Exploring Social Networking Trends among School Students from Class 4th To 8th of Kendriya Vidyalaya Dholpur, Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT

The primary goal of this study was to determine how 4th to 8th-grade students used social networking sites and how much they knew about various social networking sites. An open-ended and closed questionnaire was distributed to the students of the targeted school of Kendriya Vidyalaya Dholpur, Rajasthan. A survey in the form of a random questionnaire was conducted to 160 students. Of them, 121 completed it; the other students were unable to do so but provided verbal responses. Of the students, 111 utilized SNSs; 10 did not use these websites. Workshops on the benefits and drawbacks of social networking sites should be offered to students in schools. Parents ought to know as well about the websites their children are visiting and should be concerned about their health when using social networking sites.

KEYWORDS: Social Networking Sites, Social Networking Platforms, School students, Parents.

INTRODUCTION

Humans works according to Maslow's hierarchy of requirements; they prioritize their most basic wants first, then safety, and finally social interaction. This is the fundamental reason that humans are said to as social creatures: they rely on society for their total development. Our civilization offers the conditions necessary for us to advance intellectually, psychologically, and mentally.

Humans learn in groups very quickly and effortlessly. In order to learn in groups, people must share their experiences, knowledge, ideas, and other things while working to advance their community. These concepts and knowledge are transmitted from generation to generation through various information-sharing channels.

The growth of the internet has made it simpler for people to communicate and exchange ideas, knowledge, experiences, and other things. With the introduction of social networking sites like Facebook, YouTube, Whats App, Telegram, Snapchat, and many moore, which are used by people to exchange ideas, information, and other content, it has taken on greater significance. Time and distance barriers are broken by this platform.

Anyone in a position of leadership, whether it a teacher or another, can instantly communicate information to their pupils or subordinates. Thanks to social networking sites, assistance is readily available, and this platform also offers the ability for feedback. This innovative information-sharing platform has seen significant success over the conventional approaches.

Social networking sites have united everyone on one platform during the COVID-19 pandemic, whether they are friends, neighbors, family, or even distant relatives. However, this platform poses certain risks to the next generation, as kids are losing their ability to think critically, make decisions, be healthy, and develop strong family bonds. It depends on how we utilize it and to whom it should be given. It has both positive and bad effects. In India, new students learn in the classroom with paper and pencils rather than tablets. Since our genetics, culture, environments, and growth differ from those of other nations, we must exercise caution and awareness when it comes to schoolchildren's usage of SNSs.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The result of this study will help all the schools of Dholpur as well as other schools located in different areas to assess the usage of social networking sites by the students of the age group between 9 to 14 years. Students of all ages are using social networking sites more due to their popularity. In the study, parents are also tense about their children's use of this platform because they have to look at the tendency to waste time and develop an addiction to smartphones, tablets, and ATCs. This study evaluates the various reasons why students utilize social networking sites (SNSs), as well as the amount of time they spend on them.

OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To know the awareness regarding different SNSs.
- ✓ To know the most commonly used SNSs among school students.
- ✓ To ascertain how frequently these SNSs are used.
- ✓ To investigate the relevance and reason of using these sites.
- ✓ To know their parent's concern towards their children.
- ✓ To the opinion morally, with the use of social networking sites.
- ✓ To know the satisfaction level of students while using SNSs.

RELATED STUDY

The use of social networking sites (SNSs) and secondary school student's academic progress was the main topic of the paper **(Astatke, Weng , & Chen, 2021).** The authors of this study found that SNSs affect schoolchildren's academic performance in both positive and negative ways. The review fills in the gaps about the significant phenomena. Some researchers discovered that the studies' recreational activities are impacted by improper use of SNSs. Parents who are aware of their children's usage patterns on social networking sites (SNSs) can better prepare their children for school and occasionally provide appropriate advice.

(Raj, Bhattacherjee , & Mukherjee, 2018) In a paper, they evaluated the use of social media by Siliguri, West Bengal, school children. Whats App is the most widely used SNS among school students, according to their findings, which show that a sizable portion of the targeted sample used SNSs. Whats App was the preferred app for

most of the users. When it came to using smartphones to access SNSs frequently—from more than five times per day to fewer than once per month—they were the most popular device. Students utilized social networking sites (SNSs) for homework completion and study purposes; of them, 22.8% did not finish their tasks because they spent the majority of their time on SNSs.

A study of secondary and upper secondary pupils in Srinagar, Kashmir, was carried out **(Nazir, 2014)**, according to this research, the majority of the pupils were between the ages of 16 and 18. Among them, Facebook was the most popular SNS. Male users logged on for 60 to 90 minutes, while female users logged on for just 30 to 45 minutes. The majority of consumers favored using their phones mostly for chat. Additionally, participants concurred that SNSs help them communicate more effectively.

In their study **(Shambare, Rugimbana , & Sithole, 2012)** examines how students use social networking sites. 256 South African students in the sample were asked to complete a self-administered questionnaire to provide information. Findings confirm Facebook's widespread use and indicate possible social networking for children in many contexts, including the classroom. More affordable 3G technology, faster Internet, and smartphone telephony are all contributing elements to social networking's successful acceptance.

 Social science students in public colleges in Northeastern Nigeria uses social networking sites, with Facebook being the most popular, according to a study **(APUKE & EZEAH, 2017)**. However, quite a tiny portion of these Students use it for academic purposes. It was shown that students' academic progress suffered when they used social networking sites excessively. Nonetheless, it was found that receiving unsolicited messages, comments, photographs, and videos from social networking sites was the most frequent problem users encountered. According to the report, to teach students how to use social networking sites safely, higher education institutions in Nigeria must routinely hold seminars and workshops.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study's focus is restricted to Kendriya Vidyalaya Dholpur, Rajasthan, children   between the ages of 9 and 14 years.

RESEARCH DESIGN

To fulfill the study's primary goal and its particular objectives. A structured survey was used to gather information from 160 students who were chosen as a representative sample. 121 respondents completed questionnaires and returned of them, 91.7% of responders were selected as the primary target group as they used social networking sites. The percentage approach was used to examine the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS
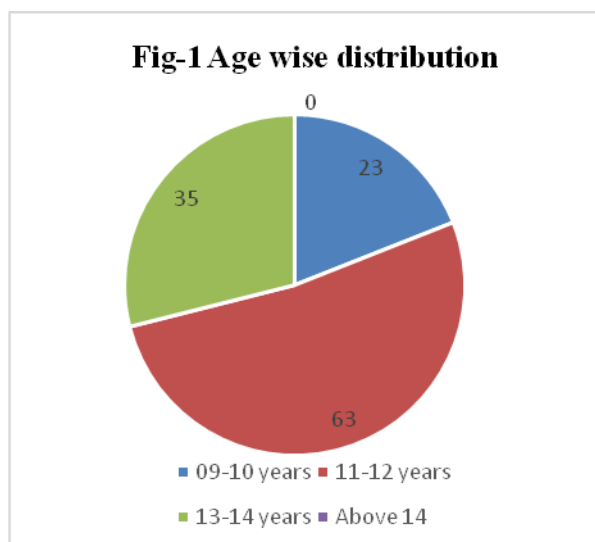
1. Personal profile of the respondents

Age wise distribution of respondents

Table 1.1 Age wise demographic profile of the students

Age Groups(in years)	No of respondents N=111
9-10	23(19.00%)

11-12	63(52.06%)
13-14	35(28.92%)
Above 14	-

Fig-1 Age wise distribution

The age distribution of the students at Kendriya Vidyalaya Dholpur, Rajasthan, is shown in Table 1.1. Students fall into three primary categories, with the 11–12 age range being the largest.

Gender wise classification of respondents

Table 1.2 Gender wise classification of respondents:

Gender	No of respondents
Male/Boy	63(52.06%)
Female/Girl	58(47.93%)

A slight difference in the outcome is seen in the above table. Among the 121 responders, 63 (52.06%) identified as boys or males and 58 (47.93%) as girls or females.

Class wise distribution of students

Table 1.3 Class wise distributions of students/respondents:

Class	No of respondents
IV	0
V	39(32.23%)
VI	40(33.05%)
VII	22(18.18%)
VIII	20(16.52%)

Respondents from various classes are displayed in Table 1.3, with 39 from class V, 40 from class VI, and 22 and 20 from classes VII and VIII, respectively.

2. Use of social networking sites

▪ **Do you use SNSs**

The actual study now begins with this question. Table 2.1 makes it evident that 111 (91.73%) of our respondents are primary users of social networking platforms, while only 10 (8.26%) respondents do not use SNSs. Consequently, a very high usage rate is thought to exist.

Table 2.1 Use of SNSs

Variable	N
Yes	111(91.73%)
No	10(8.26%)
Total	121

So our main targeted sample is 111 respondents out of 121 respondents.

▪ **Are you aware about what is the minimum age to create account on mostly SNSs?**

Among these 111 respondents almost 55% respondents of them knows regarding the minimum age to create account on the SNSs. This ratio is approximately quiet similar in strength

Do you have your own account on SNS.

Table 2.2 Do you your own account

Variable	Respondents N=111	Percentage
Yes	53	47.74%
No	58	52.25%

47.74% of these young youngsters have personal SNS accounts.

▪ **Using Parents'/ sibling' SNSs account**

Those who don't have their own account they are using their parents or elder sibling', some are using their own as well as their parent's. 38.73% are saying that they are not using their wards account.

▪ **Creating account with fake date of birth**

Finding out that 44.14% of respondents said they create accounts with fake dates of birth, which websites bind to certain age standards, may surprise us. It appears that our youth are not very honest. Of those surveyed, 64.86% do not use fake DOB.

▪ **Using fake identity details on SNSs**

Variable	Respondent N=111	Percentage
Yes	8	7.20%
No	103	92.79%

Even a large number of respondents create accounts with fake DOB, but they use their actual identity details on these accounts. As the above numbers shows only 7.20% respondents use fake identity details whereas 92.79% users are not using.
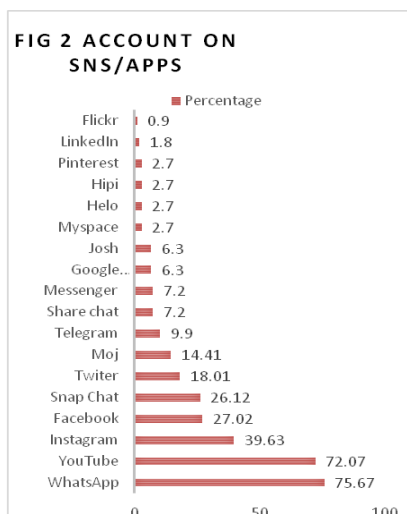
▪ **Awareness of Social Networking Sites**

Table 2.3 Awareness of SNSs

Awareness of SNSs	No of respondents N=111	Percentage
Facebook	85	76.57
Twiter	29	26.12
LinkedIn	6	5.40
YouTube	99	89.18
Myspace	5	4.50
Flickr	7	6.30
Google Blogger	13	11.71
Helo	7	6.30
Moj	42	37.83
WhatsApp	87	78.37
Josh	27	24.32
Instagram	63	56.75
Share chat	29	26.12
Snap Chat	56	50.45
Hipi	10	9.00
Telegram	29	26.12
Messenger	33	29.72
Pinterest	6	5.40

One or two social networking sites were known to the majority of respondents. The most popular platform among students is Youtube (89.18%), which is followed by WhatsApp (78.37%), Facebook (76.57%), Instagram (56.75%), and Snapchat (50.45%). According to Table 2.3, a portion of the student body is also familiar with other applications, such as Moj (37.83%), Messenger (29.72%), Josh (24.32%), and Google Blogger (11.71%). Myspace (4.50%), Pinterest (5.40%), LinkedIn (5.40%), Helo (6.30%), and Hipi (9.00%) are the least aware of apps or SNSs.

Account on SNSs/Apps

FIG 2 ACCOUNT ON SNS/APPS

SNS/App	Percentage
Flickr	0.9
LinkedIn	1.8
Pinterest	2.7
Hipi	2.7
Helo	2.7
Myspace	2.7
Josh	6.3
Google..	6.3
Messenger	7.2
Share chat	7.2
Telegram	9.9
Moj	14.41
Twiter	18.01
Snap Chat	26.12
Facebook	27.02
Instagram	39.63
YouTube	72.07
WhatsApp	75.67

Even though they utilize and have accounts on SNSs, students are aware of various SNSs. It is evident from Fig. 2 that the most popular social networking site is Whatsapp, with 75.67% of users, followed by Youtube (72.07%). Instagram (39.53%), Facebook (27.02%), and Snapchat (26.12%). SNSs including Twitter (18.01%), Moj (14.41%), Telegram (9.90%), Sharechat (7.20%), Messenger (7.20%), Google Blogger (6.30%), and Josh (6.30%) are utilized and owned by a relatively small number of students. The percentage of respondents for Myspace, Helo, Hipi, and Pinterest is incredibly low 2.70% overall. Flickr (0.90%) and LinkedIn (1.80%) are the two with the lowest percentages.

- **Duration of using SNSs/Apps**

As the Internet has developed, it has become more challenging for us to avoid social networking sites, yet we are powerless to ignore them. There is an ongoing requirement, for these sites though we have to maintain our connection to these websites for a certain amount of time. Table 2.4 shows that 40.54% of respondents use it for less than 30 minutes, 35.13% for 30 minutes to an hour, 17.11% for 1-2 hours, and 7.2% for more than 2 hours.

Table 2.4 Duration of using SNSs/Apps

Time spend on SNSs	No of Respondents N=111	Percentage
Less than 30 min	45	40.54
30mins - 1 hour	39	35.13
1hour-2 hour	19	17.11
More than 2 hours	8	7.2

- **Frequency of accessing SNSs**

Table 2.5 Frequency of accessing SNS

Frequency of accessingSNSs	No of Respondents N=111	Percentage
Everyday	93	83.78
Once in two days	10	9.00
once a week	6	5.40
once a month	2	1.80

How frequently do the pupils utilize social networking sites? The frequency of access to social networking sites is tabulated in Table 2.5. A good number of students 83.78% access on everyday basis, 9.00% once in two days , 5.40% access once in a week and least 1.80% access once a month.

- **Pupose of Using Social Netwoking Sites**

Table 2.6 Purpose

Purpose/Reason	Percentage
Instant Messaging(Chatting_)	26.12
Sharing Experience	15.31
For Purchasing and Selling	10.81
Finding information of your interest	36.03

For online learning	54.95
To make new friends	15.31
For entertainment	53.15
Sharing videos and pictures to friends	26.62
Keep in touch withyour friends	13.51
Sharing Inf. Regarding new assignments/projects and school work	34.23

Table 2.6 shows the various reasons people use the internet, with online learning (54.95%) and entertainment (53.15%) being the most popular purposes, followed by finding information (36.03%). Social interaction is also important, with activities like sharing experiences (15.31%), keeping in touch with friends (13.51%), and sharing videos and pictures (26.62%) being prevalent. The table also highlights the use of the internet for instant messaging (26.12%) and for buying and selling goods (10.81%).

▪ **Preference of SNSs/Apps**

Table 2.7 SNSs ' preference more for purpose

Preference	No of respondents N=111	Percentage
Myspace	0	0
Flickr	0	0
Helo	0	0
Hipi	0	0
LinkedIn	1	0.90
Pinterest	1	0.90
Twiter	2	1.80
Josh	3	2.70
Moj	4	3.60
Share chat	5	4.50
Messenger	5	4.50
Telegram	7	6.30
Google Blogger	8	7.20
Facebook	9	8.10
Snap Chat	18	16.21
Instagram	21	18.91
WhatsApp	46	41.44
YouTube	90	81.08

From the above table is clear that YouTube (81.08%) is the most preferred social networking site opted by the school students. After You tube, WhatsApp (41.44%), Instagram (18.91%) Facebook (8.10%), Google Blogger (7.20 %) and telegram (6.30%) are preferred respectively. A veru small number of respondents opted for Messenger & Sharechat (4.50%), Moj (3.60%), Josh (2.70%), and Twitter (1.80%), LinkedIn & Pinterest (0.90%). None of the student prefer some apps like Myspace, Flickr, Helo and Hipi.

▪ **Place of Accessing SNSs/Apps**

We are very curious to know where these small kids access these websites. Our suspicions are thus confirmed by Table 2.8, which shows that the majority of respondents (98.19%) were utilizing these SNSs at home.

Table 2.8 : Place of accessing SNSs

Place of accessing SNSs	No of respondents N=111	Percentage
Library	0	0
Internet Café	9	8.1
Home	109	98.19
Others	39	35.13

35.13% of students opted for the others, and they specified that they were accessing the computer labs of their school. Some of them (8.1%) also opted for the internet café, and no one is accessing it at the library, as they suggested there is no computer in our library.

▪ **Most useful tool to access SNSs**

As we also feel comfortable with smartphones, these are very handy, easily portable everywhere, user friendly even a trolley man can easily access these smartphones very smartly, but in some manners we compromise with its screen, battery backup etc. According to Table 2.9, the majority of students chose smartphones (75.64%), which were followed by tablets (5.4%), laptops (10.18%), desktop PCs (8.1%), and smartphones (75.64%).

Table 2.9 Most useful tool to access SNSs

Useful tool to access	No of respondents N=111	Percentage
Desktop PC	9	8.1
Laptop	12	10.18
Smartphones	84	75.64
Tablet	6	5.4

▪ **How many friends do you have on SNSs**

Time and distance are no longer constraints thanks to this social media platform. We can practically still access these websites now. Of the students surveyed, 55.85% reported having less than ten SNS friends. With 11–50 friends (18.01%), the second-highest group is followed by 51–100 (12.61%) A few number of students have 101-200(5.40%), 201-300(5.40%) and 2.70 % have above 300 friends.

▪ **Information you include on SNSs**

Table 2.10

Information which you Share	No of respondents N=111	Percentage
Email Address	30	27.02
Home town/city	27	24.32
Instant messenger address	0	0
mobile number	59	53.15

photos of others	24	21.62
Your personal photographs	20	18.01
Political views	13	11.71
Real Name	45	40.54
Relationship status	11	9.9
Sexual Orientation	23	20.72

The information that students share on social networking sites is shown in Table 2.10. The majority of them include their mobile phones (53.15%), which are followed by their email addresses (27.02%), home or city (24.32%), real names (40.54%), other people's photographs (21.62%), and sexual orientation (20.72%). Along with their political opinions (11.71%), relationship status (9.90%), and personal photos (18.01%), some students also post their instant messaging addresses.

▪ **Is information available on SNSs reliable?**

Another question posed to respondents concerned with the reliability of information found on SNSs. The numbers below demonstrates that, although some respondents (14.41%) supported partial reliability, as unreliable, the majority of respondents (69.36%) supported it. Merely 9.00% of participants expressed confidence in the reliability of the information, while 7.20% expressed uncertainty in this regard.

Variable	No of respondents N=111	Percentage
Realiable	10	9.00
Partial reliable	77	69.36
Not reliable	16	14.41
Uncertain	8	7.20

▪ **Who instigate you for using Social Networking Sites/Apps**

Table 2.11 shows that, although 111 respondents claimed to use SNSs on themselves, 51.35% of them said that no one encouraged them to do so. Friends bound them to use, according to 30.63% of respondents, then close friends (21.62%), family members and teachers (9.00%), strangers—that is, people you don't know—(8.1%), and people who live far away (7.20%).

Table 2.11

Variable	No of respondents N=111	Percentage
Close friends	24	21.62
Teachers	10	9.00
Family members	10	9.00
friends	34	30.63
Strangers/People you don't know	9	8.10
People that live	8	7.20

far away		
Others	57	51.35

▪ **Problems faced while using social networking sites**

Table 2.12 asked students to list any problems they had while utilizing SNSs. Many students expressed worries about not having enough time to explore these websites, having a slow internet connection (36.03%), Lack of security & privacy (27.92%), and websites is difficult to understand & use (23.42%). Language problems were selected by 20.72% of respondents, lack of IT skills by 14.41%, and Not user friendly with SNS use by the least amount (12.61%)

Table 2.12 Problems facing while using SNSs

Problems	N=111
Lack of security & privacy	31(27.92%)
Slow internet connection	**40(36.03%)**
Language problem	23(20.74%)
Lack of IT skill	16(14.41%)
Websites is difficult to understand & use	26(23.42%)
Not user friendly	14(12.61%)
Lack of time to explore these websites in detail	**51(45.94%)**

▪ **Do your parents are aware that you are using SNSs?**

Now the question which concerns their parent's awareness regarding the use of social networking sites by their wards. So the facts speaks that 91.89% parents of these students are aware only 8.10% are not aware.

▪ **If yes, do they support for using of SNSs?**

Yes	No
8(7.20%)	103(92.79%)

While most parents are aware, most do not advocate for more usage of social networking sites. Just 7.20% of participants indicated that their parents are in favor of increased SNS use.

▪ **Do you morally feel that it is good to use SNSs at this small age?**

Despite the fact that the respondents use social networking sites (SNSs) frequently, most students believe that using SNSs at such a young age is morally wrong, while 18.91% disagree.

▪ **Satisfaction level**

The degree of satisfaction that respondents in KV Dholpur have with social networking sites is seen in Table 2.13. With regard to the use of SNSs, 54.05% of respondents expressed partial satisfaction, followed by only satisfied (17.11%), highly satisfied (14.41%), strongly dissatisfied (9.00%), and dissatisfied (5.40%)

Table 2.13 Satisfaction level

Satisfaction level	N=111
Highlt Satisfied	16(14.41%)
Satisfied	19(17.11%)
Partial Satisfied	60(54.05%)
Dissatisfied	6(5.40%)
Highly Dissatisfied	10(9.00%)

SUGGESTIONS BY THE STUDENTS

- Both their parents and teachers must give them the appropriate guidance regarding the usage of social networking sites.
- KVS needs to create an educational app for students to use for homework so that they can complete their coursework using that platform or app if they are unable to attend class due to some reasons.
- Free educational videos should not contain any scary, marketing, or advertising content.
- To discover their hobbies, parents should periodically investigate the websites their kids are visiting.
- They find information encounters annoying and time-consuming.

CONCLUSION

The current study looked at how 4th through 8th class students used social networking sites. The findings showed a relationship between the use of SNSs and sociodemographic characteristics such as age, gender, class, awareness, etc. According to the study's findings, a small age group of students also use social networking sites primarily for online learning, which means that these websites can have a big impact on their educational achievement. Additionally, some little students create identities on social networking sites with fake dates of birth, which encourages dishonesty. Although they don't usually, their parents do permit them to utilize their SNS accounts. Students believed that using SNSs at such a young age was morally wrong. For most of them, WhatsApp was still the most popular app. They accessed these websites daily, with smartphones being the most practical device for doing so. Even though they utilize these websites themselves, nobody urges them to use them, which is quite remarkable. The majority of students believed that the material on social networking sites was only somewhat trustworthy. The primary issue was not having enough time to thoroughly examine these websites. Their satisfaction with the SNSs was only partially met.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE STUDIES

- There may be seminars and workshops on the benefits and drawbacks of social networking sites in the schools.
- It is possible to include a sizable sample of various schools, and occasionally affiliation boards may have an impact on the SNSs practices' culture.
- Based on their interests, a study broken down by gender can offer some distinct insights.

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