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USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL COMPETENCE AMONG YOUTH

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ABSTRACT

Education plays a complementary role for overall individual, school and national development. Technology helps to achieve the aim of education. The presence of technology for kids has many benefits. Along with the preparation for the work, technology allows children to learn in a whole new way. Technology today has become more than just using a computer at work, or checking your email once you get home. It has become a constant stream of information flowing into our lives through mobile notifications, thousands of functional

apps, and the easily accessible wireless Internet. In these technologies social networking sites, messenger applications and search engines play vital role in the lives of young people. This research is about the actual use of technology and social competence among youth.

KEYWORDS: Technology, Social Networking Sites, Messenger Applications, Search Engine, Social Competence, Users of Technology.

INTRODUCTION:

Man by nature is a social animal. He is born in society and dies in society. Social life is essential for man. In today's society, individuals are provided with numerous opportunities to communicate in a non-face to face format through advanced social technologies. As a result social technology usage has



increased and is present within the home, school and community environment. In this age of science and technology many things have undergone change. Every part of our daily life is related to technology in one or other way. When compared to past few years, we are having better facilities and even better luxuries because of increased technology. With the help of mobile we are able to talk to friends and relatives who are living away from us. Technology such as social websites have become prominent part of life for many young people. Email, Twitter, Facebook, What's App, YouTube and Blogs and scores of other part of the new and wonderful ways we can now connect with one another electronically, each with its own culture and unique set of roles. So technology has the effect on social

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life of youth. Technology also effects social competence. Through technology, youth gained knowledge about various topics and issues of society. Google gave information about almost everything. Technology made their lives easier and helped the youth to be more effective in their work and allowed them to connect with friends, family and colleagues across the world. The internet in its current form was developed an all free exchange of information. A child's social competence depends upon a number of factors including child's social skills, social awareness and social confidence. Social competence is the ability of individual to integrate into large social environment. Access to and use of information and communication technologies could equally predict the degree of social competence of individuals.

TECHNOLOGY

We are living in the twenty first century, the century of new technology and hi-tech. We cannot do anything without the help of these technologies and not so often think what will happen. Nobody can imagine life without personal computers, internet, mobile phone, oven, washing machine, fridge, TV and so on. Modern people invented and created these machines and technologies to make their life easier and more pleasant. Technology is the collection of tools, including machinery, modifications, arrangements and procedures used by humans. Various implementations of technology influence the values of a society and new technology often raises new ethical questions. Technology is like a coin which has both positive and negative sides. We are the decider and we have to choose how to use it. The usage of technology for exploitation of resources should be always avoided. If we use it for positive things, it will have positive effect on our lives. Nobody would oppose the development of technologies in any sector but the development should be in positive way and they should not have any negative impact on present or future generations.

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

SNS a social networking site is the phrase used to describe any Website that enables users to create public profiles within that Web site and form relationships with other users of the same Web site who access their profile. Social networking sites can be used to describe community-based Web sites, online discussions forums, chat rooms and other social spaces online. A social networking site or SNS is a platform to build social networks or social relations among people who share interests, activities, backgrounds or real-life connections. A social network service consists of a representation of each user (often a profile), his or her social links, and a variety of additional services. Social network sites are web-based services that allow individuals to create a public profile, to create a list of users with whom to share connections, and views and cross the connections within the system. Most social network services are web-based and provide means for users to interact over the Internet, such as e-mail and instant messaging. Social network sites are varied and they incorporate new information and communication tools such as photo/video/sharing and blogging.

A study reveals that India has recorded world's largest growth in terms of Social Media users in 2013. A 2013 survey found that 73% of U.S adults use social networking sites. Web-based social networking services make it possible to connect people who share interests and activities across political, economic, and geographic borders. Through e-mail and instant messaging, Facebook and other social networking tools is increasingly the object of scholarly research.

MESSENGER APPLICATIONS

Technology has made it difficult in 2014 to be introverted or lazy. Messenger applications are

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used to stay connected with one another. The smartphone, in particular, has made connecting easier than ever. In the past, you'd try a person's landline, then mobile, and then drop them an email. Those were your options. If you found yourself in a signal dead zone your handset became redundant. Now, find a Wi-Fi hotspot and there are myriad ways of contacting someone without having to trouble your network provider. I'm talking, of course, about messaging apps. They are big business (despite mostly being free), and there are plenty to choose from. The success of a messaging app lies in its ease of use and cross-platform availability. A key thing to remember is that different apps work best depending on who one wants to contact: friend, relative, colleague or stranger. Tone and format is important and, as the market has grown, apps have become more feature-packed. Mobile messaging apps are growing ever more popular as they add social networking features and compete to meet the growing demand for free mobile calling and SMS texting services. Established mobile apps like Facebook Messenger and older Internet calling services such as Skype increasingly are competing with upstart mobile apps, including MessageMe, Viber, Line and TextMe. It can be hard to know which free messaging service to use because so many are available. To help sift through this crowded category of apps, here's a look at some of the best mobile messaging apps. Almost all offer some form of free voice calling and free mobile SMS, either over WiFi or the user's smart phone data plan.

SEARCH ENGINES

Search engines are programs that search documents for specified keywords and returns a list of the documents where the keywords were found. A search engine is really a general class of programs, however, the term is often used to specifically describe systems like Google, Bing and Yahoo! Search that enable users to search for documents on the World Wide Web.

A web search engine is a software system that is designed to search for information on the World Wide Web. The search results are generally presented in a line of results often referred to as search engine results pages. The information may be a mix of web pages, images, and other types of files. Some search engines also mine data available in databases or open directories. Unlike web directories, which are maintained only by human editors, search engines also maintain real-time information by running an algorithm on a web crawler.

It is a program that searches documents for specified keywords and returns a list of the documents where the keywords were found. Although search engine is really a general class of programs, the term is often used to specifically describe systems like Google, Alta Vista and Excite that enable users to search for documents on the World Wide Web and USENET newsgroups. Typically, a search engine works by sending out a spider to fetch as many documents as possible.

SOCIAL COMPETENCE

Man lives in society. A human society is a group of people involved in relationships. Human societies are characterized by patterns of relationships between individuals who share a distinctive culture and institutions. Social competence is the condition of possessing the social, emotional, intellectual skills and behavior needed to succeed as a member of society. Social competence is a complex, multidimensional concept consisting of school, emotional, cognitive and behavioral skills, as well as motivational expectancy sets needed for successful adaptation. Social competence also reflects having an ability to take another's perspective concerning a situation, learn from past experiences, and apply that learning to changes in social interactions. Often, the concept of social competence frequently encompasses additional constructs such as social skills, social communication and interpersonal communication.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Social skills are the skills we use to communicate and interact with each other, both verbally and non – verbally, through gestures, body language and personal appearance. Human beings are sociable creature and we have developed many means to communicate our messages, thoughts and feelings with others.

SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

The term social communication is used to refer to all types of transmission of contents between sender and receiver, by using technology and by means of agents unable to be quantified. It is a process and action at the same time.

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

Interpersonal communication is an exchange of information between two or more people. It is also an area of study. Relates skills are learned and can be improved. During interpersonal communication there is message sending and message receiving. This can be conducted using both direct and indirect methods. Successfully interpersonal relationships is when senders and message receivers understand the message.

In developing all these three aspects of social competence, technology plays an important role.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1.To check the level of Social Competence of Male Users of Technology.
- 2.To check the level of Social Competence of Female Users of Technology.
- 3.To find out the difference between the Levels of Usage of Technology among Male and Female Users of Technology.
- 4.To find out the difference between the Levels of Social Competence of Male and Female Users of Technology.
- 5.To find out the difference of the scores on High, Average and Low Levels of Usage of Technology on the scores of Social Competence.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

- 1.The level of Social Competence of Male Users of Technology is High.
- 2.The level of Social Competence of Female Users of Technology is Average.
- 3.There is significant difference between the Levels of Usage of Technology among Male and Female Users of Technology.
- 4.There is significant difference between the Levels of Social Competence of Male and Female Users of Technology.
- 5.High, Average and Low Levels of Usage of Technology differ significantly on the scores of Social Competence.

METHOD AND SAMPLE

In the present study, descriptive method of study was used to check the levels of social competence of male and female users of technology. The study was conducted on 240 users of technology from District Hoshiarpur. The sample was comprise of 120 males and 120 females. The technique of purposive sampling was employed.

TOOLS USED

The following tools were used in the study:

- 1.Social Competence Scale by Dr. Latika Sharma and Dr. Punita Rani.
- 2.Questionnaire prepared by investigator to check the status of usage of technology among youth.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

Depending upon the need, the investigator has made use of proper statistical tools like Mean, S.D, t-ratio and ANOVA.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

**TABLE-1
LEVEL OF SOCIAL COMPETENCE OF MALE USERS OF TECHNOLOGY**

Gender	N	Mean	S.D	Level
Male	120	134.025	13.22	Average

Table – 1 shows that mean of 120 Male Users of Technology is 134.025.Standard deviation of Male Users of Technology is 13.22. Level of Social Competence of Male Users is Average.

**Table-1.1
Table Showing the Levels of Personal Adequacy, Interpersonal Adequacy and Communication Skills of Male Users of Technology.**

Category	N	Mean	S.D	Level
Personal Adequacy	120	47.791	5.67	Average
Interpersonal Adequacy	120	49.016	7.21	Average
Communication Skills	120	37.216	4.99	Average

From the obtained results we see that mean of Personal Adequacy of Male Users of Technology is 47.791.Mean of Interpersonal Adequacy of Male Users of Technology is 49.016.Mean of Communication Skills of Male Users of Technology is 37.216. It shows that the personal and interpersonal adequacy of male users of technology is better because with the help of technology they came into contact with many people, which improves their personal and interpersonal adequacies. But technology is not as much helpful in the development of communication skills among people. Because communication skills can be developed better through face to face interaction rather than online communication or messaging.

**TABLE-2
THE LEVEL OF SOCIAL COMPETENCE OF FEMALE USERS OF TECHNOLOGY**

Gender	N	Mean	S.D	Level
Female	120	137.475	12.41	Average

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Table – 2 shows that mean of 120 Female Users of Technology is 137.475. Standard deviation of Female Users of Technology is 12.41. Level of Social Competence of Female Users is Average.

Table-2.1
Table Showing the Level of Personal Adequacy, Interpersonal Adequacy and Communication Skills of Female Users of Technology.

Category	N	Mean	S.D	Level
Personal Adequacy	120	49.108	6.13	Average
Interpersonal Adequacy	120	50.433	5.89	Average
Communication Skills	120	37.933	4.41	Average

From the obtained results we see that mean of Personal Adequacy of Female Users of Technology is 49.108. Mean of Interpersonal Adequacy of Female Users of Technology is 50.433. Mean of Communication Skills of Female Users of Technology is 37.933. It shows that the personal and interpersonal adequacy of female users of technology is better because with the help of technology they came into contact with many people, which improves their personal and interpersonal adequacies. But technology is not helpful in the development of communication skills among people. Because it can be developed better through face to face interaction rather than online communication or messaging.

TABLE-3
SIGNIFICANCE OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LEVELS OF USAGE OF TECHNOLOGY AMONG MALE AND FEMALE USERS OF TECHNOLOGY

Gender	N	Mean	S.D.	S.E.M.	S.E.D	df	t-value	Level of significance
Male	120	98.075	16.618	1.5117	2.291	238	3.517	Significant
Female	120	90.016	18.809	1.717				

Table –3 shows that mean of 120 male users of Technology is 98.075 and 120 female users of Technology is 90.016. The standard deviation of 120 male users of technology is 16.618 and 120 female users of Technology is 18.809. The calculated value is 3.517 which is significant at 0.01 level, which shows that level of usage of Technology by males is much higher than females.

TABLE-4
SIGNIFICANCE OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LEVELS OF SOCIAL COMPETENCE OF MALE AND FEMALE USERS OF TECHNOLOGY

Gender	N	Mean	S.D.	S.E.M	S.E.D	df	t-value	Level of significance
Male	120	134.025	13.22	1.20	1.655	238	2.084	Significant at 0.05 level
Female	120	137.475	12.41	1.13				

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Table-4 shows that mean of Social Competence of 120 male users of Technology is 134.025 and 120 female users of Technology is 137.475. The standard deviation of Social Competence of 120 male users of Technology is 13.22 and 120 female users of Technology is 12.41. The calculated value is 2.084 which is significant at 0.05 level of significance.

TABLE-5
SIGNIFICANCE OF DIFFERENCE OF HIGH, AVERAGE AND LOW LEVELS OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE SCORES OF SOCIAL COMPETENCE

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Squares	F	Result
Between Groups	185.620	2	92.810	0.554	Not Significant
Within Groups	39681.380	237	167.432		
Total	39867	239			

Table-5 shows that sum of squares between groups are 185.620 and within groups are 39681.380. Degrees of freedom between groups are 2 and within are 237. Mean squares between the groups are 92.810 and within the groups are 167.432. F- Ratio is 0.554, which is less than table value. Therefore, High, Average and Low levels of Usage of Technology do not differ significantly on the scores of Social Competence.

CONCLUSIONS OF STUDY

After analyzing the data, the conclusions of study were:

- The result shows that the Level of Social Competence of Male Users is Average.
- Level of Personal Adequacy of Male Users of Technology is Average.
- Level of Interpersonal Adequacy of Male Users of Technology is Average.
- Level of Communication Skills of Male Users of Technology is Average.
- Findings of the study shows that the Level of Social Competence of Female Users of Technology is Average.
- Level of Personal Adequacy of Female Users of Technology is Average.
- Level of Interpersonal Adequacy of Female Users of Technology is Average.
- Level of Communication Skills of Female Users of Technology is Average.
- There is significant difference in the Levels of Usage of Technology among Male and Female Users of Technology. Males use more SNS, Messenger Applications and Search Engines than females. Their level of Usage of Technology is much higher than Female Users of Technology.
- The Level of Social Competence of both Male and Female Users of Technology is Average. The difference in the Levels of Social Competence of Male and Female Users of Technology is significant at 0.05 level of significance and not significant at 0.01 level of significance.
- High, Average and Low levels of Usage of Technology do not differ significantly on the scores of Social Competence.

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