

SOCIAL NETWORK SITES AND TOOLS FRAMEWORK FOR
PROJECT BASED LEARNING

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This dissertation is dedicated to my family for their endless support and encouragement.

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ABSTRACT

Project based learning nowadays is one of the significant approaches for the teaching and learning purposes. Social networking sites are also playing currently big role in student and youth life. The challenge is to explore and investigate how to integrate the needs of the lecturers and usage of the social networking sites in their projects. This study considers and focuses on the available social networking sites for the education purpose which can support the group project and project based learning. The research investigates the usage of the social networking sites for project based learning purposes. Currently, there is still a lack of researches which consider the educational benefits associated with social networking sites and project based learning. In order to investigate and identify which social networking sites and tools that can support the project based learning, the researcher identify student perspective in using Facebook, which is currently the most popular social networking site and the integration of Facebook group and other tools (Google Doc and Slide share) which can improve the implementation of the project based learning in the classroom. The researcher chose these three tools according to the result of the questionnaire and the literature review. The researcher administered pre-questionnaire and post-questionnaire for evaluation of learning experience of students before and after supporting of those social networking sites. Through statistical analysis using t-test, the combination of the Facebook group, Google doc and Slide share have a positive impact on student project based learning experience.

ABSTRAK

Pembelajaran berasaskan projek pada masa kini adalah salah satu pendekatan yang penting untuk tujuan pengajaran dan pembelajaran. Laman rangkaian sosial turut memainkan peranan yang besar dalam kehidupan pelajar dan belia hari ini. Cabaran utama adalah untuk meneroka dan menyiasat bagaimana pelajar mengintegrasikan keperluan pensyarah dan penggunaan laman-laman web rangkaian sosial dalam projek mereka. Kajian ini memberi tumpuan kepada laman-laman web rangkaian sosial yang disediakan untuk tujuan pendidikan yang boleh menyokong projek kumpulan dan pembelajaran berasaskan projek. Kajian ini mengkaji penggunaan laman rangkaian sosial bagi tujuan pembelajaran berasaskan projek. Pada masa ini, masih terdapat kekurangan penyelidikan yang menganggap faedah pendidikan yang berkaitan dengan laman rangkaian sosial dan pembelajaran berasaskan projek. Untuk menyiasat dan mengenal pasti laman rangkaian sosial dan alat yang boleh menyokong pembelajaran berasaskan projek, penyelidik mengenal pasti perspektif pelajar dalam menggunakan Facebook, yang kini merupakan laman rangkaian sosial paling popular dan integrasi kumpulan Facebook dan alat-alat lain (Google Doc dan Slide Share) yang boleh meningkatkan pelaksanaan projek berdasarkan pembelajaran di dalam kelas. Penyelidik memilih ketiga-tiga alat berdasarkan hasil soal selidik dan kajian literatur. Penyelidik membuat pra-soal selidik dan pos-soal selidik untuk menilai pengalaman pembelajaran pelajar sebelum dan selepas menggunakan laman-laman rangkaian sosial. Melalui analisis statistik dengan menggunakan t-test, gabungan kumpulan Facebook, Google doc dan Slide Share mempunyai kesan positif ke atas pengalaman pelajar dalam menjalankan tugas pembelajaran berasaskan projek.

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CHAPTER 1

PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.1. Introduction

Currently, there are some common direction in using projects in high education and professional education as an efficient and an effective way to bring the knowledge to students, because they expected beside the strong knowledge base social, communication and collaboration skills, and flexibility to work in deferent frameworks and the ability to manage information and self and others.

Nowadays in the most of universities, teachers are using this method in almost subject in different tracks. Project based learning approach it's not a new method in education, researches in the area shows that there are many teachers used to use a projects as a supplement to their regular course of instruction.

The true measure of education is evidenced by what the students do with what they have been taught (Howard 2002). Project-based learning(PBL) seems to be an effective teaching method compared to the more traditional cognitive learning, particularly in developing the skills to solve real life situations (Hargreaves 1997).

The project-based learning model gives teachers the opportunity to take into account that individual students learn, think, and process information in different ways (Davis 1993). Several researchers have suggested that PBL is an effective teaching tool because it is situated within the dynamic of active student involvement (Frank, Lavy, & Elata, 2003). In other words, the context of PBL forces students become part of the construct of their own learning; students will “learn by doing” (Thompson & Beak, 2007, p. 280). There is evidence to suggest that active involvement in the learning process results in students learning at deeper levels, and retaining what they have learned longer than students who are “passive” participants in their learning (Bonwell & Eison, 1991; Rueda & McIntyre, 2002).

Web-based learning has made learning content much more freely and instantaneously available to students who can download course notes and readings with a single mouse click. Facebook is one of many Web 2.0 tools – wikis, delicious, YouTube, podcasts – that are listed as having potential applications for teaching and learning. Moreover, it has been argued that the current generation of youth, often described as Net Geners or Digital Natives, may be resistant to traditional methods of teaching and learning.

Social networking sites and tools have become increasingly popular with the rise of Web 2.0, the so-called second generation of web-based communities, with increased collaboration and sharing between users through applications like wikis, blogs and podcasts, RSS feeds, etc. Sites like MySpace.com, Slide Shares, and Friendster and, most recently,

Facebook.com, have experienced surging popularity, particularly among youth who use these new technologies to create instant communities of practice (Castells 2007). There is a growing body of research, however, that opens the possibility for using social networking software in educational settings. Most social network softwares exist primarily to support pre-existing social relations (Boyd & Ellison, 2008). Ellison, Steinfield and Lampe (2007) did a study with 800 Michigan State students and concluded they primarily used Facebook to enhance their “bridging” social capital. In other words, students used online social networks to extend, not create friendships.

1.2. Background of the problem

Project Based learning become more popular in the need of the education, so most of the classes in different fields of the student conducted by project based learning. The vast development of information technology and the changing life style of students demand the use of new tools to support and implement project based learning in high education classrooms.

Thus, information technology support and contribute the success of group projects especially in the sharing resources part. Accordingly, there are some IT tools designed specifically to support the process of the projects such as resource sharing and synchronizing the information among the group members. IT become an important part in our daily life and the usage of the communication devices and social media is growing daily, every single day we are hearing and exploring new device or social media for communication until become part in our life. The students and also the teachers also change their ways for giving lecturers and doing their assignments and duties.

Many factors related to the new technologies that can support and contribute to the success of education life as well as the way that lecturers give their lectures and evaluate their students, and also they way that the student do their projects and assignments and the way that the lecturers and the student communicate .

The usage of the social network sites among the youth is growing rapidly and also the tools that provide by this new technology is growing and there are some social network sites you can build and customize by yourself with what you want and how you want to use it.

Researchers like (Ghasim 2010) did a research about that ICT can support Project based learning, in his research he investigate about some IT tools might be used for PBL and make a framework about the possibility using ICT for project based learning .

So from these variety and different social network sites it was important to the researchers and the developers to identify and decided which one from these social network sites and tools can support the project based learning, then was important also to make a research that find how can the usage of the social network sites and tools can improve the implementation of the project based learning in classroom.

1.3. Problem Statement

The problem statement of this research is:

“How can the social networking sites support project based learning?”

- 1- How can we use social network sites to support project base learning?
- 2- How can social network improve project base learning?
- 3- How can we have a social network site to effective using for the project base learning?

1.4. Project Objectives

The project objectives are:

- 1- To investigate the usage of the social network sites for project based learning purpose.
- 2- To use social network site for improving the implementation of project based learning.
- 3- To develop a framework for best usage of social network sites to the project based learning then evaluate the framework.

1.5. Project Scope

- 1- This research will consider and focus the available social network sites for the education at the same time can support the group project and project base learning.
- 2- The student will apply using the framework in undergraduate student in faculty of management and human resource and then the evaluation will be depend to the results of the research.

1.6. Importance of the Project

Project based learning nowadays is one of the significant approaches for the teaching and learning purpose these days. Social network sites are also playing nowadays big role in student and youth life, the challenge is to explore and know how to integrate the needs of the lecturers from the student and usage of the social network sites in their projects. This research will be investigate how can get the benefit of social networks sites and implement in classroom by project based learning.

1.7. Chapter summary

This chapter presents a short brief about project based learning and how it became playing important role in education field now days, also how the social network sites become a great ,succeed communication and building relation .Then propose some objectives to reach the integration between different social network for improving implementation project base learning.

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