Features to be Added in Future Social Networking Sites for Education.

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Abstract

Distance and on-line education is growing significantly, in the college and university level. Simultaneously, the growth of social networking sites (SNS) is also rising among college-goers. So in this case teaching can be implemented through SNSs .And higher education instructors can contribute their lectures to distance and on-line education with the help of SNSs. However, there is currently less research work going on using the SNSs. Non-commercial, education-based SNSs, have recently shown, to build communities of practice and facilitate social presence for students enrolled in Distance and on line education courses. This paper suggested a clear cut idea in implementing the SNSs and that are the features to be added for, a new SNSs.

Keywords: Social networking sites, learning, Networks, education.

Introduction

Online social networking sites are extremely popular as indicated by the numbers of members and visitors to their sites. They allow students to build a union with users with similar interests and maintain relationships with friends, and feel more attached with their campus. Technological advances that change the nature of communication, socialization, and private versus public information. One such change is the prominent among the social networking web sites that they currently enjoy, especially among the younger generations. Social networking software has been defined as

''online spaces that allow individuals to present themselves, articulate their social networks, and establish or maintain connections with others''.

SNSs created an easy way for teachers, schools, and students to connect and find one another. On TeachStreet, you can explore classes, events & workshops on any subject. As support and professional-development opportunities for teachers begin to move from conference rooms to chat rooms, a burgeoning number of states and districts are drawing on features from course-management software and popular social-networking sites to establish online networks connecting teachers to peers who may live dozens or even hundreds of miles away. Conceptually, these teacher networks reflect the "learning team" approach to professional development, in which teachers at a school site seek feedback, glean new ideas, and reflect on instructional practices through discussions with their colleagues. To this, the online networking adds the ability for teachers to connect to peers at any time of the day or night, say experts familiar with the networks.

Building Networks

In general, the networks connect novice teachers to others in their preparation classes, teachers who instruct in the same subject or grade level to one another and teacher-mentors to colleagues—even when they are not located at the same schools. The sites facilitate online discussions, workshops, coaching, and collaborative study groups and work teams.

The network is not tied to a specific university, and can be accessed by every candidate who completes a state-approved teacher-training program, whether traditional or alternative, as well as any educator who works to support new teachers.

As on social-networking sites, users set up profiles and can connect to all others who list the same tags—such as "reading" or "biology"—on their profiles. The networks are still in the early stages of adopting appropriate technology to support the online discussions. Both Denver and Illinois have instituted asynchronous communication tools, such as threaded discussions on bulletin boards.

With their focus on teachers seeking out their own peers for help and support, the virtual sites contain many features of professional-learning communities in actual school settings. But there is one key difference: The sites connect teachers who are not necessarily in the same schools or classrooms.

At the forefront of emerging trends in social networking sites is the concept of "real time" and "location based." Real time allows users to contribute content, which is then broadcasted as it is being uploaded - the concept is similar to live television broadcasts.

Essential features include

- Loading assignment and projects.
- Loading previous question paper.
- Loading answer scripts to previous question papers.

- Loading simple ways to solve problems.
- Loading how to prepare for exams.
- Loading how to schedule your time while writing the exam.

Additional features include
- A space where messages can be posted on each other's profile page.
- Virtual Pokes can be given to each other.
- Information can be given to friends on the current actions or whereabouts of the user.
- Talking online with friends
- Keeping in touch with families
- Businesses or co-workers interested in networking
- Studying with study partners
- Looking for long lost friends.

Conclusion
Online social networking sites are so popular among students and Teachers, users from distant places can build up a union of student with a similar interest and maintain a relationship with friends in different universities and colleges. There are a number of SNSs like 'TeachStreet' where we can explore classes, events & workshops on any subject at any time. Technological advances in the area of communication have helped in creating a network of teacher networks. Students and teachers must use these resources available in SNSs in an efficient and prominent way for their goodness of mankind.

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