

The Role Of Learning Through Social Network In Higher Education In KRG

Mazen Ismaeel Ghareb; Zanyar Ali Ahmed; Azad Abdullah Ameen

Abstract: With its total number of users (around 95 million) throughout the world, it is important to determine the views of academics who use Edmodo the leading SLN. Social Networking Sites (SNS) like Face book, MySpace, Cyworld and Bebo, which allow users to build communities and communicate and collaborate with each other, came out one after another and attracted the attentions of millions of people. There are a number of studies showing that SNS can be used successfully as a learning environment. The main purpose of SNS is not the field of education, and they lack some useful tools like library, quiz, assignment capacities, and so on, which are the main components of learning management systems (LMS) like Moodle and Blackboard. Moreover, there could also be lots of inappropriate contents in SNS because they are for general use. Because of the wide acceptance of SNS, educational web sites like Edmodo, Ning, and ValuePulse have emerged, which function pretty much like SNS. In the study carried out with the mixed method, the qualitative and quantitative data were collected with an online questionnaire. The findings obtained were interpreted within the framework of cooperative learning and the theories of "Diffusion of Innovations" and "Uses and Gratifications," and the related themes were formed in Higher education in KRG.

Keywords: Social Network, E-Learning ,Social Learning Netwoek, Web 2.0 Technology, Facebook, Edmodo and Google class technology.

I. INTRODUCTION

The social media have been one of the most paramount communication means in recent times. Though, social networking exists in order to give correspondence among individuals paying little respect to the separation, making it open to people easily share data, records and pictures and recordings, make blogs and send messages, and direct ongoing discussions. These frameworks are alluded to as social, essentially on the grounds that they permit correspondence with mates and associates so effortlessly and successfully. It additionally fortifies the ties between individuals of those frameworks. The most loved in the domain of web locales are Facebook, Twitter and others. These sites and social discussions are a method for correspondence straightforwardly with other individuals socially and in the media. They are playing an extensive and powerful part basic leadership in the events from the worldwide world monetarily, politically, socially and instructively.[1]

A. Positive Impact:

When the academics' frequencies of social network use were examined, it was seen that most of them used social networks intensively. Facebook was most frequently used, followed by Twitter, Google+, and LinkedIn. These findings are similar to those obtained by Ayres [1] [2]. As purpose, the academics used social networks to follow their friends, group activities, and news and announcements.

These purposes were followed by communication, sharing, and entertainment. In a report published by Higher Education, it was pointed out that academics mostly use social networks to communicate with their friends and to obtain information [1]. Among the positive features of social networks, communication and following the news were most prominent. In literature, studies conducted in relation to the use of social networks in education demonstrate that social networks support communication.

B. Negative Impacts:

In relation to the negative features of social networks, the academics mostly mentioned the items of causing a waste of time, leading to addiction, and intervening private life, which were followed by information pollution and causing asocial personality. Parallel to these findings, other studies revealed that social networks have negative effects on addiction, waste of time, and asocial personality. In some of these studies, it was reported that students spending too much time on social networks study less and that they are less successful in their courses.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Social learning happens in connection to four measurements: activity, reflection, correspondence and transaction [4]. Every one of these procedures is described by specific strains. Social adapting in this manner is tied in with discovering optimal and dynamic adjusts between these pressures, as per the exceptional conditions and needs of solid settings and difficulties [4]. These days, understudies constrained instructive foundations to move from customary instructing techniques to social learning. Advanced education understudies are incorporating ICT totally in their regular day to day existence and call for instructive foundations to help their computerized learning styles. Moreover, educators are increasingly taking up social figuring applications in their work and spare time. One approach is to offer help for social learning by incorporating Web 2.0 instruments in instructional settings. Thus, conventional educating and learning techniques in instructive organizations ought to be adjusted to give settlement the adapting needs of the new age of advanced local understudies and teachers. As of late, Web 2.0 ideas

- *Mazen Ismaeel Ghareb; Computer Science Department University of Human Development, Iraq Sulaymaniyah, Iraq mazen.ismaeel@uhd.edu.iq*
- *Zanyar Ali Ahmed; Information Technology Department Technical College of Informatics Sulaimani Polytechnic University Sulaymaniyah, Iraq Zanyar.ahmed@spu.edu.iq*
- *Azad Abdullah Ameen; Department of Computer Science College of Education & Natural Science Charmo University Chamchamal, Iraq azad.ameen@charmouniversity.org*

have begun to open new entryways for more viable learning and can possibly defeat huge numbers of the restrictions of customary learning models. Social processing apparatuses in Web 2.0 can possibly bolster both, understudies in advanced education foundations. What's more, educators refreshing their aptitudes in new ways. In this paper, we appear in which way the Web 2.0 instruments, a work in progress at the King Abdulaziz University, puts crucial achievement factors for Web 2.0 improved learning into work on, applying surely understood ideas like social get the hang of in E-learning is a learning worldwide, which happens in a universal registering condition that empowers get the hang of in the proper thing at the correct place and time in the correct way [5]. Following Ogata [6], social learning is characterized as one of U-realizing which is characterized as takes after:

- Permanency: The data remains and students can never lose their work unless the students purposely evacuate it.
- Accessibility: The data is constantly accessible at whatever point the students need to utilize it. Students approach their archives, information, or recordings from anyplace.
- Immediacy: The data can be recovered immediately by the students wherever they are.
- Interactivity: The students can cooperate with companions, educators, and specialists productively and successfully.

We utilize Facebook and online journal, as apparatuses of informal organization learning. By perusing the selected respectable works and the remarks made by peers and additionally educators on understudies' web journals, understudies are enabled to animate new thoughts unique in relation to each other. These days, Web 2.0 innovation is partaking in the environment of learning and information exchange by trans-shaping the data society into an information society [4]. There are a few researchers doing investigations on the imminent part of Web 2.0 administrations [5] in giving social connection instructive esteems included [6]. The aftereffects of a test by Anderson [7] demonstrated that the informal organization of Web 2.0 administrations are depicted by control laws and log ordinary circulations, and furthermore demonstrated that a little level of members stays dynamic over the edge required for the cooperation's continuance and improvement. Scientists have utilized techniques for Web 2.0 examination [8], to think about how data moves through the system, how individuals get data and assets. In like manner, they are considered for finding thickly weave classes and searching for durable subclasses [9]. Wright [10] defined a blog as a site which contains posts, or content. These substances are characterized by classes and sorted as a stack in a sequential request. A few scientists see that staying in contact with sociology will be similarly as essentially prefer innovation. Ronald found that the examination of the interpersonal, organization [11] helps in recognizing the system of the cooperative learning. In a similar thought, Peter tries to examination data originating from the websites, and investigates the importance of a thing [12]. Newman [13] has said that the social network has disputably transformed into a conspicuous subject as respects to specialists, learning exercises and collaborative

learning. Oravec [14] found that the blog has a lot of degrees that are suited to understudies' permitting them, and urging them to end up more occupied with the class. Blogging apparatuses are now starting in a considerable measure of the university around the globe. Be that as it may, Oravec found that few of the websites in training are utilized as a part of class [15]. Dailey [15][16] considers that the greatest favourable position of online journals has more to do with customary classroom. The progressions that HE is confronting have as of late been substantiated by the NMC Horizon Report Higher Education Edition [17]. This report distinguishes key patterns that impact the HE future plan, covering the utilization of innovation, change in understudy support and testing models for instructing and learning. Advancements in technology, utilize and accessibility has been a solid driver for change in conduct and learning. The developing omnipresence of web-based social networking and a progressing reconciliation of on the web, mixture and community oriented learning are distinguished patterns that as of now have affected HE and we have seen or are seeing its impacts. Online networking has opened, the conventional authoritative limits of HE organizations and are changing academic correspondence empowering less formal "two-path exchanges between students, planned students, instructors, and the foundation" [17]. Expanded online networking use changes HE from organized into more open, insightful practices, with learning and substance ending up progressively open and available [18]. In the meantime, half and half or mixed types of instructing and learning offer more opportunity in communications with and amongst understudies and empower coordinated effort, along these lines, strengthening certifiable skills. In reaction to transparency, foundations for HE are overhauling physical settings too, endeavoring to join the best of the two universes. These cutting edge grounds, likewise alluded to as sticky grounds [19][20], are intended to offer a blend of formal and casual learning encounters planned to give a quality rich condition where understudies need to be, to think about as well as to mingle and learn. Thusly these, HE learning scenes are changing into open learning spaces went for turning into an energetic social center point where individuals meet and associate all day, every day, on and disconnected. For instance, the University of South Australia as of late opened their Jeffrey Smart expanding on the City West Campus in Adelaide. This building has been intended to be an energetic learning center point and open space utilized by understudies, staff and experts. The open space has been produced for students to come and interface with their associates, manufacture systems and groups, encourage community oriented learning, share encounters and information to improve and enhance their college learning knowledge. Taking part in open practices, and the capacity to fabricate and use rich informal communities are basic abilities and abilities understudies require to be capable students in an inexorably organized society. There are various investigations demonstrating that SNS can be utilized effectively as a learning domain [21],[22],[22],[23],[24],[25]. In addition, there are likewise a few drawbacks of utilization of SNS in training as per the related writing [26]; [27], [28], [29][30]. In SNS, instructors and understudies are companions with each other. This circumstance could cause part clashes and debilitate the

specialist of the educator [31]. Moreover, in a few investigations, a negative relationship was found between the recurrence of SNS utilize and the review point normal (GPA) of understudies [32]. At the end of the day, if understudies utilize SNS all the more as often as possible, their GPAs have a tendency to be lower. In another investigation, it was discovered that understudies didn't see SNS as a helpful apparatus; that they would not like to associate with instructors over SNS due to security concerns; and that they didn't need SNS to be coordinated into learning situations [33]. The fundamental motivation behind SNS isn't the field of instruction, and they do not have some valuable apparatuses like library, test, task limits, et cetera, which are the principle segments of learning administration frameworks (LMS) like Moodle and Blackboard. In addition, there could likewise be loads of improper substance in SNS since they are for general utilize. In light of the wide acknowledgment of SNS, instructive sites like Edmodo, Ning, and ValuePulse have risen, which work practically like SNS. This sort of destination can be called Social Learning Network (SLN) [34][35][36]. SLN can give understudies and instructors a shot of utilizing informal communication devices by disposing of unseemly substance and limiting protection and security concerns [37]. SLN is planned particularly for instructive situations and incorporates the primary segments of LMS like library, test, task and different capacities. [38] cited the announcement of Brenner-Lee, 1998; as per the announcement "the fantasy behind the WWW is a typical data space where individuals convey by sharing data". Online networking permits sharing data, and its significance is because of the expanding accentuation on coordinated working or community oriented learning idea over the globe. Data sharing through social media has affectively changed the way individuals learn and arrange [39] and a general technique for data assembling in scholarly conditions [40]. It can emphatically anticipate understudies' learning performance[41], upgrade and bolster scholarly learning [42], as valuable segments in the learning procedure and help understudies to accomplish significant online paper that incorporates different levels of scholarly aptitudes and distinctive kinds of information [43]. As per English Library, [44] doctoral and investigate understudies are increasingly subject to auxiliary research assets furthermore, confronting issues to utilize those assets due to confirm access and permission to membership. The Online networking stage opens important data and information sharing among individuals, for example, SSRN, Social Science space, Academia. edu and ResearchGate [45]. Online networking applications are interfacing individuals free of cost and encourage the sharing of data in various organizations [46] and understudies are socially associated through social programming, what's more, sharing their everyday learning encounters on a few subjects [47]. Be that as it may, Social media applications are profoundly used by understudies for a considerable measure of non-instructive purposes; these applications may gravely influence understudies' scholastic life and learning encounters [48]. These new innovations are progressive yet some of its applications are profoundly shaky [49]. The utilization of Social media applications, for example, person to person communication among understudies are for the most part for diversion (Khan,

2012), different applications, for example, Facebook is essentially negative related with GPA furthermore, learning execution [50] and particularly among new understudies [51]. Web and new advancements have a positive affect on understudies yet in addition cause diversion as opposed to making a difference them scholastically [52]. In Malaysian viewpoints, the employments of these developing advancements are unfavorably influenced understudies' perusing conduct [53] and constrained asked for understudy learning conduct [54]

III. METHODOLOGY

In this research, we have been working on a review of the literature of using Social Learning Network (SLN) in Education and Higher education in developed countries. We had investigated and make a comparison study between these countries education system in Kurdistan of Iraq regarding using using database sources: Web of Science, EBSCOhost, and ERIC. Additionally, Google Scholar searches were performed. Search words and phrases included Facebook, Higher Education, Social Media, Social Media in Education, MySpace, LinkedIn, Web 2.0, Social Networking, Social Networking Sites, and Blogs. We have created a survey that consists of two sections (lecturer and Students in higher education) in order to empirically show the impact and role of social network learning in higher education. We have conducted a survey that consists of two sections for students and lecturers This research is based as the following hypothesis:

For lecturers and students sections.

- H1:** Which Social learning Network has been provided in your university?
- H2:** Pick the following items that suitable with your usage of the Social Learning Network?
- H3:** Do you agree that social learning network can enhance your teaching experience?
- H4:** Why you recommended the using of those systems in Learning?
- H5:** If you decided to use this system, what are the essential requirements?
- H6:** When Social learning system has been adopted?
- H7:** Which of these Social Learning systems would you suggest to be adopted?
- H8:** What are the obstacles that all universities or other educational institutes will face when apply Social Learning system?

These questions have been selected in the questionnaire to show the positive impact on teaching process in most of Kurdistan region government universities and institutes.

IV. RESULTS

The survey has been conducted among Lecturer and students in most of universities and institutes. 169 answers have collected. In Figure 1 shows that 74.6% of the participants were students while 24.9% were students and 0.6% were co-teachers.

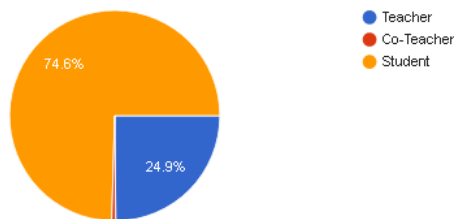


Figure 1 Survey participants

Regarding the question of Which Social learning Network has been provided in your university? Among lectures and students the result shows that the major usages were Google education application then facebook group. Figure 2 shows the results.

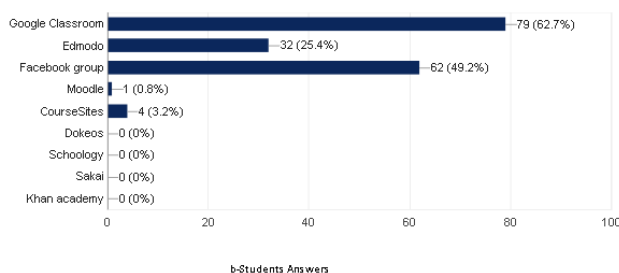
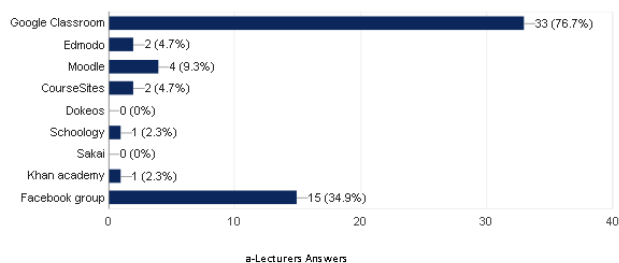


Figure 2 Lectures and Students using of online technological educational environment

The Third questions were which of these items that suitable with your usage of the Social Learning Network? The answers for the lectures and students were same regarding lectures, assignments and questions and answers. Figure 4 shows the results:

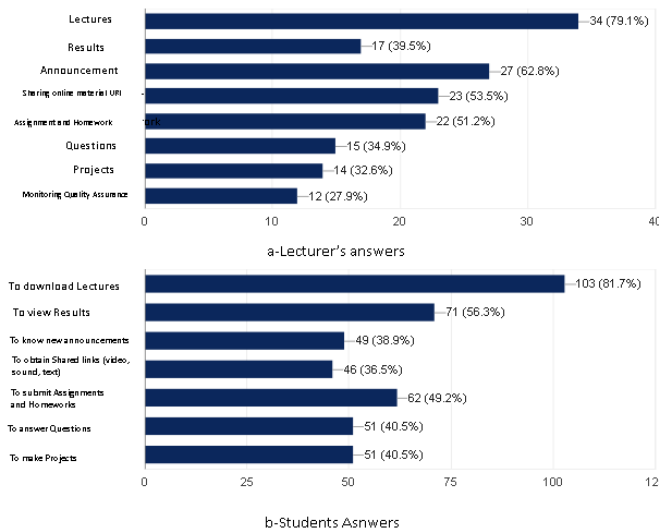


Figure 3 Usage of Social Learning Networks among lectures and students

Question 4 is concerns with lecturers and students satisfaction with the SLN for enhancing teaching and learning experience. The result shows the majority satisfy of using these technologies to enhance teaching experiments. Figure 4 shows the results.

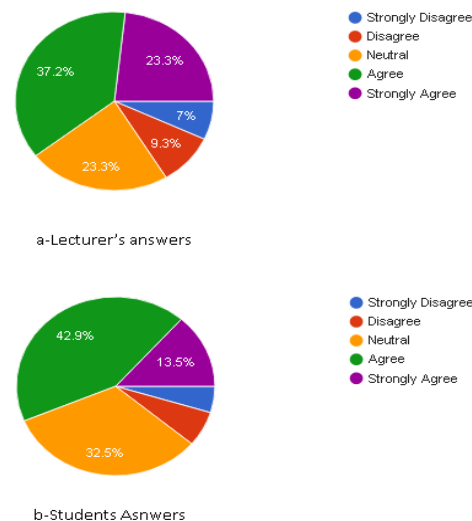


Figure 4 Lecturers and Students satisfaction with SLN

Q5 of the survey was why you recommended the using of those systems in Learning? The majority of answers among lectures and students were:

- Cooperation between the teacher and students through the teaching process.
- View and download lectures easily
- Student on-line with teacher

Q6 has asked the lecturers and students and the question was, If you decided to use this system, what are the essential requirements? The majority of the lecturers and

Students think that Using Social learning system must be compulsory for both ministry education and higher education. Figure 5 shows the results:

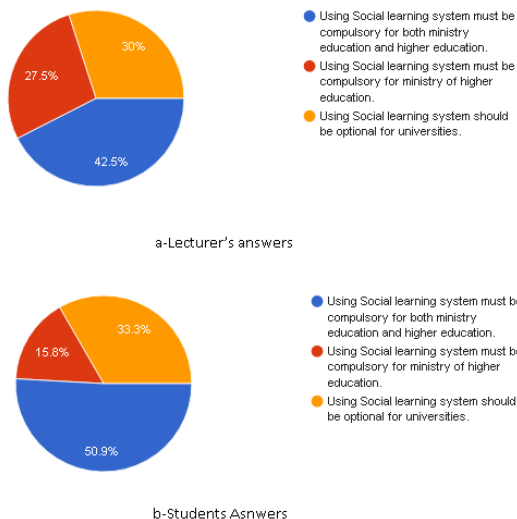


Figure 5 Recommendations of Lecturers and students regarding using SLN

Q7 in survey was Which of these Social Learning system would you suggest to be adopted? Majority answers among lecturers suggest adopting Google class then Moodle web application system and facebook. Figure 6 shows the results:

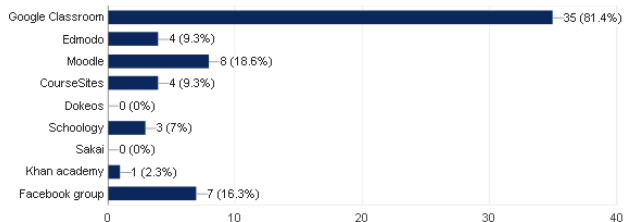


Figure 6 SLN Recommended system used in Education

Q8 in the survey was: What are the obstacles that all universities or other educational institutes will face when applying Social Learning system? This question have been asked both students and lecturers the majority answers there was not ICT infrastructure to apply the SLN in university in KRG. Figure 7 shows the result:

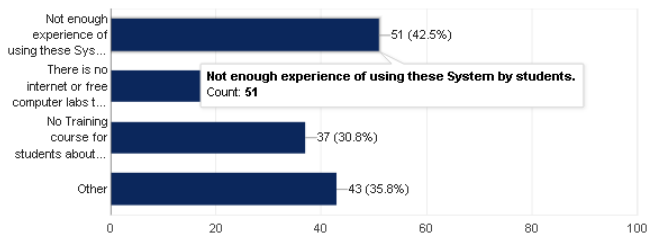


Figure 7 Obstacles apply SLN in universities in KRG.

The results of this study show that the SLN will help more interactive between students and lecturers in education process. The y answers shows that the SLN must be adopted in both education and higher education system. The lecturers and students had suggested that the university have a right to choose a system that suitable for their education process. The majority of answers choose Google class as best SLN system for education, adding to that the facebook group always comes in third place among the answers. The main obstacles to apply SLN are:

1. There is no internet or free computer labs to using these system in universities.
2. Not enough experience of using these System by students.
3. No Training course for students about systems
4. There is not enough financial support from government.
5. Lack of staff managing these systems in higher Education.

If KRG government could minimize all above obstacles to apply modern technological education system, then will see new era of modern education system and bright future for the students and country.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study aimed to demonstrate the practicality of using Social Learning Network as functional learning environment by considering the opinions of the teachers and students in nine universities at KRG. According to survey, most of the universities has been used at least one social learning network's platform as communication tools between the teacher and students, and the lecture preparing and acquiring by them are more usages. In the previous study, the majority of participants felt better through using of these systems in the orientation of daily academic requirements, especially the continual relationship between students and their teacher online. However, the study concluded several problems in universities adaptation of these systems, such as scarcity of experience, training course and free computer laboratories. In our study we have concluded several recommendations should be required to make decisions by KRG, Ministries of Education and Higher Education and Universities, which is as follows: -

- 1- Using of these systems be required by KRG for all levels from primary school to university studding.
- 2- Special budget allotment for this project by KRG.
- 3- Qualifying of competent trainers for this purpose by KRG for all academic organization.
- 4- Making continual training courses for all professors and students for this purpose.
- 5- Open specialized computer laboratories in all institutes and universities.

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