

**College of Education for Humanities**

**English Department**



**Ph. D. Studies/ Methodology**

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**Methods of Teaching**

**“Social Media and Collaborative Learning”**

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## **1. Introduction**

Social media can play an important role in collaborative learning. One of the greatest importance of collaborative learning is the role to create trust among the group. In the last few years, the rapid growth in the emerging mobile technologies has resulted in a new category of social media which offers an efficient mechanism for communication, collaboration, and building connections among its users. This fast development of information technologies makes it necessary to boost the assimilation of social media into current academic applications and other related expansions. Social media consists of a variety of web-based tools which enable their users to distribute and share new ideas, thoughts, and information in a more interactive and virtual environment. More and more, instructors are integrating social media in order to engage students, teachers, and prompt collaborative learning. The popularity of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Google in class sessions is gaining, as is the use of new technologies such as tablets, computers and smartphones, on which social media can easily be accessed. Though more conventional technologies such as computers, laptops, and so forth are still used in instruction, there is a shift away from these and toward handheld devices. Two reasons for this may be cost and ease of use, because these technologies and platform are relatively new in education, it is difficult to determine exactly why they are so popular.

## **2 . Social media and Education:**

A Connection Social media has influenced all spheres of life either social, political, economic and educational. In education scenario, this media enhances learning opportunities for students along with wider scope for 24x7 interactions of students with teachers. The importance and influence of social media in the field of education is evident from the fact that Indian govt. is taking initiatives to launch its own educational social network. The Rajasthan government Information technology department plans on launching its own education social network: like Facebook, for learning. This site will include all the standard features of social networking (photos, games) but will be focused primarily on educational collaboration and will include topic experts jumping in to answer questions raised by users. (Kirkpatrick, 2011).

The role of social media in the field of education is demonstrated by the following points given below:

1-Self-paced learning: Sites that are designed for educational purposes are known as educational sites.

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3-Skill-development: Through blogging students can be engaged in practical work which can enhance their skills.

4- Rapid spread of information and higher level of engagement: Social media acts as a faster medium of disseminating information regarding exams and particular topic, seminar or conference from one point to other.

5-Flexibility in learning: Social networking adds an element of flexibility in learning. These educational sites allow learners to select learning material according to their interest and knowledge.

6-Enhancement in student interaction: The integration of Social Media technology facilitates students' participation, interaction, and writing/literacy development. (Zheng, 2013). This media can enhance teacher-student interaction and serve as a 'communication' forum in educational settings (Williams, 2012).

7-Collaborative learning: Social media provides support for collaborative learning. (Lockyer & Patterson, 2008).

8-Inclusive learning: Easy use and accessibility of social media creates an inclusive learning environment. Students with disabilities benefit from same learning experiences using social media as their non-disabled peers (Asuncion et al., 2012).

9-Fast curriculum delivery system: Integrating social media in education system assist the process of curriculum delivery system and extend learning environment to real world and to enrich students learning experiences with real life experiences ( Liu, 2013).

10-Geographical distance is no more constrain for attaining educational experience. 11-24x7 scope for teacher student interaction: Social media provides platform for 24x7 teacher student interaction.

### **3 . Factors of Collaborative Learning**

Here are the significant factors of collaborative learning on basis of social media usage or the impact of social media in collaborative learning.

1. Engagement: Student's engagement signifies both time and effort and they indicate that peers are extremely influential to student learning.
2. Perceived Ease of Use: Perceived simplicity of use is related to the individual's thought that using the brand new technology requires less effort.
3. Perceived Usefulness: Perceived usefulness was understood to be “the degree that an individual thinks that utilizing a specific system would increase his/her performance”.
4. Positive Interdependence: Individual responsibility and group cohesion correspond with two concepts that are central in collaborative learning .
5. Individual Accountability: Individual accountability refers to the degree to which group members are held individually accountable for jobs, tasks or duties central to a groups' functioning.
6. Active Learning: Active learning was enabled by social collaboration. For instance, asking questions of other learners, agreeing with other learners and explaining why, and sometimes disagreeing with other learners and explaining why.
7. Group Processing: Students, who are frequent social media users and also users of the traditional learning management systems, considered collaborative learning as a complement to social media which they also think complements face to face education settings.

### **4 . The 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:

1-the teaching-learning styles .

2-teacher-student roles .

3- and affective-attitudinal effects.

## **5 . 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:

- 1- assessing the students preferred learning styles.
- 2- knowing about online and traditional teaching.
- 3- learning tools and how to select them.
- 4- lastly, reflecting, implementing and revising the online teaching plan.