

Involvement of School Students on Social Networks and impact on their performance of studies

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Abstract. Social network usage is massively increasing among children all over the world. School students usually use the latest technology on Social Networks. School students are using social media for several purposes. Usage of Social Networks impacts their studies and everyday life in a fair and bad manner. Several researches have been done in developed countries which can be seen in the literature review. Moreover, most of the studies intended on the effects of social media on the moral behaviour of the youths. Moreover, most of the research considered the undergraduate students' academic performance and their attitudes. The higher probability of no such research on school level students. This study restricted itself to the study habits of the school students. This study aims to collect the data from Advanced level students by a questionnaire which includes the questions on the impact of Social Networks in studies and performance of students. Moreover, this study analyses those data using SPSS to check the students' involvements on Social Networks and impacts on their studies and performance. The result of this research throughout the survey reveals that the performance of studies of school students and the number of social media is negatively associated. Likewise, spending hours on studies negatively associated with spending hours on social media. Moreover, the performance of the students decreases when the spending hours on social media increase.

Keywords: Social media usage, the performance of students, Facebook, WhatsApp

1. Introduction

Social networking (SN) is the practice of Internet-based social media sites to stay in touch with friends, colleagues, family, customers, or clients. SN maybe with a business purpose, a social purpose, or both, through sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, among others. It can be categorised as a portable based social space where individuals can associate, impart, make and offer substance with others. In contemporary, Social Networking is one of the common and biggest tools. SN has been utilised by an assortment of individuals around the world. Most known and prominent SN apparatuses are Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, WhatsApp, and LinkedIn.

This sort of SN destinations is as of now utilised by numerous individuals for many reasons. A large portion of the general population utilising this SN to upload photograph and recordings, Install Applications, Message companions, Write Blogs, Dating, promote gathering, Listen to music, and some other. We are living in a world which is increasingly controlled by Social Networks. Social Networks become popular among the children as well nowadays [1]. Especially school students are mostly connecting with social media. People can

contact other people very easily via social media within a short time with less cost comparatively. Teen and adults willing to connect with Social Networks such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter to chat with friends or making new friends around the world widely. School and college students are using Social Networks significantly higher than the working peoples[2].

Teenagers are seeking attention from society with their own identity [3]. Teens are searching for a platform to express their feeling and independence to self-discover around them. Meanwhile, the important feature of social media is easy to use so easy to online presences [2]. Social media provide the space to express their feeling and emotions independently; therefore, teens and students are attracted and enthuse to use social media[4]. Social websites such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp are communication platform which is mostly adopted by the students, and further, it contains the valuable resource to support their educational communications and subject materials [1]. Social Networks lets students to get connected with other students. The student communicates the subject material with their friends orally or written form via Social Networks; it helps in the examinations[1].

Moreover, this helps in the improvement of extra curriculum activities. While there are many contradictions thought of wrong usage and behaviours in social networks [3]. Improper use of Social Network collapses the sleeping behaviour of the students. This habit makes severe health issues in the students' physical activities. So students get distracted from their usual activities[5]. This social platform is becoming a significant part of the day to day life. If this platform is used positively, it can help school students to get the knowledge that can be used to improve their performances on studied positive attitudes, their personality and can get a better future. Therefore, it is quite essential to check on the influence of social media on students' studies and life of habits[6].

Several studies have been made in developed countries which can be seen in the literature review. Moreover, most of the studies intended on the effects of social media on the moral behaviour of the youths. Furthermore, most of the research considered the undergraduate students' academic performance and their attitudes. The higher probability of no such research found on school level students. This study restricted itself to the study habits of the school students. This study aims to collect the data from Advanced level students by a questionnaire which includes the questions on the impact of Social Networks in studies and performance of students. Moreover, this study analyses those data using "Statistical Package for the Social Sciences" (SPSS) to check the students' involvements on Social Networks and impacts on their studies and performance.

2 Literature Review

There are several types of studies done on the positive and negative effects of social media on the students' academic performances, especially on undergraduate students. It was contacted a survey to undergraduate students (aged 18 and older) to analyse whether it affects their academic activities as well as their social life in college at Rowan University. The social media give an excellent outlet to deal with academic activities, moreover provides the space to connect the students and also provides the chance to discuss on subject matters. Social media yield many good things on the youngster [7].

Another research followed with qualitative and quantitative data collection approach, and the study admits that undergraduate student spends more time on social media such as Facebook, Twitter during the lecture hours as well. This habit leads them to a negative impact on their behaviours which may cause threats in the cultural morals of many students [4]. The authors of [1] state that, the result of their study reveals that most of the students' interest on

the social media which helps to their academic activities, daily life and also their attitude. According to a finding of [7], it can be clearly said that, Facebook impacts not only in the education sector but also in some other sector such as tourism at Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

One more research conducted in Hong Kong says that using Social media for academic motive was not a significant forecaster of academic performance as measured by GPA, whereas using Social Networks for other purposes and Social Network multitasking correlated with negatively predicted academic performance. When the student uses social media, their extra curriculum skill and communications skill get the increase [5]. There is a negative relationship between the Grade Point Average and the spending time on Social Networking websites. Furthermore, female student highly uses social media than male students [3]. Mostly, the undergraduates who are using Social Networks have poor sleep quality. Especially 0.5 to 2 hours or above before bedtime per day on social media were more likely to have poor sleep quality [6].

3 Methodology

The quantitative research design was chosen as the main and substantial method of the study. As the sample population, the respondents of the study were chosen as an advanced level school student in Kalmunai education zone at Ampara district. These respondents were randomly selected from five streams of Biological Science, Physical Science, Commerce, Arts and technology. There were more than 2000 advanced level school student students were studying in Kalmunai education zone. Among them, 342 students were randomly chosen as the subjects of quantitative data. A survey questionnaire was designed as the instruments of this study. The questionnaire item includes 16 questions. Data has analysed by using SPSS software as a descriptive study. The items of the survey were customised from the previous study questionnaires [5] [8]. The questionnaire comprised of some essential questions such stream, gender, types of social media which they are using, average usage hours on each type of social media, average total spending hours on social media, most using a type of social media, spending hours on studies, marks of the final term exam and self-statement whether the social media are helping or distracting or no effect.

4 Results and discussion

As mentioned earlier in this study, the questionnaire was responded by a total of three-hundred and forty-two (342) Advanced Level school students. Majority of them were boys with the percentage of seventy point five (70.5%), and the remaining of 29.5% were girls. From these total respondents, fourteen point nine per cent (14.9%) students were from Biological Science stream, eighteen-point one per cent (18.1%) was Physical Science students. Likewise, the participated students from Commerce and Arts were respectively as 21.9 % and 29%. Out of the total, Technology students was only 16.1%.

As one of the initial finding of this study, Fig.1 reveals the average total spending hours on Social media. It says, most of the students spend around two (2) hours per day on social media. Likewise, seventy-nine (79) students out of total (23%) are spending around two to three hours to roaming in social media per day. Furthermore, it is unfortunate to declare through our study that twenty-five students out of three-hundred and forty-two (342) student, it is around 8% wasting more than five (5) hours on these kinds of social networks.

Meanwhile, it is interesting to see that 19 students are using none of these, which includes five girls and 12 boys.

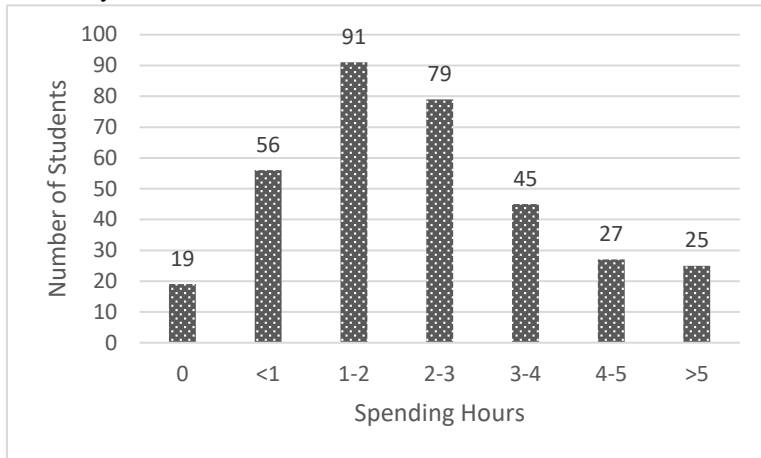


Fig. 1. Average total spending hours on social media

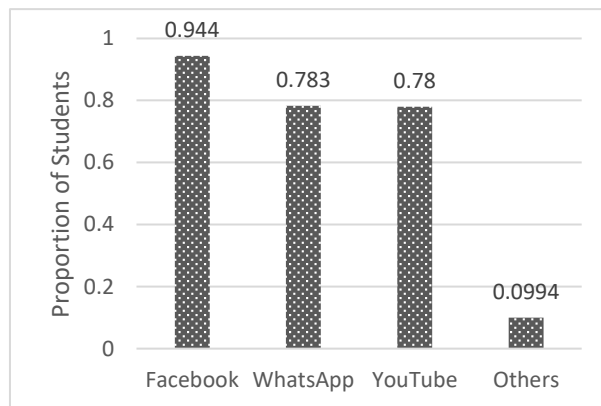


Fig. 2. proportion of students on social media types

Above Fig. 2 depicts the using social media type against the proportion of students. It says that the students are using different types of social networking apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and some others like Twitter. Among the types of social media, the majority of the students are engaged with Facebook. The WhatsApp took up the second place to drain the valuable hours of our respondents. In this proportion of sample data for Facebook, around 89% of students were boys, and 11% were girls. Nevertheless, in the case of the proportion of WhatsApp, boys and girls both take approximately the same 50%, even though the sample comprises of 70% and 30% of boys and girls respectively.

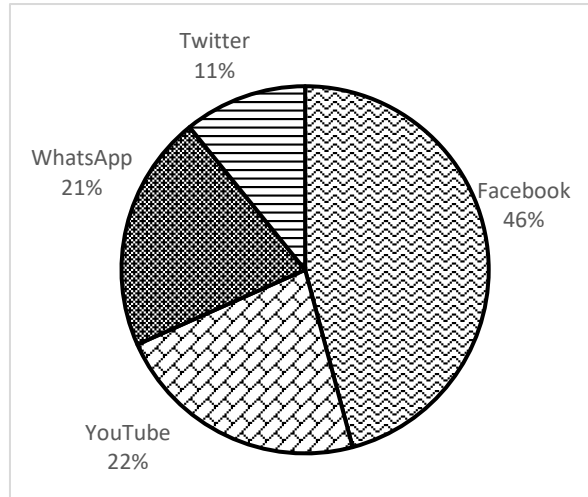


Fig. 3. Social media preference of Boys student

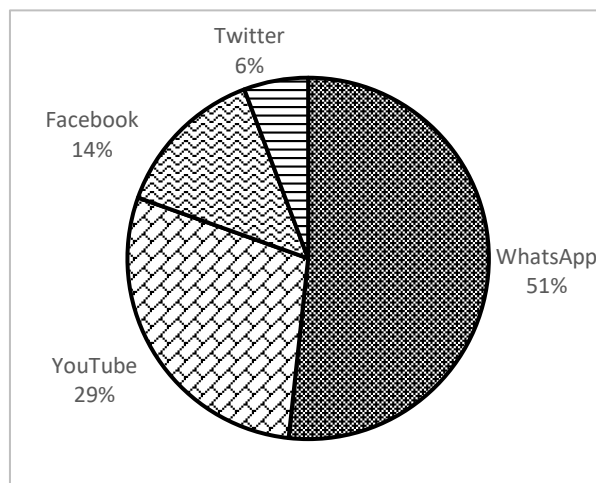


Fig. 4. Social media preference of Girls student

Meanwhile, when we separate the preference on the type of social media of boys' students, we can conclude that boys are engaged on Facebook mostly, the second preference is given to YouTube, and the third and fourth given to WhatsApp and Twitter respectively (see Fig. 3). Conversely, the students of girls' preference say that WhatsApp got the most preference by half of the girls, and the second has given to YouTube (see Fig. 4). Facebook had sent out to the third place and Twitter in fourth place. From these two figures, it can be said that the app Twitter is not that much impact on the studies of students' and other social media platforms than these four are almost out of use.

An undeniable fact that whatever the work we do by spending our valuable hours which whether the impact on us positively or not, but which should not impact as negatively. The next finding through Fig. 5 represents that these social media platforms affect the student's life negatively. Almost half of the students are distracted from the studies due to social networking and time wastage. Around 47% of students are using the SN as a helping tool for

their study purpose. Just a 5% feels as no any effect by these social media which exclude the students those who are not using any of this social networking.

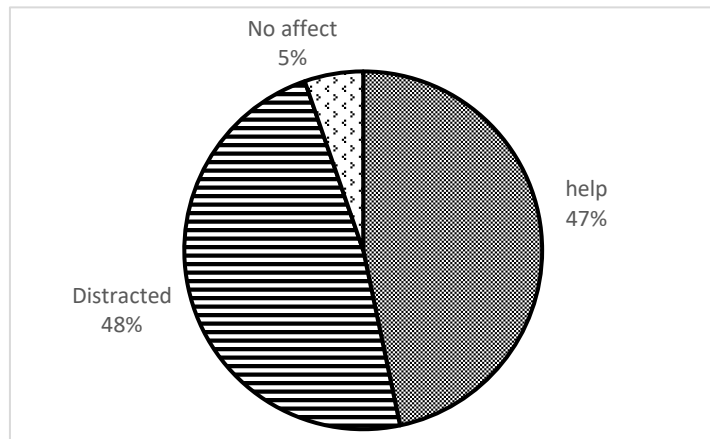


Fig. 5. Self-statement on Social media usage

Another finding of our study says as 48% of students use SN to communicate with peer and talk about the studies. Moreover, thirty-seven percentage (37%) of students refer to the study materials and get more knowledge on their subjects as well as, half of the students use to entertain and to get some general knowledge. As an assumption, we can say that the Sri Lankan government has introduced IT related subjects in their secondary education syllabus. The progression of the selection of IT related subject in advanced level significantly increases from the year 2015 [9] which may be one of the reasons for the increased usage of these kinds of IT related social networks by the school students. Wiseworse, it can be said that the students those who are interested in this kind of IT related technologies might prefer to choose IT related education.

Whatever the practice being followed, if the final performance of the school students is satisfied, then that practice could be accepted. Conversely, it should be considered to reform. Therefore, we thought to analyse these student's performance on final exams to see the impact of Social media.

The performance of the final term test of the students was classified into three classes as good, average, and lower. Overall, we found that the performance of students those who are engaging with social media negatively correlated with the number of social media sites which are subscribed by the students ($r = -0.19$; $p = 0.001$), and also the performance negatively correlated with the number hours spent on social media. Both of these results indicate that spending more time on social network distracts away from their studies. As all we thought, the number of hours spending on studies per day negatively correlated with the number of hours spent on social media platforms ($r = -0.22$; $p = 0.001$). However, this correlation was firmly fit with the case of boy students.

5 Conclusion

According to this study, the type of social media popularly used by school students, and helps for the improvement of extra curriculum activities. While there are many contradictions thought of wrong usage and behaviours in social networks. Moreover, the results show that Facebook is the most popular, followed by the WhatsApp, YouTube the rest are rarely used, and some are ultimately not in use. In this proportion of sample data for Facebook, around 89% of students were boys, and 11% were girls. Nevertheless, in the case of the proportion of WhatsApp, boys and girls both take approximately the same 50%, even though the sample comprises of 70% and 30% of boys and girls respectively.

The studying hours get decrease while the spending time on social media is increase. Therefore, the performance of school students is negatively correlated to social media usage and frequency of using. Students are using social media mostly at night than the day; this leads to inadequate sleeping quantity of the student. Around half of the students are distracted from the studies due to social networking and time wastage. Wise worse, a significant number of students are using the SN as a helping tool for their study purpose. Just a 5% gets no effect by social media from those who are using any social networking platform.

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