



Social Networks And Academic Performance

63. Mnarani

Issack Mzolo, Bigten Abednego and Neema Raphael

Introduction:

According to wikipedia A **social networking** 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.

BACKGROUND OF SOCIAL NETWORKING

The potential for computer networking to facilitate newly improved forms of computer-mediated social interaction was suggested early on. Efforts to support social networks via computer-mediated communication were made in many early online services, including Usenet, ARPANET, LISTSERV, and bulletin board services (BBS). Many prototypical features of social networking sites were also present in online services such as America Online, Prodigy, CompuServe, ChatNet, and The WELL. Early social networking on the World Wide Web began in the form of generalized online communities such as Theglobe.com (1995), Geocities (1994) and Tripod.com (1995). Many of these early communities focused on bringing people together to interact with each other through chat rooms, and encouraged users to share personal information and ideas via personal webpages by providing easy-to-use publishing tools and free or inexpensive web space. Some communities - such as Classmates.com - took a different approach by simply having people link to each other via email addresses. In the late 1990s, user profiles became a central feature of social networking sites, allowing users to compile lists of "friends" and search for other users with similar interests. New social networking methods were developed by the end of the 1990s, and many sites began to develop more advanced features for users to find and manage friends. This newer generation of social networking sites began to flourish with the emergence of SixDegrees.com in 1997, followed by Makeoutclub in 2000, Hub Culture and Friendster in 2002, and soon became part of the Internet mainstream. Friendster was followed by MySpace and LinkedIn a year later, and eventually Bebo Attesting to the rapid increase in social networking sites' popularity, by 2005, it was reported that MySpace was getting more page views than Google. Facebook, launched in 2004, became the largest social networking site in the world in early 2009.



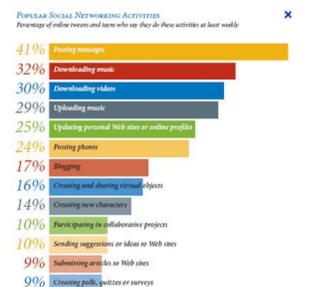
We decide to use both qualitative and quantitative method

Qualitative method is the research method that deals with the description and explanation of the phenomenon.

Quantitative method is the scientific method of research that deals with the numerical data through the description of graphs, drawing and charts.

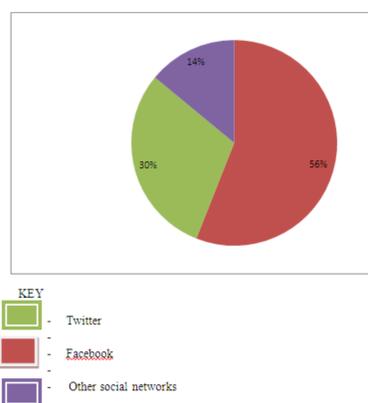
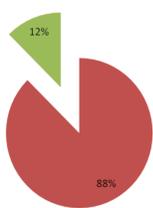
Therefore through these methods enable us to collect data from Mirongo, Pamba, Mwanza and Thaqaafa secondary. (see below pictures of participant from that school.)

- Mwanza sec
- Mwanza sec
- Pamba sec
- Mirongo sec

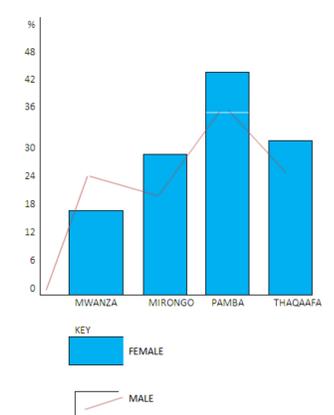
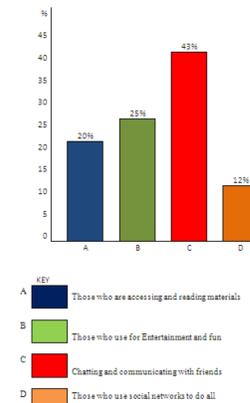


Results:

Schools	mwanza	mirongo	pamba	Thaqaafa
Male	24%	19%	33%	24%
female	16%	26%	42%	16%



3.005 Information to show the students who are most interested with the use of social networks.



Conclusions:

From the findings we found that

20% of students were accessing and reading materials from social networks.

25% of students were using social networks for entertainment and fun.

43% of students were chatting and communicating with friends.

12% of students were using social network for chatting, communicating with friends, accessing and readings materials.

Therefore it seems that a great number of students use social networks for chatting with friends and entertainment rather than academic issues that are important to them.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The negative uses of social networks lead to the poor performance among the students while positive uses of social networks lead to good performance.

The government should prepare up to-date professionals who could link with the changes of technology. Also to improve (create conducive) environment for students to learn; such as teaching and learning materials for example computers, electrical powers, computer laboratory, internets access in both rural and urban schools.

Students should be guided on accessing academic materials in social networks in steady of chatting with friends and relatives.

The government should give the principle/ laws that prohibit students bellow 15 years old to engage in socials networks.

References:

Bernadin. FM.& Robert A.W (2009) Guideline for research proposal and report writing First Edition St. August of Tanzania Mwanza Tanzania. www.what is social networking.com

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Further information:

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