PRINT: ISSN 0976-691X ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6586
JOURNAL OF
COMMUNICATION

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J Communication, 6(2): 275-283 (2015)
PRINT: ISSN 0976-691X ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6586
DOI: 10.31901/24566586.2015/06.02.07

The Prevalence of Social Networking among Grade 10 Learners: Are There Any Academic Benefits?

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KEYWORDS Social Media. Social Network Sites. Addictions. Cyberbullying. Smartphones

ABSTRACT As the world continues to experience globalisation and technological innovation, social networking sites are becoming the main communication tools to everyone, including the learners. Even though social networking sites have excellent educational benefits such as accessing information for any school-related activities, it is their addiction, which seem to be a serious problem for the learners. The aim of this paper was to investigate the prevalence of social networking among learners and how it is benefiting the learners as well as providing recommendations pertaining to the findings thereof. This quantitative survey design utilised simple random sampling procedure to select 100 Grade 10 (Further Education and Training Band) learners in three secondary schools. One hundred (100) close-ended questionnaires were completed, and the data were analysed through SPSS V22. The finding of this paper reveal that learners are addicted to social networking and that social networking is disturbing them when studying since they spend most of their time chatting to friends. The paper concludes that despite the valuable benefits that come through social networks, learners are not benefiting from them at all, rather, such social networks are distracting them from their studies. Proper guidance should be provided to learners on correct and effective ways of utilising social networking.