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Social media: A recent trend in the age of digital education

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Abstract
The 21st century is considered as digital age which has paved the way for digital education there by resulting in better learning experiences and effective teaching strategies. Digital Education makes use of technology aided strategies to support learning. Digital Education in its advanced form encompasses the use of latest technological gadgets supported by internet resources. Among which social media is the most widely approached and extensively employed form of digital education. Social Media is the collection of online communication channels dedicated to community-based input, interaction, content-sharing, and collaboration. Social Media in education has enabled students to get more useful and updated information in fractions of seconds at their own doorstep and even from number of resources at the same time. But its effective use depends upon the fact that how wisely both students and teachers exploit social media for educational purposes by keeping themselves away from all the unwanted influences that distracts them from knowledge and learning.

Keywords: Digital education, social media

Introduction
Digital Education
Digital education is any type of education that is accompanied by the technology or instructional practice that makes effective use of technology. It encompasses the application of a wide spectrum of practice including: blended and a virtual learning. In digital education we use computer and technology assisted strategies to support learning. Approaches in this area vary widely, but generally involves:

- Technology for students, where learners use programmers or applications designed for problem solving or open-ended learning.
- Technology for teachers, such as interactive white boards or learning platform.

It is important to have knowledge of the history of Educational technology, so we can better understand expectations of technology integration, and make informed decisions about using technology, in our practice. Television was introduced in 1950s they were slower to adopted in rural, regional and remote areas. Importantly, these technologies were commonly available in households and not specifically designed for education. Television was first used in education in theb1960s, for schools and general education. Film and radio were introduced in schools in the latw1890s and1920s respectively. Larry Cuban (1986) provide an important analysis of film, radio and television use in teaching, in his book Teacher and machine; The classroom use of technology since 1920. In this analyses, he considers use of these technologies from 1900to the 1980s.

The British broadcasting corporation began broadcasting educational radio programs for school in the 1920s. In 1969s, the British government established the Open University

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programs to all. Satellite broadcasting started to becomes available in the 1980s. India has launched its own satellite, INSAT in 1983s,used it initially for delivering locally produced educational television programs throughout the country, in several indigenous languages, using Indian-designed receivers and television sets in local community centers as well as school. The Massachusetts institute of Technology stared making its recorded lecture available to the public, free of charge, via its open course ware project, in 2002. You Tube started in 2005and was bought by Google in 2006. It used for short educational clips that can be downloaded and integrated into online courses. Apple. Inc in 2007 created iTunes to became a portal or a site where video and other digital materials on university teaching could be collected and downloaded free of cost by end users.

Social Media
Social Media is the collection of online communication channels dedicated to community-based input, interaction, content- sharing and collaboration. Websites and applications dedicated to famous micro blogging, social networking, social bookmarking and wikis are among different type of social media. In other words, social media are interactive computer-mediated technologies that facilitates the creation and sharing of information, ideas, career interests and other forms of expression via virtual communities and networks. Social media facilitate the development of online social networks by connecting a user's profile with those of other individual or groups. Users typically access social media services via web- based technologies on desktop and laptops or download services that offer social media functionality to their mobile devices. The use of social media in education provides students with the ability to get more useful information to connect with leaning groups and other educational system that make educate convenient. Students can benefit from online tutorials and resources that are shared through social media.

- In 1969s we see first trances of social media with CompuServe, the first major commercial internet service provider for the public in the United States.
- In1917 the first Email was sent.
- In1978 Two computer wizzes invented the bulletin board system to inform friends of information and share information through posting.
- In1985 the America Online (AOL) service opened.
- In 2004 Facebook was created as a social networking site for college students and professionals.

From brief history....we can see how the Internet and social media progressed into medium of human relations. With the internet, the world is flat. Not only can social media benefit the classroom, it has benefited the world.

Social Media and Digital Education: Pros and Cons
Education in particular is one area in which social media has proven to be a polarizing topic, with many proponents stressing its benefits in the classroom while other denounce it as an unnecessary and unhelpful distraction to teachers and students alike. If you have been considering whether or not to integrate social media into your educational endeavors, whether as teacher or students, allow us fished some light on the pros and cons of the use of social media in digital education.

Pros
Distance Education
Long distance learning/correspondence education is one area where social media can be used to huge benefits without the worries that come with the traditional classrooms. Study material required in printing and postal delivery of books and leaflets, social media allows for the digital creation and development of course content and testing material avoiding both unnecessary costs and wait time. To take the use of social media a step further, some institutions have done away with the need for long distance students to attend monitored classroom for examination by utilizing the tool like Skype to allow for live, real time monitoring and assistance during test-taking.

Teacher Students Connectedness
One of the most obvious boons of social media in digital education is the ability to connect students with their teachers and each other even outside of the classroom, enabling the sharing of class work and materials at any time and giving students the ability to more easily develop positive homework and study habits. In a truly digital classroom, this also means the elimination paper and other hard material in favor of electronic creation, storage and delivery, inadvertently creating a green environment as well.

Vastly Increased Learning Opportunities
Comparing standard learning with that offset by digital and social media efforts is akin to comparing researching through endless hard texts in a library with the case presented by Wikipedia and other modern technologies vastly increases the resources available to a student at any given time, allowing them to learn at peace and in a manner most comfortable to them and as studies have shown, ending almost exclusively with better understanding and implementation of the subjects being thought.

Increase Student Collaboration
Social media sites provide an opportunity for students to easily contact one another regarding school projects, group assignments for help on homework assignments. Students can perform better in group rather than individual.

Share Resources Quickly When Using Social Media
If the teacher needs to direct students to particular online resources they can easily share the sites through social media sites like Twitter. If the teacher wants the class to visit a particular site all they have to do is tweet the website and the entire class can view it with one click.

Social Media Helps Keep Parents, Teachers and Students all on Same Page
It is very useful for teachers to be able to post on social media sites about class activities, homework assignments and even school events. This help the teachers, parents and students all stay on the same page about what is going on at school. Sites like Face book also allow teachers to easily communicate through private messages to parents and students without having to leave phone message and wait for a call back.

Cons
System Abuse
The creation of any digital network whether it encompasses an entire city, a school even a long classroom, comes with

inherent and unique risks to security. To avoid further security issues in your use of social media in the classroom, take the time to properly plan, creates and deploy your digital education efforts as opposed to flying by the seat of your points and potentially leaving gaps in account management that could be exploited to the determent of you and your class.

Distraction
Potential for distractions unreeled to the classroom are always prevalent where social media and the electronic devices used to access it are concerned. Just as digital delivery of material allows for the better development of good habits in students, the inherent distractions present the possibility of educational time being passed over for simple social time. While there is no easy way to invite electronic device into the classrooms or other educational areas without some level of distraction, monitoring and time management can go a long way toward ensuring that students are taking ample time to explore the usefulness of social media to their educational endeavors.

Cyber Bullying on Social Media Website
Some students have experienced cyber bullying through social media websites. If social media is allowed in school this could increase cyber bullying where students write harmful messages targeting other students.

Posting Inappropriate Content on Social Media Websites
One of the reason social media sites are not allowed in schools is because it is difficult to monitor how students use social media sites. A student may post inappropriate content such as pornography or foul language which would be both distracting and damaging to students.

There are just a few of the advantages and disadvantages of social media in education among the lot others out there. Social media is a very powerful tool which can be used very effectively to enhance the ways students are educated, but takes a lot of planning and thought process before it is implementation. With the aid of effective strategies, there tools can be put to the best use to improve educational system across the world.

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