

Facebook and Education: Is It Possible?

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Abstract:

Recently a question is emerged among people mainly teachers and guardian that “is Facebook a part of education?” Most of the people think that Facebook is not a part of education; it is only a social media by which people are wasting their time. But it is not true. Every technology has two sides; good and bad. Mr Obama said at Wakefield High School in Washington “be careful what you post on Facebook. Whatever you do, it will be pulled up later in your life.” It is depending upon the user; how they will use it. But President Obama announced on November 9, 2015, that he finally created a Facebook page just seven years into his presidency and he posted his first video on climate change. That means in nonformal way Obama becomes a teacher for us to give the knowledge of climate change. He said in this post: “I hope you’ll join me in speaking out on climate change and educating your friends about why this issue is so important,” Obama said in the post. “At a time when nearly three in four adults online use Facebook, this feels like a great place to do it.” Total 6,034,206 people viewed this video and can you deny that these all viewers did not get any knowledge cum experience. Moreover, education does not mean only the curricular based formal schooling rather nonformal knowledge and experience i. e. education. Lots of Facebook sites and posts are using for research or dissertation of college and university students. Even these data can be used with the help of modern referencing system. There are number of Facebook sites like ‘Facebook in Education’, ‘education.com’, ‘Chronicle of Higher Education’, ‘education and career’, education-our

guide', 'education world', education, -UGC NET & SLET', 'education news', 'discover group of school' are found through which students or anybody can gain knowledge based on their requirements. Summit Public School of California already Introducing Facebook as K-12 Education Project. Actually Facebook is open source e-learning technology depends upon the demands of users. Facebook has taken its first steps into the education market with software that it claims allows children to learn at their own pace. Authors want to present the use of Facebook for nonformal education social media.

Key words: Nonformal knowledge, climate change

PROLEGOMENA:

Facebook has made changes throughout its lifespan from user interface, to the addition and removal of features, to policy changes. These changes often have their supporters and detractors. The user-created content of some user pages, public pages, and groups, has been criticized for promoting or dwelling upon controversial and often divisive topics (e.g., politics, religion, sex, etc.). There have been several issues, both on the website and off the website. Of particular note are the new user interface format launched in 2008, and the changes in Facebook's Terms of Use, which removed the clause detailing automatic expiry of deleted content.

OBJECTIVES:

To critically analyze the importance of Facebook as a source of educational knowledge.

METHODOLOGY:

It is based on the literature review of Facebook and educational approach from website. To get the public opinion researcher

post a question on Facebook. The question is ‘*is Facebook a source of educational knowledge*’.

DISCUSSION:

Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits. Education can take place in formal or informal settings and any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts may be considered educational.

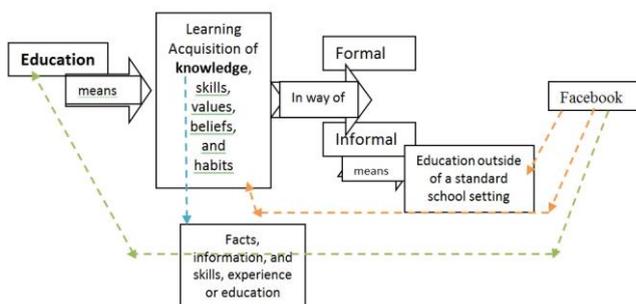


Diagram indicates how Facebook is related with nonformal education i.e. Facebook is the source of education.

The public often perceives Facebook as being an adolescent playground ripe with juvenile gossip and social bullying. This negative perception might have dissuaded the academic community from becoming aware of the professional uses of this medium. While originally marketed to college students, Facebook has grown into a popular gathering space not just for students, but also for professionals who are seeking an opportunity to network with others and exchange ideas and resources. Within Facebook’s gathering areas, thousands of teachers that can be observed engaging in discussions related to teaching and learning. The vast size of these groups, that number in the tens of thousands, and the hundreds of discussion topics that cover the full spectrum of educational issues, highlights the potential of this medium to support teacher development.

On May 26, 2016 Dalai Lama used Facebook to teach modern people about the actual education “Modern education with its focus on material goals and a disregard for inner values is incomplete. There is a need to know about the workings of our minds and emotions. If we start today and make an effort to educate those who are young now in inner values, they will see a different, peaceful, more compassionate world in the future.”¹ This indicates the value of Facebook is here in way of actual education. Here Dalai Lama is informal teacher, all the readers are informal students and the modern technology is used as media of education. Education is one of our core values at Collective Evolution. Education means not the necessarily of the acquisition of a degree. Education takes all shapes and forms of Human-being. Our daily works and experiences birth the knowledge of education. People receive an education when they interact with others, and they receive an education when they do research. Albert Einstein himself said, “I never let my education interfere with my learning.”²

Facebook became the latest technology company to enter the national debate over how to best educate children with the announcement of a partnership with a network of charter schools to build educational software that will be offered for free to public schools. Summit Public Schools, a non-profit organization that runs charter schools in the state of California and Washington, offers students a "personalized learning plan," essentially software that allows students to learn at their own pace. Facebook dedicated a team to work with students and teachers to improve the software with the goal of offering it for free to public schools. Facebook dedicated a team to work with students and teachers to improve the software with the goal of offering it for free to public schools.³

In many cases a small team of Facebook works for classroom experience like: a small team of Facebook engineers has been working together with a group of local educators on an exciting project in Summit Public School of California — to create a classroom experience that’s centered around students’

ambitions that takes advantage of all the technology and information accessible to a kid growing up today .⁴

Modern students are using Facebook for eLearning. Facebook is a powerful social media tool. Facebook can be used in eLearning courses. Facebook is an increasingly popular social networking site that helps us keep in touch with friends and stay up-to-date with the latest news and events. While Facebook was not created as an educational tool, creating eLearning groups, sharing eLearning content and participating in eLearning course-related online discussions on Facebook, have been proven effective strategies for a large number of eLearning professionals. The nature of Facebook enables the enhancement and support of eLearning, as it makes it particularly easy for your audience not only to connect and build relationships with their virtual classmates, but also to exchange eLearning information. Facebook is a tool that almost everyone is familiar with. At the same time, it can be easily accessed anytime, anywhere. By safely assuming that the vast majority of your learners or employees are already using Facebook, sharing knowledge becomes particularly easy and efficient without having to search for another platform for their learning. By nature it encourages open communication, information sharing, and networking. When using Facebook as an eLearning platform, learners are allowed to discuss educational ideas, ask questions, share experiences, and discover new information. Given that Facebook positively impacts the way that people learn and work, Facebook is the ideal platform to boost collaboration and active learning. Because Facebook is so popular and user-friendly it makes it easier for the more restrained members of your audience to motivate and express their ideas and concerns. Facebook is probably the most cost-efficient way to share eLearning content with your audience.

Facebook offers free education software in US. Facebook has taken its first steps into the education market with software that it claims allows children to learn at their own

pace. It is working with non-profit Summit Public Schools which has pioneered a teaching method that allows students to learn online and be mentored in class. There are several elements to Summit's curriculum - students spend some time working on projects and other time on the personalised learning of traditional subjects like maths and English - mostly via online content.⁵

Facebook can be seen as creating informal opportunities for teachers to engage in professional development that is ongoing, collaborative, easily accessible, and free. The large number of teachers, which number in the tens of thousands, who are engaging in the various Facebook teacher groups makes it imperative for researchers to examine this occurrence so that they can begin to consider the ramification for teacher development. Facebook discussion forums may be uniquely positioned to address informally a number of these requirements. The *Ontario teachers - resource and idea sharing group* can be considered professional development and if it adheres to the parameters of effective professional development.⁶

Central to the Facebook experience are the user created profiles where one can post descriptive details about themselves as well as pictures and video. These detailed descriptions facilitate the creation of networks of "friends." The ability to seek out and connect with old and new friends has fueled Facebook's exponential growth. While the site includes a number of other features, of paramount importance to this research is the Facebook Groups application. This feature allows users to join and create groups that are based on shared interests or activities. In addition to these networking features, each group page includes picture and video sharing applications that permits users to share these resources with the entire group.⁷

Some examples of Value education from Facebook post



Facebook account of Autism people. With the help of this particular Facebook-group people can experience own self to know the problems of autism students and recovery way nonformally.



Research journal site in Facebook. Researchers can get the knowledge of relevant publications of this particular journal. It is also the application of educational knowledge in nonformal way.



The knowledge of Peace Education is reflecting with Facebook group.



Value Education group in Facebook. People can gain the knowledge of Value education



People can get the knowledge of environment education and related events of CEE, India



Facebook page on yoga education



Educational knowledge from Kalam's speech can be obtained from Facebook

KNOWLEDGE SHARING: BASE OF EDUCATIONAL BOTH FORMAL AND INFORMAL

- Using Facebook, you can tune into remote lectures and presentations from around the world.
- Flashcards, Courses, and more offer easy ways to adopt and create learning tools in your classroom.
- Teacher can help his students to follow along with local and international museums, art galleries, exhibits, and more for enriched learning on Facebook.
- Students can connect with family members for genealogy assignments; discuss issues with local celebrities and more through Facebook.
- If your class is studying the current election, use Facebook to follow politicians on the local, state, and national scale. You can even ask students to interact with the candidates, posting questions and getting feedback.
- Plenty of games are on Facebook, and many of them are actually educational. Adopt Facebook crosswords, math games, and more as a reward in your classroom.

EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

- As a class, you can participate in challenges posted by educational outlets, companies, and more.

- Ask students to head to Facebook to review and report on books that you've assigned in class, sharing what they've learned with the rest of the class.
- If your school is being forced to cut a service due to budget constraints, or your classroom needs help getting connected with a resource, head to Facebook and ask for help.
- Post extra-credit assignments on Facebook that students can quickly take advantage of
- Your classroom can follow journalists and media outlets on social networks, gathering past and current news clips relevant to your latest classroom discussions.
- Use Facebook to create a lesson on using social media tools for collaboration, news, networking, and more.
- Computer science students can learn valuable skills for the future by taking on a project to create an app that can be used on Facebook.
- Ask students to collaborate and brainstorm on your classroom's Facebook page.
- Students can post regular journal entries to share with the class via a classroom Page or Group.
- Host a regular book club gathering with your students on Facebook.
- Use Facebook in the classroom as an opportunity to teach students how to be safe, polite, and effective when using Facebook and other social media tools.
- Students can gather news links, photos, videos, and more to share on the classroom Facebook page, curating valuable resources for the class.
- Keep students on their toes and prepared for exams by posting exam practice activities on Facebook.
- After each reading assignment, ask students to post a summary of what they've just covered.
- Ask students to be the source, taking on a classroom journalism project to report on sports results, campus news, events, and more.

- Facebook is a great place to link to and archive classroom slides, discussions, and more that students can reference if they missed class or need to review.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

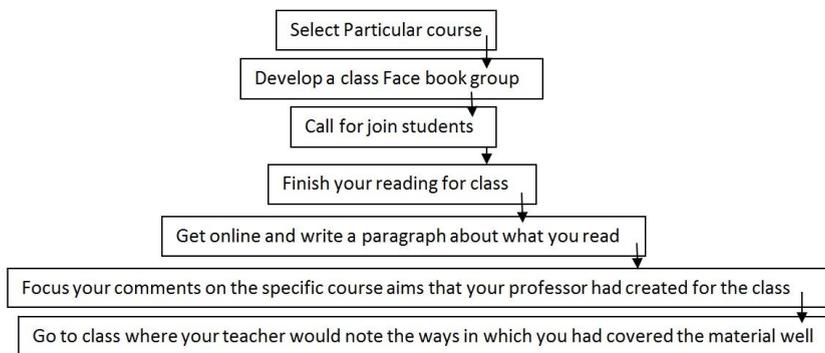
- Use Facebook to connect your classroom with speakers around the world, and get a chance to improve their foreign language skills.
- Use Facebook to track down old students or professionals that would make for great guest speakers in your classroom.
- Help in touch with old students and find out what's been valuable to them years down the road.
- It may be awkward for some students to call up a classmate and ask for help on a homework problem, but posting on a class Facebook wall is less intrusive, and teachers can get involved as well.
- Emails get ignored, but you can ask students to "Like" important updates so that you'll know they got the message.
- Share a geography lesson and increase participation at the same time by asking students to share their heritage, travels, and favorite countries.
- Tag books for students to read easily and conveniently right on Facebook, and even create resources to go along with the readings.
- Teachers can highlight some of the best work students have done in any period of time on Facebook walls.

While originally marketed to college students, Facebook has grown into a popular gathering space not just for students, but also for professionals who are seeking an opportunity to network with others and exchange ideas and resources. Within Facebook's gathering areas, thousands of teachers that can be observed engaging in discussions related to teaching and

learning. Facebook provides teachers with an opportunity to engage in informal professional development that is participant driven, practical, collaborative, dynamic in nature and available 24 hours a day from any Internet connected location.

Recently there are lots of Examples are found through which we can say that Facebook is playing as a productive role in the classroom like: Professor Gideon Burton's work in British Literary History course, University of South Florida teacher uses Facebook in class for homework assignments and class discussions in lieu of Blackboard and Texas Kindergarten Teacher communicating with Parents via Facebook.⁸

How you can utilize Facebook in education?



Most of the parents are on FB so it's a convenient way to communicate with them, and they can send private messages as well. Most of the parents are busy on the go people who use their Blackberries and FB, Twitter etc to communicate. It's convenient for all and provides a digital record. Teacher can use facebook with his students in several ways. it is a great way to provide positive role modelling in an online environment by making positive comments on their facebook walls and by providing them a window into the way his 'public ' face looks online. It's just another way of communicating and building relationships with our school community.

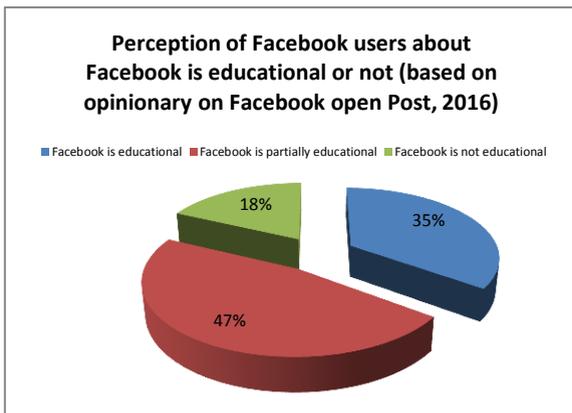
Critical evaluation:

Facebook is a Social Networking Website; here anybody can share their personal or Social view or experience on a subject or a particular thing among their friends. In this way each and everybody can learn about that new thing which was unknown to the people. And it's a better way to communicate more people through this website in short time period to share any kind of knowledge. The knowledge could be good or bad it's totally depends on thinking of that person who share his/her personal review on a topic. I also want to mention that each & every people have different level of thinking power & different level of understanding & capability of learning, so it's depends up on people that whether they utilize this website in a good or bad way. I think that bad things will not allow by anybody as people are educated & cautious about their personal image. I think Facebook is a source of knowledge as it helps people to aware about our social life & many other things which should known to everybody, if it is utilize in a creative way it will fruitful to mankind. "Gayan jaha se vi mile semet lo (in hindi movie 3idots it was said)" So If you gain any kind of Knowledge keep it and utilise it in a proper way. Facebook is a source of gaining knowledge. But it could be bad or good. It depends on the receiver in which way he or she take it. It helps us to know many new things related to educationso it is useful. You are probably a Facebook user yourself, so you know how it works; you login to "just quickly check something" and, before you realize it, you have already spent two hours browsing pictures, watching videos, and reading posts on a variety of topics. Facebook empowers one of your worst enemies: learner procrastination. It is the ultimate temptation for your audience to wander around, thus it makes the learning process less effective compared to a more structured and formal learning environment that would probably better enhance knowledge retention. The difference between your Learning Management System and Facebook is that the latter opens up the possibility for fraud and virus attacks. There are many cases where

Facebook users have fall prey to the lure of seemingly legitimate and genuine online scams, resulting in information or identity theft. You certainly don't want your learners to be the victims of fraud in your eLearning environment. The uninhibited exchange among your learners makes it difficult to determine not only the exact type of information that actually reaches them, but also if this information is in synch with your eLearning content, objectives, and goals. Surely, knowledge is supposed to be as wide as possible; however, Facebook's open nature may sometimes lead learners to confusion due to lack of specific structure in the presentation of your eLearning content. Feedback is essential throughout the e-Learning process, as it is critical for your e-Learning course evaluation. Unlike many Learning Management Systems, Facebook cannot provide you neither with information about your audience's progress nor about employees' learning path. This is a major limitation as it makes it harder for you to draw conclusions on the effectiveness of your e-Learning activities.

The problem can be recover with the help of following suggestions like: use Facebook to create a strong sense of community among your learners., encourage peer-to-peer discussion via Facebook Groups, use Facebook messages to reach out to your audience and break your eLearning content into short and simple Facebook posts.

The facility of video conferencing and message box conversation any people can exchange their academic ideas. In my personal life I have used my Facebook account for research publication and academic discussions with the following scholars like: Nicole Vasilkovski of China, Flávio Filho of Brazil, Mohan Kumar Das of Bangladesh, Laura Dean of Germany, Ecaterina Patrascu of Romania, Nazneen Mamoon of New York. On the basis of the conversation I knew lots od cultural, social even knowledge of people's perception and these all act as a source of nonformal education for me.



REFERENCE:

¹and²<https://www.collective-evolution.com/2016/05/26/the-alai-lama-slams-modern-day-education-with-recent-facebook-post/>

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and

⁷<http://ineducation.ca/ineducation/article/view/76/512> Facebook as a Source of

⁸<http://www.emergingedtech.com/2011/03/facebook-in-the-classroom-seriously/>

The speech of Barak Obama in Abstract has been collected from this site https://www.buzzfeed.com/stephaniemcneal/president-obama-facebook-page?utm_term=.ssDjp4EQk#.qg5LGmMWD