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A Survey on Social Networking to Enhance the Teaching and Learning Process

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Abstract: Nowadays social networking is becoming more and more powerful tool for the young generation for communication and sharing of information. People have started using the social networking sites for different purposes. The common reason behind use of the social networking is to stay in touch with friends, share each and every event with friends and that's too free of cost. But if we think about learning on social networking platform then it becomes very easy to learn while having fun with the friends. This paper shows features that are already available for the students and professors for learning and teaching, while some of them are required to incorporate to enhance the learning process over the social networking website "Facebook".

Keywords: Learning using Social networking, E-learning, enhanced learning, future learning process, new learning trends.

I. Introduction:

As we all are aware that current learning process is becoming too old for the new generations; teacher uses old style chalk and board to teach students. [12] Today technology has added some more powerful tools into learning process, like Projector, Screen sharing inside the computer lab. These enhanced features help students to learn easily, this method also helps teacher to deliver the lecture easily with practical demonstration. If you compare the current students with past students, past students are always ready to read the text books and reference books, while current trends we can see the drastic change that students are using the latest technology gadgets to learn new thing. They are not ready to read the content from the book, so the only way is remaining that we have to deliver the content on their latest gadgets that they are using nowadays. [3][13][14]

II. Introduction To Social Networking Website:

II.I Social Networking Facebook:

Facebook is very popular social networking website. Mostly all students are using the social networking website Facebook to share their day to day event. They are using most of the features like sharing of text, sharing of photo, sharing of video, group and page. Most of the students are always online using the Facebook websites and communicating very frequently compared to other websites and even email too. So here author suggest that if we start teaching over the social medium Facebook then we can get more response from the students. Even student can learn while having fun with their classmates and friends. Even they can directly ask the questions and classmates and their friends can help for better understanding. [1][5][9]

II.II Group Features Of Facebook:

Facebook group feature provide the facility to communicate among the group member. Group provides sharing of text message, images, various types of file and it also support creation of file online. For teaching and learning purpose this group can help to share the knowledge by sharing text, images or video. While teacher can get the idea about the how student is discussing the points as comments in the thread. Teacher can also create the poll at the end of chapter to evaluate the student. Video functionality is very much helpful as students are more attracted to video tutorial as compared to theory session. The security feature provided in the Facebook group is that only the member of the group can able to view the content of the group. Even group policy can be setup that only admin can able to create new thread, students can able to comment it but are unable to create the thread. This helps teacher to initiate the discussion about any topic. File sharing feature is used to create one file inside group, which can be access by the group member. Group member can add or change content of the file, this feature can be used to find out the difficulties at the end of the chapter or unit. [4][10]

II.III Page Feature Of Facebook:

Facebook page feature is to share information publically. By using the page feature teacher can post the information via page like the "Notice Board". The remaining feature of the page is not much useful for teacher and students[2].

III Proposed Features:

III.I Audio Visual Communication (Via Webcam & Microphone):

Webcam feature can be added into Facebook, to enhance the teaching process by using virtual class. The aim of the feature is to transmit the live telecast of the teacher to all the students online and offline (recorded). This feature can be added into the group so that member list and group policy can be automatically assigned as per the group. By using the webcam and microphone, audio visual lecture can be delivered over the website. Students can learn by audio visual session. If student is not able to present in particular session then she can view the previously recorded the session [6]. Use of webcam feature should be required for teacher and student. Teacher can view the current active users for the session, while student can view the teacher's video conversation along with audio. High bandwidth is required for teacher access as all students web cam view are delivered to teacher, while student can view the session on regular bandwidth as he requires to see the video of teacher only.

III.II Online Interactive Board:

This feature can help the teacher to explain using the virtual board. This board is visible to all the students. By simultaneously using the interactive board and audio visual communication teacher can explain the thing easily [7]. This feature is required for the teacher only; teacher can use write on online interactive board while student can view the interactive board on their computer screen. This feature is similar to the feature available inside the Microsoft presentations shows. Basic tools are required for this like pencil, eraser, rectangle, circle, color selector tool, text writing tool.

III.III Sharing Of Documents Like Pdf, Ppt, Doc:

if sharing of document like ppt is allowed then teaching learning process becomes easy. Teacher can share the ppt over the social networking platform while student and learner can check out the presentation that is shared by the teacher. Document sharing allows teacher to share the questions and lecture notes with student, it also allows student to submit their assignments to the teacher. Currently sharing features is limited to simple sharing of files to all the users. While submitting the assignment to teacher there should be some restrictions that other student may not able to view the submission[7]. This feature is required for teacher and student. Teacher can share the important documents, reference presentations and lecture notes with student. While student can submit their assignment and can post their query using this document sharing feature.

III.IV Online Quiz:

Quiz management is very important module for the teacher. Teacher can setup the quiz and students can attempt the quiz and review their results online. Quiz can be taken after completion of the chapter or unit. Depending upon the requirement of the teacher it should be customize.

IV Survey Result:

The best way to analyse the view of audience who are going to utilize the new learning technologies over the internet is survey result of the audience.[11] So we prepared one survey using Google forms and circulated among the students and teachers, we found the following result. Total response we have received is 126. Out of the total response 122 (i.e. 97%) are already a member of social networking users and remaining 4 (i.e. 3 %) is not uses the social networking websites. Another question was occupation of the user and we found, 78 (i.e. 62 %) are students, 29 (i.e. 23 %) are teachers and remaining 19 (i.e. 15%) are the businessmen or other. In the frequency of the surfing social networking website we found, 94 (i.e. 75%) are the daily surfers, 29 (i.e. 23%) are the weekly users and remaining 3 (i.e. 2%) are the uses social networking once or twice a month. Now let's see the survey response from the users who uses facebook page and group. Out of total response 95 (48 %) are already a member of group and uses to share the information while 103 (i.e. 52 %) are the member of facebook page and uses facebook page to share the information. Above all the survey result summary is based on the current features. Now let's check the response from user regarding our proposed features. Out of total response 76 (i.e. 23 %) are ready to utilize the Audio Visual Communication (Via Webcam & Microphone). Another feature Online Interactive Board we have received 71 (i.e. 22%) response from the users. The feature Sharing of Documents Like PDF, PPT, Doc, etc receive 95 (i.e. 29%) response from the total users and Online Quiz we received 73 (i.e. 22%) response. So based on the survey we can say people are eagerly waiting for the teaching learning features over the social networking website.

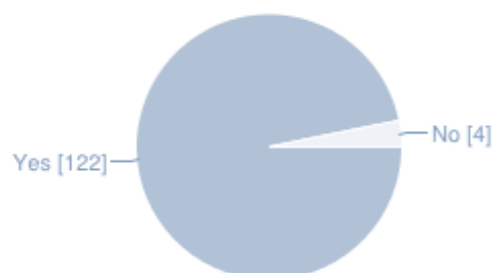


Figure 1 : Social Networking Users

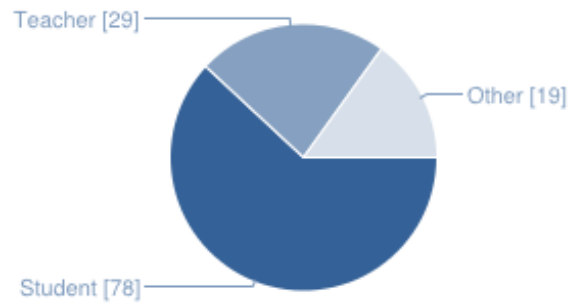


Figure 2 : Types of User

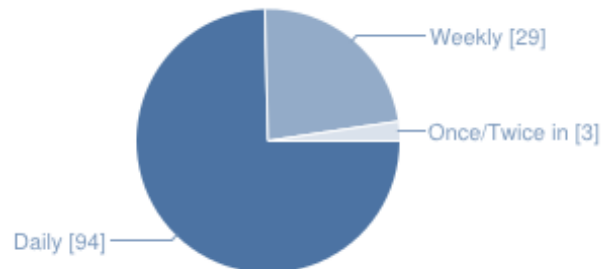


Figure 3 : Uses Frequency



Figure 4 : Users who uses Facebook Group/Page

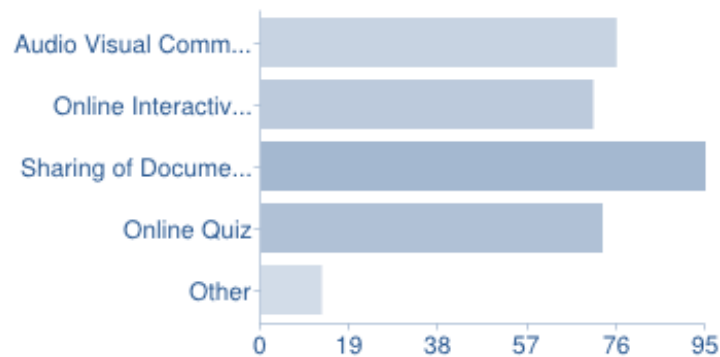


Figure 5 : Proposed Feature Response

V: Conclusion:

In paper we would like to give idea about the current available tools and the tools that can be added into social platform to enhance the learning process of teacher and student. Based on survey result, it is shown that people are interested in the learning using social networking; most of the current users are already a member of the social networking and uses for the learning or teaching purpose. In response to our survey we have received comments regarding the same. 1. One teacher has commented that professional websites are better to use instead of the facebook, here author want to highlights that most of the students are very much active on the social networking website so author suggest social networking is great platform. 2. Remaining most of the comment we have received is the all are already learning using social networking and will enjoy the new features if added.

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