlein (2010) defines “Social media as a group of internet based applications that built on the ideological and technological foundation of web 2.0, and that allow the creation and exchange of user generated content, captures the key terminology involved.” Oxford English dictionary defines social media as “website and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking”. In simple terms it can be called as a popular social in instrument of communication. This new form of media makes the transfer of text, photos, audio, video and information in general increasingly fluid among internet users. The social media includes Facebook, Twitter, Blog, Flickr, WhatsApp etc., which are considered as very powerful communication tool.

Spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has posed many challenges education system globally, and India is no exception. The danger of social media addiction on students’ academic performance, health and social will be in triggered this study. The internet connectivity providing social networking platform. Social networking service platform of website and software applications allow users social, educational, professional, political and religious interconnectivity and content sharing through multimedia. Communication platform of Instagram, telegram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Myspace, Google+, WhatsApp among others the geometric increases in internet connectivity and network improvement from 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G have made an accepted peace in the users social life and in students’ academic life.

Social media provides a venue for people to share their activities with friends, subject experts, research Scholars and colleagues or to share their interest in a particular topic. Student create an online profile with biological data, photos and any other information they choose to post and interact with subject experts, researchers etc. They communicate with each other by making their latest thoughts public in a blog like format or via e-mail, instant messaging, voice or video conferencing to selected members. What began for personal use migrated to academic use and social media sites to find out the information to prepare the assignments to share their ideas and develop their knowledge. In the present study aimed to examine the use of social media among the prospective teachers and how it helps in their academic activities. Understanding how prospective teachers are using social media tools outside the conventional classroom mainly to support learning and teaching. Hence, it was found necessary to study pattern of internet usage in young adults in Indian setting and its relationship with their academic performance. With this background, we undertook the present study to take a close look on this issue.

1.2 REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

A longitudinal study of Chinese high school students (2010) suggests that individuals with moderate to severe risk of Internet addiction are 2.5 times more likely to develop depressive symptoms than their IAD-free counterparts. The best-documented evidence of Internet addiction so far is time-disruption, which subsequently results in interference with regular social life, including academic, professional performance and daily routines.

Tuckman (1975) also revealed that use of technology such as social networking sites through internet is one of the most important factors which affects educational performance positively or adversely of the students.

Shah (2001) proposed that students are affected by the use of internet and this is determined by the type of internet usage. By the informative use of internet, they are positively affected while using as recreational usage of Internet, they have drastic impact on them.

Mahat (2014) revealed that social networking sites are providing platform for giving suggestions on various social issues. Adolescent are getting more aware about social issues through Facebook. One should focus on ethical use of these social networking sites because it serve the society in a right way. Adolescent can play an important role in society as social networking sites are boon and curse for the Indian society.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1) to investigate the awareness and use of social media by the prospective teachers
- 2) to find out the purpose for which social media is used by the prospective teachers
- 3) to find out the frequency of use of the social media you know how far the social media use useful for prospective teachers academic purpose and
- 4) to determine to what extent social media sites are helpful in prospective teachers academic activities

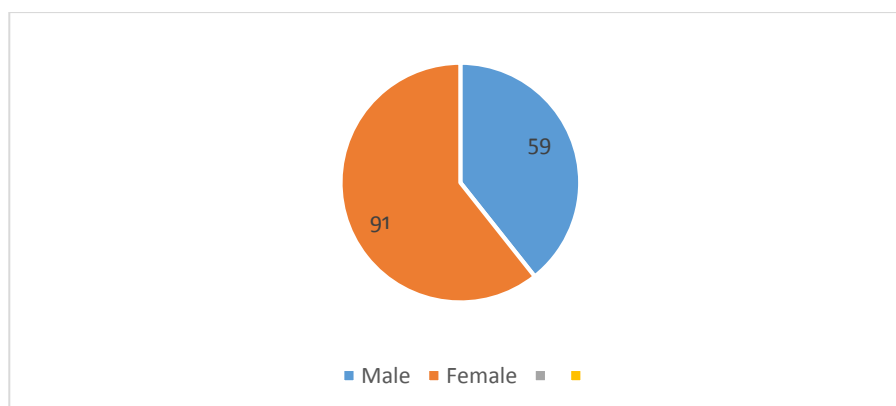
1.4 METHODOLOGY

Study is based on the survey conducted with 150 prospective teachers of B.Ed. A well structured questioner was prepared according to the objective of study. The simple random sampling method was used to select the sample of the study. The questioner were personally handed over to 150 prospective teachers by the researcher for data collection and questionnaire were received back from the students. The data were tabulated and analysed in accordance with the objectives of the study. The scope of the present study is confined to the use of social media sites by the prospective teachers at B.Ed.

1.5 DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

a. Gender wise distribution of respondents

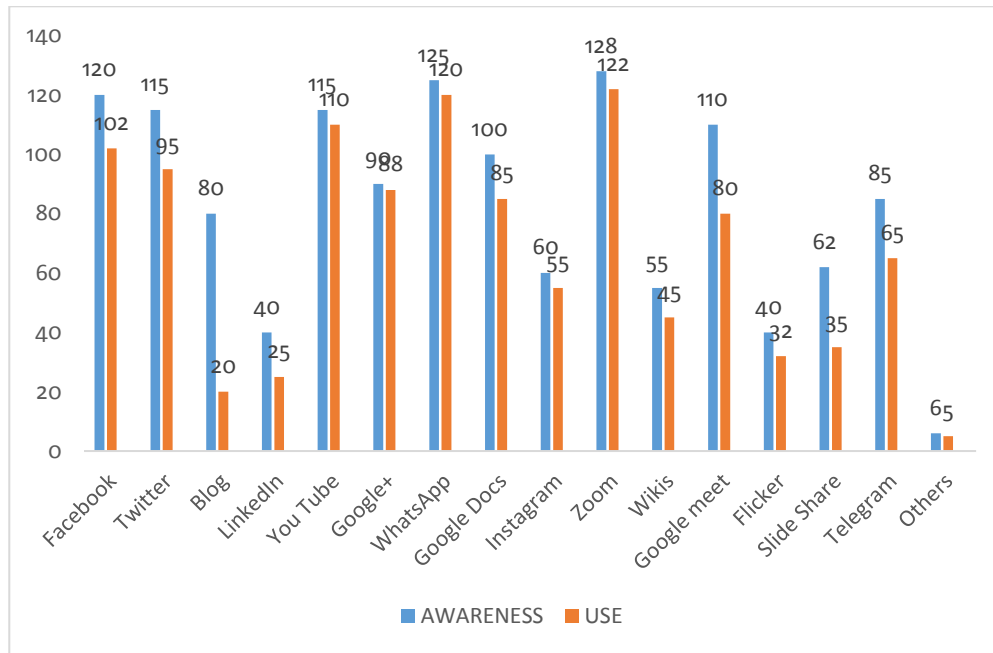
Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Male	59	39.33
Female	91	61.49
Total	150	100



The above table and figure represent the centre wise distribution of a prospective teachers participated in the study out of 150 respondents 91(61.49%) are female and 57 (39.33%) are male students.

b. AWARENESS AND USE OF DIFFERENT SOCIAL MEDIA TOOL

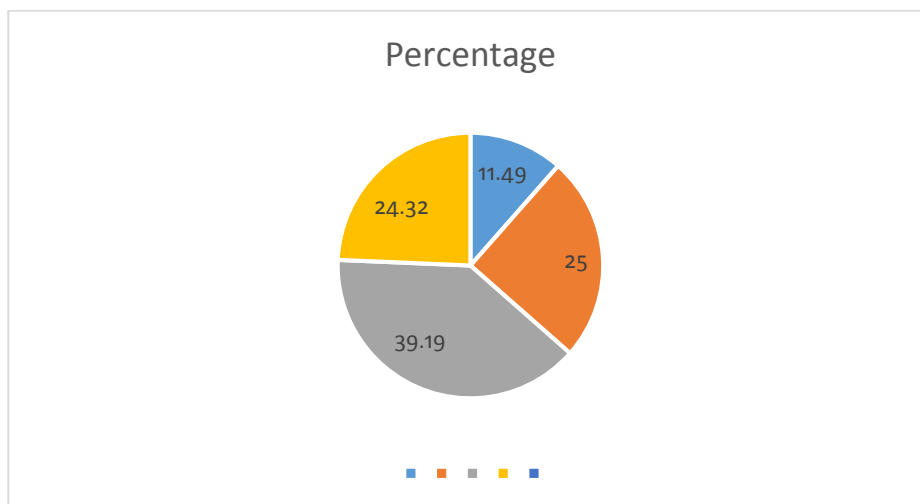
SL. No.	SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLS	AWARENESS	USE
1.	Facebook	120	102
2.	Twitter	115	95
3.	Blog	80	20
4.	LinkedIn	40	25
5.	You Tube	115	110
6.	Google+	90	88
7.	WhatsApp	125	120
8.	Google Docs	100	85
9.	Instagram	60	55
10.	Zoom	128	122
11.	Wikis	55	45
12.	Google meet	110	80
13.	Flicker	40	32
14.	Slide Share	62	35
15.	Telegram	85	65
16.	Others	6	5



The above table and figure represents awareness and use of different social media by the prospective teachers. The analysis of data shows that 87.16% respondents are aware of Facebook and 75% are using it on regular basis.

c. THE EXPERIENCE IN THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Experience of using social media	Respondent	Percentage
last them six months	17	11.49
one and two year	37	25.00
more than two years	58	39.19
more than five years	36	24.32
Total	148	100



The above table and chart represent experience of a student teachers in the use of social media there are 39.19 responded using social media sites for more than two years, 25% respondent

have one and two years respondent are having the experience of using of for 24.32% five years and 11.49% respondent have has less than 6 months.

d. EXPERIENCE IN USING SOCIAL MEDIA DEVICES FOR USING SOCIAL MEDIA

Devices	No of respondent	percentage
Computer	69	46.62
Laptop	50	33.78
Smartphone or iPhone	107	72.30
tablet	16	10.81

The table are figure shows more that 72.30% of the respondent use of smartphone or iPhone as a primary means of excess social media 46.62% use computer and 33.78% the use laptop and respect for 10.81% use tablet for assessing social media sites.

e. TIME SPENDS FOR THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

Time spent	respondent	percentage
I do not accept everyday	29	19.59
less than 30 minutes	36	24.32
30 minutes to 1 hour	45	30.41
1 to 2 hour	30	20.27
more than 2 hours	8	5.41

The above table shows the time spent on the use of social media by prospective teachers and out of 150 respondents 30.41% spends half an hour to one hour, 20.27% spends one to two hour a day and 5.41% respondents spends than two hours in a day.

f. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA FOR ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Sl. No	Academic activities	No. of respondent	percentage
1.	to find Useful information resource	116	77.33
2.	online learning	127	84.66
3.	to develop reading /writing skill on the wave	57	38
4.	virtual meeting with classmates and friends	71	47.33
5.	to share information photos, videos with friends	101	67.33
6.	to interact with subject experts and faculty member	29	19.33
7.	to prepare assignments and projects	120	80
8.	to update information and knowledge	96	64
9.	to share academic information and source	50	33.33
10.	to share and exchange teaching learning materials (notes, lesson plans, slides etc.)	70	46.66
11.	to conducted research activity	20	13.33

The above table are and figure describe the use of social media sites for academic purposes by the prospective teachers majority of respondents use social media, to find Useful information resources, 80% to prepare assignments, 67.33% share information, photos, videos with friends about 64% information and knowledge 84.66% for the online learning and 47.33% virtual meeting with classmates and friends 77.33% the usefulness of social media to promote academic purpose.

1.6 MAJOR FINDING OF THE STUDY

All respondents are aware of social media sites and most popular social media sites are Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and YouTube. 39.19% of prospective teachers are using social media and social networking sites for more than two years. The most popular devices for using social media sites is smartphone or iPhone. Prospective teachers were spending 30 minutes to 1 hour to use social media sites measure. 84.33% of prospective teachers are using social media for academic purpose weather students agree that the social media tools are useful to promote academic activities.

1.7 CONCLUSION

Social media has emerged as a powerful tool to determine disseminate the information in digital era and plays an important role in the academic activities of the students. It is an open platform to share their innovative ideas and information. This study reveals that majority of the prospective teachers are well aware of social media tools and

using them for academic purposes and also agree that the social media tools are very much useful in pursuing their academic activities prospective teachers use social media to find useful information and resources, to share information, to update knowledge, online learning and to interact with classmates, subject experts and friends other related academic activities. The study also indicates that the students are spending more time in using social media and need to balance the relationship between social media and academic activities.

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