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Teacher's Professional Development in Online Social Networking Sites

Cathrine Asha S.
Ph.D. Scholar,
Mother Teresa Women's University, Chennai.

Dr. Blessing Mary
Assistant Professor
Department of Education,
Mother Teresa Women's University, Chennai

Abstract

The emergence of online social networking sites has brought about a significant transformation in the field of teacher professional development. This abstract looks at how these platforms affect and improve the development, cooperation, and resource-sharing of educators. These platforms enable educators to work together, exchange ideas, and access a multitude of resources from a variety of viewpoints, thereby fostering global connections. The advantages of social networking sites for teacher professional development are examined in this abstract, with a focus on how they support professional learning communities (PLCs), facilitate networking-based collaboration, and give access to an extensive library of educational materials. Teachers can improve their classroom practices by customizing their lessons, having conversations, and exchanging creative teaching techniques. By providing direction, and tools, and incorporating social networking participation into official professional development programs, institutions play a critical role in assisting educators. Though these platforms present an enormous number of opportunities, professionalism, privacy, and the authenticity of the information are important

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factors to take into account. Teachers need to be responsible users of these environments, upholding moral behaviour and critical analysis of shared materials. These virtual communities present instructors with exceptional chances for education, cooperation, and resource exchange that can greatly influence their professional development and efficacy in the classroom.

Keywords: educational blogging sites, online learning experiences, professional learning networks, teacher's knowledge sharing

Introduction

In the challenging task of improving education, the development of teachers is crucial. This encompasses decisions, strategies, and approaches to enhance their capacities and teaching methods. The ultimate aim is to enhance academic performance. The development of teachers is crucial in guaranteeing advancement, enhancing teaching techniques, and ultimately improving student achievements. Providing support to educators in their ongoing triumphs is indispensable in the expansive realm of education, which provides an array of tactics and resources. By presenting valuable chances for professional expansion and addressing the challenges that teachers encounter, schools can cultivate a nurturing community of proficient and accomplished educators.

There is no doubt that this will positively and permanently affect education. It gives educators the priceless chance to interact with professionals around the world. They can actively participate in meaningful discussions using hashtags or collaborative teams, and in turn, share their own innovative teaching approaches, lesson ideas, and instructional methods. Social

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networking sites come in various forms, each with its unique attributes tailored to cater to different preferences and learning preferences. These platforms present a valuable opportunity for educators to engage in meaningful conversations, establish connections within their field, tap into a vast pool of educational materials, and enhance their teaching techniques over time. By effectively utilizing these diverse platforms, teachers can thrive in their careers and continually evolve as professionals.

Types of Social Networking Sites Improve Teachers' Professional Development

Education-Related Forums and Communities: Teachers are the target audience for specialized educational platforms like We Teach NYC, Teachers Pay Teachers, and Edmodo. These websites provide forums for educators to interact, exchange resources, and have discussions centred around the subjects or specializations they teach.

Professional Learning Networks or PLNs: Personalized networks created by educators to support professional development are known as professional learning networks or PLNs. To

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keep up with the newest developments and findings in education, these networks frequently entail following educators, thought leaders, and institutions on social media sites like LinkedIn and Twitter.

Specialized Educational Blogs and Websites: Articles, lesson plans, teaching advice, and conversations about pedagogy and best practices can be found on educational blogs and websites like Edutopia, Teach Thought, or ASCD Edge. Instructors are welcome to interact with these materials and even share their knowledge.

Video-based Platforms: A plethora of educational channels and videos can be found on websites like Vimeo and YouTube. Educators can access tutorials, talks, and lesson plan demonstrations that facilitate interactive and visual learning.

Learning Management Systems (LMS): Learning and teaching environments are provided by LMS platforms such as Moodle, Canvas, and Google Classroom. They provide chances for professional growth through webinars, in-person training sessions, and cooperation between educators inside a facility.

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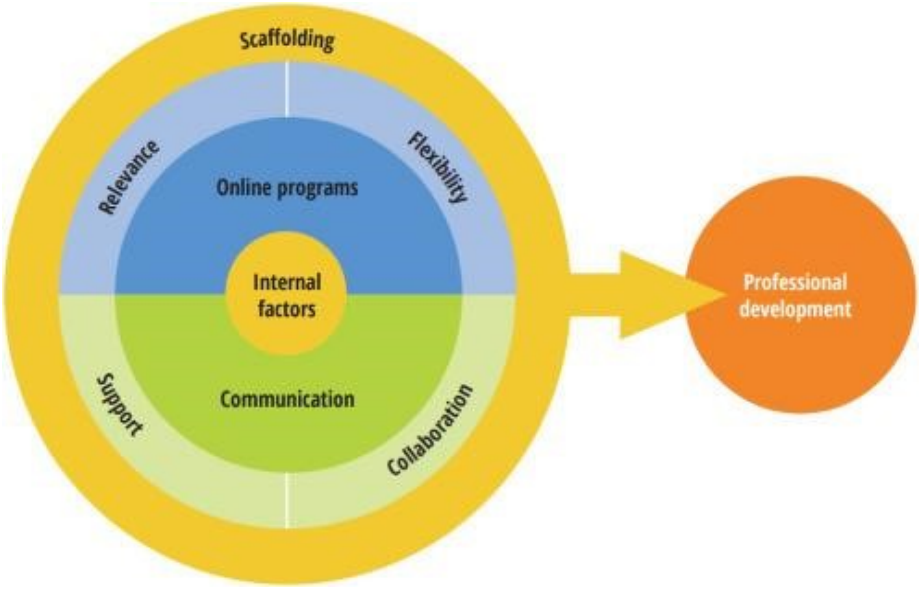
Social Networking Sites Impact Teachers' Professional Development



a. Networking and Collaboration

Global Reach: Educators can connect with professionals worldwide through platforms such as LinkedIn, Twitter, and educational forums.

Peer support: Teachers can collaborate on projects or lesson plans, share ideas, and get advice from peers, mentors, and experts.

b. Information and Resource Access

Rich Content Repository: A multitude of instructional materials, articles, lesson plans, and teaching techniques are available on these platforms.

Keep Up with: By staying up to date on current trends, research, and developments in education, educators can improve the way they teach.

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c. Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

Subject areas, interests, or pedagogy - through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), teachers can join forums or groups that align with them.

Ongoing Conversations, Exchange of Best Practices, and Support among Teachers: Being a part of PLCs promotes continuous learning among educators.

Effective Techniques for Ongoing Education on Social Networking Sites

a. Building a Credible Online Persona

Optimising Profiles: Instructors should set up a professional profile that showcases their interests and areas of expertise.

Creating Networks: Make a conscious effort to locate and establish connections with other educators and accounts that are centred around education.

b. Holding Conversations and Exchanging Materials

Active Participation: Ask insightful questions, share important resources, and regularly add to conversations.

Resource sharing: Give away lesson ideas, instructional techniques, and practical resources to help others.

c. Looking for and Offering Assistance

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Mentoring: Promote mentorship programs or ask seasoned teachers for advice.

Offering Assistance: Drawing from one's own experiences and knowledge, offer colleagues assistance and advice.

Obstacles and things to Think About

a. Ethical Behaviour and Professionalism

Keeping Boundaries: In their conversations and interactions, educators should maintain a professional demeanour.

Respecting Privacy: Make sure sensitive data and student information are kept private.

b. Credibility and Quality of Information

Critical Evaluation: Teachers need to be able to separate reliable sources and information from dubious material.

Fact-checking: Promote conversations that are based on facts and oppose the dissemination of false information.

Integration and Support from Institutions

a. Assisting Teachers

Assisting Teachers with Training and Resources: Organizations ought to provide workshops and materials on how to use social media sites for professional growth.

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Policy Advice: Provide precise rules and regulations about the use of social media in the classroom.

b. Incorporation into Programs for Professional Development

Formal Recognition: Include participation in social networking as a required professional development activity or as an accredited educational program.

Fostering Cooperation: Encourage group projects or conversations among the institution's contacts.

Conclusion

Social networking platforms provide a dynamic environment for the professional development of teachers by encouraging cooperation, resource sharing, and ongoing education. To optimize the influence of these platforms on their professional development and classroom efficacy, educators must, nevertheless, use them responsibly, guaranteeing professionalism, high-quality engagement, and ethical practices. Organizations ought to assist teachers in making the most of these platforms for their professional growth and the improvement of education everywhere.

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