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**AWARENESS AND USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES AMONG THE
PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED STUDENTS OF ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY ITS
AFFILIATED COLLEGES IN SIVAGANGAI DISTRICTS, A STUDY**

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ABSTRACT

The study analysed awareness and use of social networking sites among the physically challenged students of Alagappa University and its affiliated colleges in Sivagangai Districts, a study (69.5%) respondents were male, 31.52% of them are in the age group of 26-30, 55.28% majority of respondents belong to the rural area, majority (37.15) of the respondents are doing 1st year, majority the respondents has UG degree of studying in 33.33% of them are in the respondents 35. (54.28) of the respondents are using Crutches, 73.33% of the respondents are regularly using the university library, the majority (89.52) of the respondents are viewing Text Books, Majority of the respondents were frequently using library websites (75.28), Majority the respondents are Social Networking Sites 95.23 Facebook, . It is observed from the table that majority the respondents are using SNS daily (39.05), Majority of the respondents were learn by course materials (31.52), 36.19% of the respondents are using by desktops, The survey research design was used for the study. The total population includes 120 physically challenged students are registered students from the Alagappa University and its affiliated colleges in Sivagangai Districts. A questionnaire has been prepared in such a way that the respondents could easily understand the items. A total number of 120 questionnaires were distributed among the respondents. The investigator could

collect questionnaires from only 105 out of 120 respondents among whom the questionnaires were distributed. This constitutes 87.50% (105/120) of the total response.

KEYWORDS: Social networking sites, Definition, Physically challenged students' use of social networking sites.

INTRODUCTION

Social networks are Internet based systems and services that allow individuals to create and manipulate public or semi-public profiles either within or between different social networks, articulate a list of other users with whom they shared connection, often referred to as “friends” and view, transverse, and communicate with their list of connections and those made by others within the system (Streck, 2011). Most of the social networking sites are attracting peoples by providing their service such as finding friends from all over the world as well as finding customer for their business. As a medium for finding new and old friends, many social networking users tend to disclose their information, such as name, gender, photos, and age, with others. Some of them even share their contact number and sexual preferences (Lawler and Molluzo, 2010). The disclosure of this information will actually expose someone to the danger as people could use this information for some illegal purposes, such as identity theft, apply for credit card, or even cause the physical harm to the users. However, an empirical research has revealed that while users are sometimes aware of the privacy and security issues associated with social networking sites, but they do not always have a good grasp of the risks that they take in disclosing information to their online social networks (Raynes-Goldie, 2010). Besides that, as the Internet has been part of human life, the social networking users are not adults or teenagers only nowadays, but the children as well. Most of them get their first social networking sites account at the early age of 13 (David, 2010). However, most of them do not understand the important of privacy and security at that age. According to the recent Teen Internet Safety Survey, Wave II Study, source from Cox Communications (2007), most of the children (age between 13 and 17 years old) are posting their real age, city of living, photos, videos and name of their school (Choo, 2009). And most of this information are disclosed to the public and can be view by anyone. Therefore, parents play the most important role in educating and guiding their children in using social networking. Due to the fact that social networking phenomenon has created such impact globally, the impacts towards Malaysian society need to be studied. Based on the report by CyberSecurity Malaysia (Bernama, 2012), cyber security incidents in Malaysia are always on the rise every year. This shows that such awareness study is very important

especially regarding the security awareness on social networking from the Malaysian perspective.

Definitions of Social Networking Sites

A social network is defined as a chain of individuals and their personal connections. Expanding one's connections with other people is a technique that can be used both for personal or business reasons. Social networking applications make use of the associations between individuals to further facilitate the creation of new connections with other people. This could be used to meet new friends and connect with old ones, as many people do on Facebook, or to expand one's professional connections through a business network like LinkedIn.

Social Networking Sites – Advantages

1. Get Instant Feedback: corporations, organizations and people will get unbiased feedback from the mass for his or her ideas and innovative ideas instantly which will improve the standard. This enables a lot of products to be featured, enriched based on valuable inputs from the prospective end users without any monetary losses. Innovative ideas can be given life in the form of a product or service that can be used by the communities for enriching their lives.

2.. Virtual Worlds: a full ton of individuals wish to portray their totally different image on world wide web that they really cannot in their reality. Virtual worlds (secondlife, twinity, small worlds etc.) can enable the people to realize their fantasies in constructive and controlled environments

.3. Skilled Networking: a social networking web site like LinkedIn.com provides a platform for interconnection of execs round the world. This could be used for several business functions and will act as employment portal conjointly. Specialists on human resources will seek for the specified profile within the pool of users on such websites. The skilled individuals uses this as a medium to boost their visibility, get detected, tell regarding their company, service, and acquire additional purchasers.

4. Education: The National college Boards Association reports that nearly sixty % of scholars UN agency use social networking bring up education topics on-line and, astonishingly, quite fifty % speak specifically about academics. Various educational institutes may have their presence on social networking sites focusing on their academia, academic and

other extra-curricular activities, achievements and rewards, campus images etc. This would help the aspirants in knowing more about the particular institute.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Puri (2017)¹ found that the different motivations for use of Social Networking Sites for creating Environment Awareness. Four motivations namely: Social connectivity, Recognition, Entertainment and Information of using Social Networking Sites were undertaken. A sample of 200 college students of age 18-24 years was raised from the colleges of Chandigarh. Results of the study showed that there exists a big distinction between boys and ladies students on the dimension Social property and diversion. Girls students are more motivated to use the Social Networking Sites for Social Connectivity and Entertainment than boys students. For the dimensions Recognition and Information of using Social Networking Sites, there exists no significant difference between boys and girls. There exists no vital distinction between boys and ladies on the variable of setting Awareness.

Atulomah and Onuoha (2011)² surveyed the librarians in university libraries in Ogun State, Nigeria, regarding the use of collective intelligence in online social networks and the awareness and purpose of using online social networking. The study shows that a majority of the respondents (97.5 per cent) were aware about the online social networking, and Face book is the most used and the most effective network for advancing the library profession. It has been perceived that lack of knowledge of social networks, waste of time and privacy issues are the main hindrances for using these sites. They also suggest that librarians make online social networks more professionally oriented by using them extensively for sharing work experiences and challenges.

Berkman (2007)³ analyzed the relationship between social media and youth and reported that social media had attracted the youth in a remarkable way. The study revealed that social norms and rules only provided the collectively imagined boundaries. The scholar emphasized that learning through impression management was key to developing a social identity. The scholar suggested that youth should be enabled to determine where they want to be situated within the social world they see.

Boyd (2007)⁴ assessed the role of social media in the lives of youth and observed that social media had attracted the youth and increased their social mobility. The study revealed that social media had created commendable awareness about current affairs among youth. The

scholar suggested that social media habits of youth should be monitored by the policy makers and administrators in order to prevent harmful effects.

Subrahmanyam et.al (2008)⁵ conducted an investigation on the use of social networking sites by the adults and noted that social networking sites like MySpace and Face book were popular online communication forms among adolescents and emerging adults. The study revealed that participants often used the Internet, especially social networking sites, to connect and reconnect with friends and family members. The scholars noted that there was overlap between participants' online and offline networks. The scholars suggested that emerging adults should use different online contexts to strengthen different aspects of their offline connections.

Objectives of the Study

- To find out the awareness of social networking sites among the physically challenged students of Alagappa University and its affiliated colleges.
- To explore the views of physically challenged students on the uses and services of SNS.
- To identify potential contribution of Facebook to fill the gaps of communication and the problems of immobility among the physically challenged students.
- To find out the purpose for which the physically challenged students use the social networking sites.
- To ascertain the frequency of social networking usage among the physically challenged students.
- To trace out the problems faced by the physically challenged students in using various SNS.

Methodology

The survey research design was used for the study. The total population includes 120 physically challenged students are registered students from the Alagappa university and its affiliated colleges in Sivagangai Districts. A questionnaire has been prepared in such a way that the respondents could easily understand the items. A total number of 120 questionnaires were distributed among the respondents. The investigator could collect questionnaires from only 105 out of 120 respondents among whom the questionnaires were distributed. This constitutes 87.50% (105/120) of the total response.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 5.1: Gender wise Distribution

S. No	Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Male	73	69.5
2	Female	32	30.5
Total		105	100

Table and Figure 5.1 show the respondents frequency of using the Awareness and use of social networking sites (SNS) among the physically challenged students of Alagappa university and its affiliated colleges fact that , out of the 105 respondents, 73 (69.5%) respondents were male and 32 (30.5) were female.

Table 5.2: Distribution of Respondents by Age

S. No	Respondents Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Below 20	25	23.8
2	21 – 25	30	28.57
3	26 - 30	33	31.52
5	Above 30	17	16.19
Total		105	100

Table and Figure 5.2 indicate the age – wise distribution of Awareness and use of social networking sites (SNS) among the physically challenged students. It is observed that out of 105 respondents, 31.52 percentage of them are in the age group of 26 -30, 28. 57 percent of them are in the age group of 21- 25, and 23. 80 percent of them are age group of below 20, 16.19 percent age group of above 30. This is mainly due to the fact that social networking sites.

Table 5.3: Place of Nativity

S. No	Place of Nativity	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Rural	57	55.28
2	Semi Urban	26	25.76
3	Urban	22	20.95
Total		105	100

Table and Figure 5.3 shows that the Awareness and use of social networking sites (SNS) among the physically challenged students of Alagappa university and its affiliated colleges. It shows that half of the respondents 55.28 are from rural area, 25.76 are from semi-urban and 20.95 are from urban area.

Table 5.4: Year of Studying

S. No	Year of Studying	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	1st Year	39	37.15
2	2nd Year	27	25.71
3	3rd Year	25	23.8
5	4th Year	25	22.85
Total		105	100

Table and Figure 5.4: Shows that the year of studying of respondents. It is observed from the table that majority (37.15) of the respondents are doing 1st year, 25.71 respondents are from 2nd year, 23.8 are 3rd year, and 22.85 respondents are from 4th year.

Table 5.5: Degree of Studying

S. No	Degree of Studying	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	UG	35	33.33
2	PG	22	20.95
3	M. Phil	30	28.57
5	Ph.D.	28	26.66
Total		105	100

Table and Figure 5.5: Shows that the Degree of studying distribution of respondents. It is observed from the table that majority the respondents has UG degree of studying in 33.33 % of them are in the respondents 35. PG degree of studying in 20.95 % of them is in the respondents of 22. M.Phil degrees of studying in 28.57 % of them are in the respondents of 30. Ph.D degrees of studying in 26.66 % of them are in the respondents of 28. It can be said that the years of studying in social networking sites.

Table 5.6: Types of Challenges

S. No	Types of Challenges	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Wheel Chair	42	40
2	Crutches	57	54.28

3	Braces	6	5.71
Total		105	100

Table and Figure 5.6: indicate the type of challenges faced by physically challenged students. More than half (54.28) of the respondents are using Crutches, 40% of the respondents are having Wheel Chair and only 5.71% of respondents are using Braces.

Table 5.7: Usage of Library

S. No	Usage of the Library	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Occasionally	28	26.66
2	Regularly	77	73.33
Total		105	100

Table and Figure 5.7: Shows the usage of library by physically challenged students in Alagappa University. 73.33% of the respondents are regularly using the university library and 26.66% of the students were occasionally using the library. So it is conclude that the majority of the respondents are using library.

Table 5.8: Information Sources access in the Library by Physically Challenged

S. No	Information Sources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Text book	95	89.52
2	CD Rom	53	50.95
3	Journals	85	80.95
5	OPAC	62	59.05
5	Abstract & Indexes	51	58.57
6	Online Bibliographic sources	76	72.38
7	Thesis and Dissertation	85	80.95
8	AV Materials	38	36.19

Table and Figure 5.8: Shows that the distribution of respondents among Information Sources access in the Library. It is observed from the table that the majority (89.52) of the respondents are viewing Text Books, 80.95% of respondents are using Journals, 72.38% are using online Bibliographic sources, OPAC are using by 59.05% of physically challenged students, 58.57% of respondents are connecting services through Abstract & Indexes and only 36.19% of the respondents were using Audio Visual materials.

Table 5.9: Respondents Online Activities

S.No	Variables	Frequently	Occasionally	Not Using
1	Checking sending email	65 (61.90)	33 (31.52)	7 (6.66)
2	Information searching	75 (71.52)	27 (25.71)	3 (2.85)
3	Using library websites	78 (75.28)	25 (23.80)	2 (1.90)
4	Reading electronic periodicals	55 (52.38)	35 (33.33)	15 (15.28)
5	Sending Instant Message	58 (55.23)	36 (35.28)	11 (10.57)
6	Reading electronic books	55 (52.85)	56 (53.80)	15 (13.33)
7	Using chat rooms	50 (38.90)	36 (35.28)	29 (27.61)

Table 5.9 Indicates the online activities of the respondents. Majority of the respondents were frequently using library websites (75.28), searching for information (71.52), and checking & sending email (61.90). Respondents are not using chat rooms (27.61) also not reading documents.

Table 5.10: Social Networking Sites

S. No	Social networking Site	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Face book	100	95.23
2	Twitter	80	76.19
3	Badoo	35	33.33
5	Frienster	50	38.09
5	My space	50	57.61
6	2go	50	38.09
7	Whatsapp	95	90.57
8	Google+	70	66.66

9	Bebo	55	52.85
10	LinkedIn	50	57.61
11	My life	59	56.19
12	Live journal	52	50
13	You Tube	85	80.95
15	Delicious	60	57.15
15	Yahoo	78	75.28
16	Orkut	53	50.57

Table 5.10 Shows that the Social Networking Sites among the respondents It is observed from table the Majority the respondents are Social Networking Sites 95.23 Facebook, are 90.57 Whatsapp, 80.95 You Tube, 76.19 Twitter, 57.61 My space, 66.66 Google+, are using the Social Networking Sites.

Table 5.11: Frequency of Using SNS

S. No	Frequency of Using SNS	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	51	39.05
2	Alternate Days	36	35.28
3	Thrice a week	16	15.23
5	Weekly	12	11.52
Total		105	100

Table and Figure 5.11: Shows that the Frequency of Using SNS among the respondents. It is observed from the table that majority the respondents are using SNS daily (39.05), 35.28% are using in alternative days, 15.23% are using Thrice a week and 11.52% are using SNS weekly.

Table 5.12: Method of learning to use SNS

S. No	Method of learning to use SNS	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Self-learning	30	28.57
2	Friends	25	22.85
3	Course materials	33	31.52
5	All of these	18	17.15
Total		105	100

Table and Figure 5.12: Now days, everyone are using SNS in our life for many purpose. Each person may learn from various methods. Likewise physically challenged students of Alagappa University, may learn through different methods. Majority of the respondents were learn by course materials (31.52) which may be conducted by the university or other. 28.57% of the respondents were known by self-learning, 22.85% of them were came to know SNS by their friends and 17.15% of the respondents were known SNS by all these options.

Table 5.13: Hours to spent a week

S. No	Hours to spent a week	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	1 hour	53	50.95
2	1 -3hour	27	25.71
3	5-7 hour	23	21.9
5	7 hour	12	11.52
Total		105	100

Table and Figure 5.13 The above detail shows time spending for SNS by the physically challenged students of Alagappa University. Exactly half of the respondents are using SNS as minimum one hour in a week. Only 11.52% of the respondents are using SNS 7 Hours in a week.

Table 5.14: Devices of used to access SNS

S. No	Devices	No of the Respondents	Percentage
1	Desktop	38	36.19
2	Laptop	30	28.57
3	Mobile	37	35.23
Total		105	100

Table and Figure 5.14 Indicates that the devices using to access SNS by the physically challenged students of Alagappa University. 36.19% of the respondents are using by desktops, 35.23 are using SNS through their mobile and 28.57% of the respondents are having their own laptops.

Conclusion:

In summation, SNSs are the wider aspects of Web 2.0 technologies, which is the most popular medium among the students and researchers. These provide various features for an interactive communication. The study has been conducted comprising the students of North Indian universities having a sizeable population. It signifies that the young generation is actively participating in the activities of SNSs. The study also finds that all the respondents were found to be aware and making use of such applications in their research and academic works. It was revealed from the study that Facebook is the most popular SNS by all the category of respondents. To determine the purpose of SNSs, it finds that SNSs are mostly used for entertainment and communication. The study observed that the majority of the respondents were aware about the security aspects of SNSs. It signifies that time consumption and fear of misusing personal information are the major hurdles in the way of accessing SNSs. It is also an area of common interest for libraries. The benefits of SNSs can be utilized for implementing new services in libraries and informing their clientele about recent happenings.

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