

ROLE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING ON SOCIAL COMPETENCE OF ADOLESCENTS

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ABSTRACT

The present research entitled "Role of Social Networking on Social Competence of Adolescents" had the objectives to study the types of social networking sites used by adolescent's boys and girls and gender disparities in the use of social networking sites and social competence of adolescents and effect of social networking sites on the social competence of the adolescents. Exploratory research design was adopted for conducting the present study. The total sample size was 120, comprised of 60 girl respondents and 60 boys respondents. Allahabad has been selected purposively for the study. The data was collected from four colleges i.e. Jaiswal Intermediate College, Aryakanya Inter College, Allahabad Agriculture Institute Intermediate College, Kali Prasad Girls Inter College of Allahabad city. A standardized social competence test developed by Dr. V.P. Sharma (1992) was used to know the effect of social competence and data was analyzed by mean, standard deviation, z-test, chi-square and co-relation coefficient. The adolescents used mostly Facebook for their entertainment, while Orkut, Twitter and My space were to gain knowledge and collecting information regarding friends. There was a non significant impact of social networking on social competencies of boys and girls. It was also found that the respondents belonged to average social competence category.

Key words : - Adolescents (60 girls, 60 boys), Social Networking, Social Competence.

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a transitional stage of physical and psychological human development generally occurring between puberty and legal adulthood. The period of adolescence is most closely associated with the teenage years all though its physical, psychological and cultural expressions can begin earlier and end later (Sawyer, 2011). A social networking service is an online service, platform, or site that focuses on facilitating the building of social networks or social relations among people who, for example, share interests, activities, backgrounds, or real-life connections. A social network service consists of a representation of each user (often a profile), his/her social links, and a variety of additional services. Most social network services are web-based and provide means for users to interact over the Internet, such as e-mail and instant messaging (Backstrom, 2006). Social competence is a complex, multidimensional concept consisting of social, emotional, cognitive and behavioral skills, as well as motivational and expectancy sets needed for successful social adaptation. "Social competence" can be broadly viewed as the ability to elicit positive social responses, and avoid negative ones, in a range of social contexts. Social competence deficits predict later psychological adjustment difficulties (Rubin, 2003).

METHOD AND MATERIALS

SELECTION OF THE LOCALE

Allahabad city of Uttar Pradesh State was selected purposively for the present study because of easy accessibility and convenience of the researcher for obtaining authentic collection of data.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Research design : Exploratory research design was adopted for the study.

Selection of area : Four inter colleges from Allahabad District were selected; namely, Jaiswal Intermediate College, Arya Kanya Inter College, Allahabad Agriculture Institute Intermediate College and Kali Prasad Inter College.

Selection of sample : One hundred twenty adolescents of the age group of 13-19 years were selected randomly from the identified schools for the study.

TOOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION

For data collection a pre- tested and standardized interview schedule was used keeping in view the objectives of the study. The schedule consists of two parts. Part I- It was devoted for collection of information about the general profile of respondents which included respondents name, age, educational status, caste, religion, type of family, size of family, family occupation. Part II- The social competence scale developed by Dr. V.P. Sharma (1992) was used for accessing social competence level of the adolescent's boys and girls. Items were scored on the strength of weightages, i.e. very high with 5 scores and very low with 1 score.

COLLECTION OF DATA

A personal interview technique was used to collect the data. The respondents were interviewed at their colleges due to researcher's convenience to get reliable data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of the present study derived through the use of required methodology have been classified, tabulated and discussed.

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Table - 1 : Distribution of respondents according to internet facilities used by the adolescents. (N=120)

SNo.	Particulars	GIRLS		BOYS	
		F (N= 60)	%	F (N=60)	%
A	Accessing your mail	16	26.66	14	23.33
B	Searching for relevant material	6	16.66	10	16.66
C	Social networking	60	100.00	60	100.00
d.	Downloading movie song	33.5	5.00	36	60.00

*Multiple response

The *table - 1* indicates the frequency and percentage of boys and girls using internet facilities. It is clear from the table that 100 per cent boys as well as 100 per cent girls use the internet for social networking which means connect to friends and family through the means of internets. The table also indicates that 33 percent girls as compared to 36 per cent boys use the internet facility for downloading movies and songs. Sixteen per cent girls and 14 percent of boys use the internet facility for accessing their mail. Only 6 per cent girls as compared to 10 per cent boys use the internet for academic purpose of searching relevant material. The table thus denotes that all the respondents are using the internet facility for social networking which is becoming popular among the youth today as youngsters are realizing the need to be connected with family and friends to share information with them as physical distances are increasing among people due to job requisites.

Table - 2 : Distribution of respondents according to profile on social networking sites for personal use.

q (N=120)

SNo.	Social networking sites	GIRLS		BOYS	
		F (N= 60)	%	F (N= 60)	%
a.	Facebook	30	50.00	40	66.66
b.	Twitter	10	16.66	15	25.00
c.	My space	15	25.00	8	13.33
d.	Orkut	5	8.33	7	11.66

The *table - 2* indicates that 50 per cent girls had personal profile on facebook, 25 per cent had personal profile on My space 16.66 per cent had personal profile on twitter, 8.33 per cent had personal profile on Orkut whereas 66.66 per cent boys had personal profile on facebook, 25 per cent had personal profile on twitter, 13.33 per cent had personal profile on My space, 11.66 per cent had personal profile on Orkut.

The *table - 3* indicates that 58.33 per cent girls had opined that they use for social networking sites for collecting information regarding friends and 41.66 per cent girls had for searching jobs where no one had done shopping whereas 50 per cent boys had opined that they use the sites for collecting information regarding friends and searching for jobs respectively.

Since calculated value of 2 is greater than the table value of and 5 per cent probability level. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a non significant differences between boys and girls. Girls collected information regarding friends more than the boys. It indicates that girls are using more social networking sites than the boys.

Table - 3 : Distribution of respondents according to the good points about social networking. (N= 120)

S.No.	Particulars	GIRLS		BOYS		Tab. Value χ_2	Cal. Value χ_2
		F (N=60)	%	F (N=60)	%		
a.	Collecting information regarding friends	35	58.33	30	50	3.841	0.839
b.	Gain knowledge	25	41.66	30	50		
c.	Shopping	-	-	-	-		

NS= Non Significance ($p>0.5$)

Calculated value of $\chi_2 = 0.839$

Table value of $\chi_2 = 3.841$

Table - 4 : Distribution of respondents according to the purpose use of social networking sites. (N=120)

SNo.	Social networking sites	GIRLS		BOYS	
		F (N= 60)	%	F (N= 60)	%
a.	For entertainment	20	33.33	10	16.66
b.	For time pass	13	21.66	18	30.00
c.r	To make new friends	17	28.33	19	31.66
d.	Copying other friend	10	16.66	13	26.00

The *table - 4* indicates that 33.33 per cent girls had used Facebook for entertainment, 28.33 per cent used the social networking sites to make new friends, 21.66 per cent for time pass 16.66 per cent to make new friends. In comparison 31.66 per cent boys used the sites to make new friends, 30 per cent used them for time pass, 26 per cent used them copy because they wanted to other person and 16.66 per cent used for entertainment. The result of the present research are in accordance with study conducted by **Bayraktar and Giin (2007)** which conducted that adolescents use the Internet generally for entertainment and communication.

Table - 5 : Mean and standard deviation and 't' values showing social competence.

Variables	Mean	Standard deviation	t-cal	t-tab
GIRLS (N=60)	169.8	38.3	0.44	1.98
BOYS (N=60)	173.3	42.78		

$p>0.5$

NS= Non Significance

The above *table - 5* shows the comparison of mean values of social competence of boys and girls. Observation of the mean values revealed social competence is slightly higher in boys (mean=173.3) than girls mean value of social competence (mean=169.8). The table shows a non significant differences in the social competence of boys and girls as the calculated value, of 't' is found to be 0.44 which is less than the tabulated value of 't' at 5 per cent probability level.

The *table - 6* shows that 30 per cent girls belonged to average social competence, 26.66 per cent girls belonged to high social competence and 18.33 per cent girls belonged to very high social competence and 16.66 per cent belonged to low social competence where as 31.66 per cent boys belonged to average social

Table - 6 : Distribution of respondents according to their level of social competence.
(N=120)

S.No	Category	GIRLS		BOYS	
		F (N= 60)	%	F (N= 60)	%
1.	Very low	5	8.33	5	8.33
2.	Low	10	16.66	10	16.66
3.	Average	18	30.00	19	31.66
4.	High	16	26.66	14	23.33
5.	Very high	11	18.33	12	20.00

competence, 23.33 per cent boys belonged to average social competence and 20 percent belonged to very high social competence and 16.66 percent boys belonged to low social competence and 8.33 per cent boys belonged to very low social competence.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded from the study that the adolescents were aged between 13-19 years and studying in school. They used social networking sites for downloading, chatting and uploading. The adolescents used mostly Facebook for their entertainment, and Orkut, Twitter and My space were to gain knowledge and collecting information regarding friends. There was no impact of social networking on social competencies of boys and girls. It was also found that the respondents belonged to average social competence category.

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