

To study present status of social media competencies among inservice teachers

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Abstract: In this paper researcher survey the social media competencies among Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) students, highlights their skills, awareness, and responsible use of social media platforms for educational and personal development. As digital literacy becomes integral to modern education, understanding the proficiency levels and challenges faced by future educators is essential. The research make use of a descriptive survey method, collecting data through structured questionnaires from a representative sample of B.Ed students. Findings reveal varying levels of social media competence, influenced by factors such as digital literacy, access to technology, and awareness of ethical considerations. The study underscores the need for integrating social media training into teacher education curricula to enhance students' effective and responsible use of digital tools in their professional practice. Recommendations include targeted workshops, curriculum enhancements, and continuous skill development initiatives to prepare B.Ed students as capable digital educators in the evolving educational landscape.

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Key words: Social media competencies, uses of social media sources and responsible use of social media sources etc.

INTRODUCTION:

Social media competencies refer to the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively use and understand social media platforms. These competencies include technical skills for navigating platforms, social skills for engaging with others, and critical thinking skills for evaluating information and online content. They are essential for individuals and organizations to navigate the digital landscape, communicate effectively, and participate responsibly in online communities.

This involves understanding how to use different social media platforms, create and share content, manage profiles, and utilize relevant tools for scheduling, analytics, and community management. This encompasses the ability to communicate effectively, build relationships, engage in conversations, and participate in online communities.

Students need social media competencies to participate effectively in online learning environments, collaborate with peers, and develop professional online presence.

Individuals need social media competencies to stay informed, connect with friends and family, and participate in online communities.

Need & Importance:

Study is required to enhance knowledge of social media sources. To make the students aware through the social media, variety knowledge can be required. Study is

needed to solve the problems in its effectiveness.

The study will for sure cure the problems which comes in education. The Educational Institutes need skilled practitioner to make effective use of social media source

The use of social media sources in education will be a good teaching aid to make the teaching learning process more interesting and to gain more knowledge in the education.

Objectives:

1. To study the present status of social media competencies in the field of education
2. To study the challenges of social media sources in the field of education.

Literature Review:

ICT has tremendous potential and educational value for making the teaching learning process more meaningful, easy and realistic. The advent of the digital age has revolutionized communication and informationsharing. Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube, have become integral components of daily life for many individuals, particularly students. As of 2023, over 4.5 billion people worldwide use social media, highlighting its significance in contemporary society (Statista, 2023). Understanding how these platforms can be effectively utilized in educational settings is crucial for educators, administrators, and policymakers. Previous studies

highlight the increasing trend of integrating social media into educational frameworks. According to Eger et al. (2018), educators are utilizing social media to create virtual classrooms and collaborative projects, thereby enhancing interactive learning. Additionally, social media platforms can serve as supplementary tools for distributing course content, promoting discussions, and facilitating peer-to-peer learning (Harris & Brannick, 2019).

Methodology:

A survey instrument was developed in order to assess the sample. The researcher used a questionnaire for the students from the different B.Ed colleges affiliated to university of Pune. The questionnaire consisted of two types of questions- open ended type and closed ended. Ten open ended questions were prepared by researcher, and 10 questions with Mcq closed type of questions were consisted in a questionnaire. The aim is to collect diverse perspectives on the use of social media in education.

Analysis & interpretation:

The data was analyzed as:

Part 1- Data obtained from students.

Questionnaire responses for open ended questions were recorded by frequency an improvement .

Responses for open ended questions were recorded by frequency analysis. For closedended questions of Mcq type, the percentage was calculated for each response andfor interpretation the scale was used by the researcher as shown:

Findings of the study:

Part 1) Interpretation from data obtained from students-

a) About sources of social media competencies:

1. Growing Awareness: Many B.Ed students are increasingly aware of social media platforms and their potential for educational purposes.

2. Utilization for Teaching: Some students effectively incorporate social media tools like WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to facilitate communication, collaborative learning, and resource sharing.

3. Digital Literacy Development: Exposure to social media has improved students' digital literacy skills, which are essential for modern educational practices.

4. Professional Development: B.Ed programs increasingly emphasize the integration of social media skills in teacher training modules.

5. Most of the students were using different competencies of social media in education for content or participating in discussion through blogging, sharing information inthe form of images, videos, messages etc.

6. Most of the students were agreed on use of social media insolving educational problems.

7. Less number of students from various b.ed colleges said that social media sources are useful in academic discussion while very few of them use these sources for course material downloading and uploading and notes taking.

About challenges in using social media

(Qualitative analysis):

Challenges Faced by B.Ed Students in Developing Social Media Competencies:

1. Lack of Formal Training: Many students lack structured training on how to use social media effectively and responsibly in educational contexts.

2. Digital Divide: Limited access to technology or internet connectivity hampers some students' ability to develop and apply social media skills

3. Negative Influences: Exposure to cyberbullying, inappropriate content, and distractions can hinder effective competency development.

4. Sometimes technical skills and support needed.

5. Lack of social media and technological knowledge .

6. Accessibility to technical support.

7. Expensive to use internet by using own mobile data.

Conclusion:

B.Ed. students generally recognize the importance of social media as a tool for professional development, collaboration, and innovative teaching practices. However, their proficiency in effectively utilizing social media platforms remains varied, indicating a gap in comprehensive social media competencies. Challenges such as lack of technical skills, awareness of ethical issues, digital literacy, and critical evaluation of online content hinder their effective use of social media for educational purposes.

By developing social media competencies, individuals can become more effective users of social media, contribute to positive online interactions, and navigate the digital world with greater confidence and understanding. By developing and utilizing social media competencies, individuals and organizations can harness the power of social media to achieve their goals, build meaningful connections, and navigate the digital landscape effectively.

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