

The Impact of Social Networking on New Age Teaching and Learning: An Overview

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Abstract

This paper illustrates how social media has influenced teaching and learning at present and how it's a biggest and most comfortable communication zone. In present scenario, social networking seems to have had a deep impact on our social structure and intrasocial interaction. It has proved to be a concept that has caught the human society by storm. One of the monumental achievement is, this Social Media has created a realm of digital environment in today's New Age Teaching And Learning. However, social networking can be defined as an online computer network through which people interact and bond with each other. In simple words, it is virtually, society, where one can know other people and communicate with them. Undoubtedly and Unquestionably, its an emphatic assertion, that we find a social networking global phenomenon that has caused a huge paradigm shift in the world of New Age Teaching And Learning and in the field of communication.

Keywords: Social media, Learning beyond the classroom approach, connected approach of learning, Collaborative generation, language teaching, learning style

Introduction

Undoubtedly and unquestionably, social media has become ubiquitous in the daily personal lives of new age teaching and learning. This paper explains how students and teaching community are well acquainted with the emerging trend. It's unbelievable but true that over a short period of time, social media has ubiquitous. The social constructivism theory is based on how socialization and interaction with other people can help students learn and cosntruct their own knowledge and personal learning processes. Social medias can be seen as a set of cosntructivist tools that can facilitate participative learning module that is being introduced in new age teaching and learning.

Background Objective of Social Media on New Age Teaching and Learning

Social media does not aim to replace traditional learning, but can supplement the landscape of traditional learning by adding more tools at its disposal. The type of learning and assessment used in traditional education needs to evolve in order to adapt to an increasingly network world. Instead of just using a white board and power point presentation for a lecture, interactive materials can come from online videos, photos, blogs, interactive dialogue can also come from discussion boards, online forums, virtual meetings and recorded text messaging transcripts on social media sites. Social media also transforms the role of the educator from being a content provider to a content interpreter of a skill developer. The learning environment has become more fluid, with students being able to make feedback and exchange with regards to study tools.

Current Status of New Age Teaching and Learning

New Age Teaching and Learning has come of age, which is no longer confined in the four walls of a language classroom. With a boom in science and technology, one can see communication proliferating in the bosom of some today's highly popularized social networking sites.

People from different strata of society seem to be very much engrossed in these technological innovations. Jan 16, 1978, this was the day that Social Network was born. All of today's Social Network are descendants of CBBS (Computerized Bulletin Board System), created in two seeks by ward Christensen and randy success.

It enabled members of Chicago area computer hobbyists exchange to port and view notices on an electronic bulletin board effectively becoming the world's first on line community.

Impacts of Social Media on Teaching and Learning

Social Media create a new community where teachers and students do not have to communicate by means of the traditional face-to-face classroom environment. The brand-new changing way of teaching-learning environment definitely brings about impacts. The impacts of Social Media for teaching and learning are reflected by the teaching-learning styles, teacher-student roles, and affective-attitudinal effects.

Teaching and Learning Styles

The formal use of Social Media can be recognized as a combination of online and traditional classroom teaching as proposed by Schmidt and Brown (2004). They believe that such a combination could enhance the teaching and learning environment as well as technology literacy of both students and teachers. The quality of experiential learning needs to be achieved by examining the teaching style; assessing the students' preferred learning styles; knowing about online and traditional teaching and learning tools and how to select them; and lastly, reflecting, implementing and revising the online teaching plan. The process will be more effective if classroom action research is implemented by teachers along the way (Schmidt, 2002).

For learners, independency and autonomy are necessary learning styles to be successful online language learners, especially in the distance learning context (White, 2004). White also claimed that online learners' characteristics must include the ability to "identify, participate in and manage learning experiences, which match their individual learning needs" in order to gain any benefit from the new learning mode. Identifying online learner's learning styles can be obtained by online instrumentation. Graf et al. (2009) developed a tool; "Detecting Learning Styles" (DeLeS) is a computer program that helps find out the learning styles of students participating in online courses. They found that students have the sensing/intuitive dimension, the active/reflective and sequential/global dimension in learning online respectively. This means more students like to learn facts and concrete material from their sensory and predictive outcome than get involved in discussing and reflecting on the provided information. The step-by-step learning or holistic learning of knowledge, however, is seen as a last resort. Face book groups, SMS (smart phone), Blogging, live stream- simulate a television studio to teach journalism concepts.

Roles of Social Network Sites

If we make an analytical study, we can realize that, right from a student to a teacher, from a banker to a client, from an employer to an employee and so on busy communicating with a virtual partner or a friend on these networking

Literally, it is interesting that people might not know who their next door neighbor is but they hardly have forgotten who are there on their face book friend

Social networking sites have come to play an important role in developing a person's communication skills. These sites give ample scope to the users to create and edit their profiles, indulge chatting and video chatting, write blogs, etc. the users of such sites can get to learn themselves through 'trial and error method' how to upload photos, create photo albums, delete unwanted snaps, download any data, control privacy setting, shares files, etc. Undoubtedly, these sites have become an effective strategy for improving one's communication as well as technical skills.

Social Media for Teaching and Learning

Originated in the world of social networking, the social media has already bear integrated into an informal education system for decades; i.e. teleconference and distance e learning before it has evolved into a more sophisticated system, e-learning. There is also controversy of using new social media such as face book or web chat. The discussion is varied by many studies, in the end, it is time to re-consider the roles of social media used for education, since it will be or is now unavoidably integrated into our daily lives.

Online learning seems to get connected to the learners through the social medias on the internet. E-learning covers both electronic media used on the campus and off the campus. The content of these educational tools are purposefully crafted as instructional media, and in most cases, evaluation is needed to fulfill the course assignment .

However, Mark Zuckerberg's initial idea for the Facebook page was not aimed at education, but for pleasure and social connection in leisure time.

The Facebook policy states clearly that the application is to, ".....create greater understanding and connection". Social media tools are tools that allow for social interaction and easy creation of content by users. Examples of popular social media tools are Twitter, Facebook, Bloggers, WordPress and YouTube.

Experts are at our fingertips, through our keyboard or cell phones, if we know how to find and connect to them. Content and information are everywhere, not just in text books.

Social media can be an effective tool for teaching and learning. It can help connect students and faculty build professional networks that connect them to communities beyond the classroom. (LBC)

Collaboration Generation

Literally, this is the collaboration age. We can all connect instantly across time zones and oceans. Previously impossible partnerships now produce startling innovations. And the four walls of your classroom no longer limit our student's reach.

To thrive in this always-on community, students and teachers must become agile learners, creators and collaborators. Their success and our country's future depend on it.

Welcome to the Collaborative Age, where ever the youngest among us are on the tapping into what are without questions of the most transformative connecting technologies the world has ever seen. These tools are following us not only to mine the wisdom and experiences of the more than one billion people now online but also to connect with them to further our understanding of the global experience and do good work together, these tools are fast changing, decidedly social and rich with powerful learning opportunities for us all, if we can figure out how to leverage their potential.

For educators and the schools in which they teach, the challenges of this moment are significant. Our ability to learn whatever we want, wherever we want, from whomever we want is rendering the linear, age-grouped, teacher-guided curricula less and less relevant.

The work we create and publish is assessed by the value it brings to the people who read it, reply to it, and remix it. Much of what our students learn from us is unlearned once they leave us, paper is not the best way to share with our works, facts and truths are constantly changing and working together is becoming the norm, not the exception.

The collaboration age is about learning with a decidedly different group of "other" people whom we may not know and may never meet, but who share our passion and interests and are willing to unlearn in exploring them together. It's about being able to form safe, effective networks and communities around these explorations, trust and be trusted in the process, and contribute to the conversations and co-relations that grow from them.

It's about working together to create our own curricula, texts and classrooms built around deep inquiry into the redefining questions of the group. It's about solving problems together and sharing knowledge. We've gained with wide audience.

Social media is a connector. Now-a-days students are getting connected through their thin walls project, in which they connect almost daily through blogs, wikis, Skype, instant messaging more than learning content, the emphasis of these projects is on using the web's social networking tools to teach global collaboration and communication, allowing the students to create their own networks in the process.

In fact we must also expand our ability to think critically about the deluge of information now being produced by millions of amateur authors without traditional editors and researchers as gatekeepers. In fact, we need to rely on trust members of our personal network to help shift through the sea of stuff locating and sharing with us the most relevant, interesting, useful bits and we have to work together to organize it all, as long-held taxonomies of knowledge give way to highly personalized information environment. To somehow we are creating learning partners.

Fortunately, social tools like wikis, blogs, and social-bookmarking sites make working with others across time and space easier than it's ever been. They are indeed "weapons of mass collaboration."

Teaching in the 21st century is so exciting yet frightful as well. Because of the resources, collaboration and opportunities to bridge the academic world with the “real” world. However, it’s frightful because so many options and opportunities exist. More choice equal more stress.

As in face-to-face social situations, our students must be able to discern and maintain proper etiquette on-line. Teachers are playing the role of a facilitator more than an information giver.

By collaborating with our students and seeking out their knowledge, and giving them additional tools for their tools one can only imagine what our students will be able to accomplish.

Students need to be offered opportunities that allow them to explore the global community, and communicate with others from around the world.

Research suggests that almost 80% young people have a profile on a social networking sites such as face book, twitter, I pads , smart phones, and tabs into the learning university.

Now Social Media is an integral part of many young people lives. Because it has discovered their talents. The students who are good at programming are getting their names, the students who are good in music get their videos out and shared leading them to their dreams. And a lot of students are able to freely share their issues and collect various suggestions from their online friends.

Technology generally is making a fundamental change in the way that teachers interact with their classes. In fact, 58% of teachers claim to use IT in every single lesson they teach, while 77% say that they have seen a rise in classroom interaction as a result of students using technology. Research also points to teachers welcoming YouTube, face book, twitter, tabs, I Pads’ and smart phones into the learning environment.

Social media as a teaching tool has a natural collaborative element. Students critique and common on each other’s assignments work in terms to create. Content and can easily access each other at the teacher with discussion social media in education-

Social media education is needed now more than ever.

Social media have important sharing and peer-support element what can be immingle valuable to young people. They allow for information discussions, seeking information, sharing resources and community building, all on one familiar device.

Main Findings

Social Network Sites are creating E-environment at education level. The findings indicated that new technologies are used extensively by the young people featured in the study for personal use, participation in peer discussion and expressing opinions

Much of the use of tools takes place in informal or peer supported context. Therefore, a good proportion of the development of e-skills takes place outside schools, colleges and youth groups.

Professional working with young people could perhaps make, more use of the informal development of e-skills. At the very least, sites such as twitter, face book and My space can be used to create discussion in the classroom. Teachers can collect ideas from other sources. Students can ask questions and facilitate deeper discussion after reading something on one of the thousands Social Media Sites. Students can locate an expert in a field they are interested in.

A new Microsoft survey demonstrates the importance of a connected approach to learning, with responsibilities for both teachers and parents as learning spreads beyond the classroom.

Technology more than an enabler in education

Smart phones, FB, twitter, blogs, wikis are the new tools for networking and knowledge sourcing and haring, Wi-Fi campuses are the new infrastructural benefits, educational campus provide learning innovation, faster replication(viral) through virtual medium are the causes for fast dissemination of knowledge.

Roles of Teachers and Learners

With the Social Media integrated as the new environment of learning, the role of teacher is altered to be less controlled as Dalton(2009)implied from his research result that “teachers should change their role into ‘facilitator’ rather than the ‘giver of knowledge’” and promote more group work and relaxing learning environment.

For Online Distance Learning (ODL) teachers, Easton (2003), claimed that the teachers had two roles in particular, starting from an instructional designer at first to an interaction facilitator when the online courses begins. Duncan and Barnett found that, besides the roles of directing and leading the online learning class to reach the goal, the online teachers also had to be aware of a balance of flexibility of the teaching time and problem solving task that might occur anytime while working in a lesson.

As to student's new roles they have to engage in online task based learning or discussion. This has eliminated the general chatting time better than face to face discussions. (Dalton.2009), Craig et al (2008), asserted that students' views of the best on line language learners consisted of self motivation, punctuality of assignment and originality of work.

Research Indicates That

90% of faculty members are using social media in courses they teach or for professional careers outside the classroom.

Face book and YouTube are mostly used.

30% posted contents related to the course for outside the class learning.

40% of faculty members asked students to view social media as part of course assignment.

20% students asked students to comment in course related posts in social media.

Role in Teaching and Learning

1. A supplementary teaching learning tools.
2. A follow up tool
3. A novel assessment tool
4. A tool to encourage interaction and peer learning.
5. A tool for customized one to one learning between learner and tutor.
6. A tool to measure independent, learning taken away by every learner

Advantages

1. Enables two way communicating in real time.
2. Mitigates geographical constraint
3. Encourages self-placed learning.
4. It is user-friendly.
5. 7*24*365 teaching and learning

However, the recent enthusiasm for Social Media Sites are at zenith.

Especially, virtually every type of language teaching has had its own technologies to support it.

For Language Teachers

The 1980s and 1990s have seen a shift toward communicative language teaching, which empathies student engagement in authentic, meaningful interaction.

Social Media also leads towards cognitive approach, socio cognitive approach, computer-mediated communication in a classroom.

Accessing Resources and publishing on the world wide web. The world of online communication

In summary the advantages of using new technologies in the language class room can only be interpreted in light of the changing goals of language education and the changing conditions in post industrial society. Language educators now seek not only to teach students the rules of grammar, but rather to help them gain apprenticeship into new discourse communities. This is accomplished through creating opportunity for authentic and meaningful interaction both within and outside the classroom, and providing students the tool for this process as it allows students access to online environments of international communication. By these Social Media Sites and with the new technology. We can better prepare our students for the kinds of International cross-cultural interactions which are increasingly required for success in academic, vocational, or personal life.

One of the most reassuring things about Social Media Sites is that they prove that people want to communicate with one another and want to be involved in 'community' - no matter how artificial that community may appear.

Here, students are learning how to make a 'critical thinking' before using the internet to discern worthwhile opinion and knowledge from myth and rumor.

Imagine, the generation of learning has changed since the emerging of internet without Social Media Sites , there is no meaning in life of learning ...

That's why they have created secured life.

Social Media Sites are actively interactive. Students can be involved in the learning process. And there is a broader range of learning capabilities.

Conclusion

Literally, the increasing number of research regarding social media and its use in different areas, most especially in education gives proof that it can lead to a significant change in how we structure learning spheres in the future. It has the potential to change the traditional relationship between teachers and students, thus giving more control and guidance to motivate students which can results in a more satisfactory learning experience. A growing number of educators are using the advantages social media offers in the classroom to engage into a more dynamic dialogue with students and other faculty members. Literally, the use of social media makes us to provide a new and innovative dimension in the whole educational process in order to enable student adapt to a future where everything rapidly evolves. Undoubtedly, it has created an E-Environment in the realm of New Age Education. An overwhelming majority report that they believe that Social Media Sites are valuable tools for teaching, and a majority report that Social Media Sites can be valuable tools for collaborative learning. It is an emphatic assertion that " Social Media Sites are not a part of our life, it is fully part of our living."

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