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**Title: Social Networking Sites and Education: A Study among the Students of Senior  
Secondary Schools**

### **Abstract**

Keywords: Social Networking Sites, Facebook, Collaborative Learning, Education,  
School Students

#### **Introduction**

Social networking sites uses are starting to emerge as an educational tool in college classrooms. Researches have established that internet users join SNSs for staying in touch with old friends, make new friends, develop connections and relationships, etc. Facebook helps in fostering positive relationships among students with their peers, and achieve motivation to learn. They actively participate in the socialization process of Facebook. The communication with the teachers reaches a new level on Facebook, which proves beneficial in their learning process. The perceptions of teachers towards the educational use of Facebook is moderate. But, in the best interests of students, a teachers' role and guidance is important. **Selwyn (2009)** reported that Facebook as an educational tool helped in developing communications and interactions on the relationship between students and teachers outside the classes. **Ajjan & Hartshone's (2008)** study showed that when used for educational purposes social networking websites stimulate communication between students and the interest they show in lessons. To explore the potentiality and strengths of social networking sites in collaborative learning of students the present study was designed for research work. The education is thus shifted from being teacher-centered to learning processes which is social, active, reflective, and experiential. Few studies explore the link between SNS use and education. Missing from this research are the actual voices and experiences of students of senior secondary school.

## **Objectives of the Study**

1. To understand social networking and the various tools available on the internet for it.
2. To study the internet usage pattern of the students of senior secondary schools.
3. To explore the awareness about social networking sites of the students of senior secondary schools.
4. To study the Facebook usage pattern of students of senior secondary schools.
5. To study students' motivation to use Facebook in education.
6. To explore students' experiences regarding the potential educational use of Facebook.
7. To study the perceptions of teachers towards the educational use of Facebook.

The researcher conducted descriptive survey wherein, in which the sample of the study was students and teachers of senior secondary schools. The study will involve mixed method approach for analysis. Both quantitative and qualitative methods will be used for study purpose. The sample for the present study was selected through simple random sampling and the sample for the present study comprised of 10 private senior secondary schools, 100 teachers and 500 students from private senior secondary schools.

**Tools used in the Study:** Researcher used following mentioned 6 self- constructed tools:

2. A rating scale for Students
3. A close ended questionnaire for students
4. An interview schedule for students
5. A questionnaire-cum- rating scale for teachers
6. A partially structured interview schedule for teachers.

## **Findings of the Study:**

The motivations of the students to use Facebook in education is related to collaboration of learning on Facebook and its' user friendly interface. The students were highly motivated to use Facebook because of peer interaction & feedback. The friends with whom they socialize and collaborate help them in giving feedback. The interaction process with their peers on Facebook proved beneficial to the students. The other motivation factors including information sharing, teacher interaction & feedback contribute moderately to use of Facebook in education by the students of senior secondary schools. The survey revealed that the students had good experiences in relation to learner centered approach of learning. However, in relation to supplemental learning and collaboration, the experiences were moderate. According to students, the teachers'

involvement on Facebook required considerable efforts. The students suggested various ways and techniques to be employed by teachers for helping the experiences on Facebook grow beneficial. The teachers' awareness was significant in relation to social networks and Facebook as well. However, their perception regarding the educational use of Facebook was low positive. The teachers believed that Facebook has immense potentials, but several challenges were faced in incorporating it for teaching- learning process. There was a low positive perception regarding Facebook usage in education. The possible reasons could be the strenuous schedule of teachers, low technological skills, costs, privacy concerns, etc. however, those teachers who utilize the potentials of Facebook find it interesting and great for learning process.