**Role of Social Media in Improving Student Learning Experience through Collaborative Learning**

Collaborative learning is an educational technique whereby two or more people in groups work together to learn, resolve an issue, complete a task or evaluate each other’s ideas. Primarily, it aims at creating a positive and serene learning environment for students who prefer working together rather than independently. Consequently, collaborative learning is an ideal platform for students to learn through getting to know their peers’ perspective. Collaborative learning has been proven to generate positive outcomes, owing to the influence of social media. Social media is becoming an eminent part of human lives, and thus its integration to educational techniques serves a pivotal role. Social media has the potential power to facilitate higher-level learning outcomes. This is attained through its capacity to facilitate collaboration, which ultimately leads to relationship development among the students. Furthermore, it provides instantaneous opportunities for curriculum dissemination and enhancement, which is external to the actual classroom.

Social media allows the students to create, edit and share the course content in various formats; textual, video or audio. In return, the technological innovations alter the learning cultures, such that it is based on the principles of collective exploration and interaction. Collaborative learning entails series of interaction and the student establishing connection with the curricula. In this context, social media permits the extension of the learning environment considering only a given extent of learning occurs in classes. Thus, the teachers are forced to identify the effective methods that will assist in the integration of social media into classes. In the process, the students’ become creative and are able to explore the curricula content. Accordingly, social media platforms increase the level of ease through which the students can access resources and interact with their mentors and colleagues.

Social media for collaborative learning allows the students to be physically and mentally involved in the learning process. Lecturers and instructors using social media are responsible to promote student creativity and assessing activities. Additionally, through social media, the lecturers can explain the misunderstanding arising from the content area and knowledge creation in order to sustain the learning environment integrity. Depending on the depth of familiarity with the platforms, the lecturers may have come across effective methods which the can successfully integrate in the curricula. However, intentionality is key, thus the need to use social media purposefully, only in contexts favorable for learning. To achieve positive outcomes, the lecturers ought to ensure they successfully social media in their instruction methods. The approach favors alignment with the learning outcomes, which ultimately improve academic performance. Primarily, the lecturers need to be available for the students, and avoid making assumptions considering some students may be unfamiliar with the social media platforms. While social media possesses the ability to favor collaborative learning, the educators ought to be watchful for distractors and over-stimulation of given types of social media.

From a social media standpoint, engagement leads to a learning environment with increased collaboration and communication. It is attributed to peer discussions and interactions which ultimately develop a higher sense of student community. When the students enjoy their engagement on the platforms, it eventually translates to positive outcomes. Furthermore, the degree of student’s perceptions of community is bound to be influenced by the presence of social networks. Student engagement is a representation of the time and determination learners devote in the integrative and educational activities. Through the engagement process, the students’ ability to closely relate with their peers and mentors is reinforced. Findings from a study report how Facebook has motivated inactive students to increase their participation in learning activities. Notably, Facebook benefits university students such that they engage in a range of team work, organizational amid other activities that are deemed important for their employability. Similarly, Twitter has been a favorable platform for mental and social engagement. Ultimately, the students are able to stay informed in a dynamic information world.

Due to the increased use of social media by young adults and adolescents, collaborative learning environments can be formed intentionally and unintentionally. Integration of social media in the traditional online technology platforms like Blackboard will go a long way in revolutionizing learning. While the technology platforms have a provision for interaction amongst students, social media has improved the level of engagement and interaction. Participation of all students is encouraged, particularly in contexts where others shy away from providing their opinion on given matters. The environment fosters the ability for students to develop responsibility for each other. Social media is designed such that knowledge sharing is interdependent. Therefore, students who have mastered a given area of study have the responsibility to share with other students, which becomes easier over social media. In case they need to make consultations, the students can reach out to experts. This aids in developing an open collaborative system which expands their knowledge base due to the level of direct communication made.

Students leveraging social media develop an emotional connection with their peers, developing the empathy to offer assistance when the need arises. The previous learning models restricted educators to a specific syllabus which was to be implemented only in the classroom setting. This was to their disadvantage considering it denied students the opportunity to expand their knowledge using other forms of learning. However, social media has shifted the narrative by granting the students the freedom to go beyond the borders of the syllabus. Through the interaction process, unlimited ideas are unravelled, hence an effective opportunity to expand their knowledge base and increase intellectual level of students. Additionally, social media encourages creative writing, mutual work and self-paced learning among the students. A major advantage of self-paced learning is grounded in its ability to provide students with the chance to comprehend the content, without being rushed by the educators. Essentially, the depth of mastery improves due to the ability to learn from the perspective of others.

Social media aids in generating perceived enjoyment as the stimulating factor for the students. As the students use the different platforms, they derive pleasure from the experience they obtain. Similar to the operation of websites, the degree of interactivity determines whether it will be a pleasurable experience. When students interact, they develop virtual relationships through which the users access a diversified set of information from multiple sources. Social media favors school faculties too, by allowing the sharing of teaching material, easing the access of the class content. Moreover, today’s learners are flexible enough to incorporate the different techniques in multiple aspects of boosting their learning capabilities. Social media is an essential tool in the development process of students as learning tends to be influenced by their participation in the community. Technology has revolutionized the entire world, with majority working and learning remotely. The skills acquired from the knowledge gained by the learners allow them to interact with the communities. While teaching the communities, the students learn by working collaboratively to increase their knowledge base.

Social media improves collaborative learning through the perceived eases of use. This highlights the learner’s line of thoughts whereby the use of the platforms demands less effort. Due to their tender age, students find it easy to use the various platforms, and require less effort. This increases their optimism hence the overall frequency of use, contrary to the face to face interactions. While they continue to chat, the learners perception of social media changes, embracing it as an ideal way of performing their class duties, revision and discussions. Furthermore, the learners’ depth of satisfaction increases during the process of collaborative learning. The perceived usefulness of social media platforms leads them to have an optimistic connection to their individual learning encounters. Furthermore, the level of satisfaction has consequences on the manner in which the students interact. For instance, it entails whether everybody does their areas of work and the ability to concentrate on the given topic. Accordingly, students taking advantage of the integration of social media in class manifest higher relationship with their peers in comparison to those without. Social media operates by allowing students to categorize themselves with likeminded people, seeking to enhance and connect with them.

The use of social media has been widely considered based on its potential to improve collaborative learning in students. First, students will be able to connect with current and potential educators and experts, to deliver instructional content. The social media tools increase the depth of interactivity between learners and the educators. In the process, it establishes a learning environment favorable for student learning. Notably, student engagement is highest in social media, allowing the students to develop creativity in the forms of exploring the curricula. Social media also plays a major role in empowering the students to develop responsibility for each other. Implementing a conjoined approach allows individual students to work on their areas of weakness. Social collaborative learning platforms empowers the students with the freedom to explore content outside the class syllabus, hence increasing their knowledge base. Accordingly, it is evident that social media plays a pivotal role in improving student learning experiences through collaborative learning.