

Report

SE6111-Social Computing

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Social Network Analysis: Looking at Google Docs for Teaching

1. Introduction

Google Docs, a collaboration tool by Google, has revolutionized how people undertake their activities for a project. It enables people to collaborate on content creation and editing in real time making the platform suitable for learning, working, and policy making. In the field of education, Google Docs is widely used in learning, collaboration, and sharing resources. The collaboration tools like real time cooperation, commenting, and version history make the work collective and foster learning.

2. Google Docs in Education

Google Docs is an important tool that can be used to facilitate students and teachers interaction. It allows you to coordinate group work, where more than one user can edit the content, make changes to it or add their feedback at the same time. For example when a group of students is assigned a group project, they are able to write report together, allocate tasks, and keep records of each member's input securely. Teachers can view the performance level of students, they can pass a comment on what has been done by the students using the comment feature and also promote group learning whereby students are grouped to perform certain roles.

Also, Google docs makes some of the work burdensome for educators less of a hassle to handle. Students apply it to submit their works, obtain handouts and guidelines from the educators, and store lessons in one place. As is connected with other services of Google Workspace such as Google Sheets or Google Slides, it creates a convenient system for working with educational assignments. The automatic save function lowers the conceivable chances of data loss, making it pleasant for both students and teachers.

3. Use of SNA Concepts

Google Docs used in a particular context gives Social Network Analysis (SNA) a framework for analyzing interactions. In such context, the users (students and teachers) play the role of vertices while the documents shared in such setting play the role of edges. The strength of

these connections can be determined previously defined similarity parameters such as the number of interactions, editing, and comments.

If one has to look for highly active participants in a group project, they are referred to as the nodes of the network. These students tend to assume leadership responsibilities to the particular document by making the most revisions, or by helping to lead the group through the comments section. In contrast, peripheral nodes may reflect less engaged actors, and thus show areas of possibly weak interaction. These findings are useful to teachers because they can use them to gauge who is participating more or less in discussion and who may require supplementary attention.

Google Docs therefore encourages decentralized participation as every participant is allowed to contribute at any one time regardless of their physical location. This is a very paradigmatic change from vertical learning models that other cultures that follow the traditional leadership system entail. For this reason, it supports interaction and feedback and creates a climate that encourages the students' success.

4. Benefits of Using Google Docs in Education

Enhanced Accessibility: In addition, the use of Google Docs allows users to work in the cloud and therefore can be used on any device with internet connection – for students and educators. Interactivity coupled with flexibility is most useful for remote learning.

Improved Accountability: The changes made to tasks can be tracked to the individual user level, enhancing responsibility in group assignments.

Interactive Learning: Commenting, suggesting edits, and using links or multimedia objects make students engage.

Eco-Friendly Alternative: Eliminating the use of paper in a way that Google Docs does makes education more sustainable.

5. Challenges and Limitations

As much as Google Docs has its advantages, it also has its drawbacks. Internet dependency becomes a problem when it hampers the access to teaching and other learning materials as experienced by students in geographical locations that have poor connection. Furthermore, often use of technology as a teaching aid might lower the frequency of direct contacts that are

important to build some interpersonal skills. This is especially true as personal and business data is stored on the cloud space; this brings up privacy issues.

6. Conclusion

Google Docs is very useful tool that can be used in education for collaboration and increase productivity. Using Social Network Analysis, practitioners learn more about group interaction patterns and can recommend the best learning partnership. However there are some drawbacks, the tool is quite useful to connect the users, increase the transparency and provide feedbacks in real time manner in today's complex education system. The steady advancements observed will make it possible for it to continue being a critical component of collaborative learning in the present and the future.