

The Role of Social Network In Higher Education

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1 Abstract

Social networks are some of the most important aspects of people all over the world. With internet, social networks have been made easy with a greater idea of social networking sites which allow people to interact from wherever place they may be. With social networks, you find that a lot of information passes around therefore everyone can get it as long as you are connected to at least one social networking site. Social networks can be in the form of social networking sites, blogs, instant messaging, vlogs. Social networking sites can be web based, mobile applications. Discussion boards, internet forums, chat rooms and many others. Some of the examples of social networking sites include Facebook, Twitter, Piazza and so on. The social networks have not only been left in only business but also most of the higher Education platforms have had a test of their wonders. With smartphones, tablets, and other gadgets, one can easily plug-in virtually whenever you desire.

2 Higher Education Institutions

With the institutes they tend to make good use of the social networks through social networking sites. Providing quality and variety of information to their students, this information could be about scholarships, and many more events.

In most of the highly developing countries most teachers can even hold live lectures on the social media platforms like Twitter there by engaging their students in the social networking life. Currently most of Universities even engage their new student who are applying for vacancies in the university to use online platform for their applications (Makerere University from 2016- now). Research universities that engage in social media have shown to be the leading universities among other online.

3 Higher Education Students

In Douglas Thomas,s and John Seely-Brown,s(2011) description 'new culture of learning', they indicated that with this new change of technology, there would be a learning based around principles of collective exploration, play and innovation rather than individualized instructions.

Apparently in most higher education institution, most teachers/lecturers advise their students to join these social networking platforms and also encouraging them to form social network groups so that they as students can interact freely with their lecturers on these platforms. Most lecturers tend to believe that having students interact with them may make some of those students who rarely make contributions to open up while using these platforms and most time encourage them to make anonymous posts or comments as some students like keeping them selves more private. With social networking also students who maynot have understood the concept in class may ask their colleagues who may have understood to explain to them and here they may easily grasp as this respondent is someone they are so close or even more easy to understand in terms of explanations than the teacher.

However not all students make use of social networking platforms for only academics, some use them for aking connectins just like someone saysIt has the power to influence people to invest in you(or divest) in you(Joel 2009), others make use of the social networking sites for only personal matters and this is the greatest percentage.You find that most students spend almost half of their time chatting, instant messaging and making freinds.

4 Conclusion

Even though social networking can have some issues once not used well, social networks are the most important aspects as they expose as to other people and this can lead to exchange of abilities among students as they get to know each other's strength and weaknesses hence highly encouraeged for every student to engage in social network for team work is the strength.