Attitude Towards Social Networking, Social Support In Relation To Internet Self- Efficacy Among Higher Secondary Students

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Abstract:

Higher education is progressing forward from Teacher Centred to Student centred. Students are encouraged to update their knowledge using a variety of sources including Social Networking. The term "social support system" describes a group of individuals, including friends, family, and peers, who we may lean on for both emotional and practical support. This paper examines how and why do Higher Secondary students use SNS to seek social support from relationships. Furthermore, this paper explores the type of SNS used and social support (Emotional, Informational, and Network Management) sought from their relationships on Internet Self – Efficacy. This paper is an attempt to investigate the causal relationship among these variables (Attitude towards Social Networking, Social Support in relation Internet Self-Efficacy) with path analysis. The research methodology used for the study is Descriptive. The sample for the study was 1208 students taken from the Government, Government – Aided and Private schools of various districts (Chennai, Coimbatore and Madurai) in Tamilnadu. The tool was developed by the research scholar with the help of the research Supervisor for the study. The data was collected through Random Sampling Method. The analysis of data was done by using Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) AMOS. The results showed that Attitude towards Social Networking, Social Support had the strongest effect on Internet Self- Efficacy.

Keywords: Attitude towards Social Networking, Social Support, Internet Self- Efficacy, Path Analysis, Structural Equation Modeling.

Introduction

Social networking sites are used to refer to websites that allow users to communicate with each other and share information (SNS). These platforms provide communication opportunities that allow users to uphold social connections, take part in relationship-maintenance activities, and access services like social support. Currently, there is a tremendous change being observed in how people are using the Internet for education. The Internet offers users a multitude of ways to access, consume, and spread the information as an inevitable effect of this development. Internet Self -Efficacy is the confidence in one's ability to plan and carry out the necessary internet activities for themselves. It indicates a person's level of comfort with using the internet.

Statement of the Problem

Attitude towards Social Networking, Social Support, Internet Self- Efficacy in Higher Secondary Students.

Objectives of the Study:

❖ The main aim of this research is to investigate the Attitude towards Social Networking, Social Support, and Internet Self- Efficacy among Higher Secondary Students

❖ To construct and validate a Structural Equation Model (SEM) of linear relationship among the variables of Attitude towards Social Networking, Social Support, and Internet Self- Efficacy.

Hypothesis:

On the basis of the objective, the Hypothesis was formulated for the study
H: *A Path Model relating to Attitude towards Social Networking, Social Support, and Internet Self- Efficacy is hypothesized for validation.*

Methodology:

The investigator has used survey method in this research. The population of the study included all the higher secondary students in Tamilnadu State and sample included 1208 students who were selected randomly. The tool was developed by the research scholar with the help of the supervisor The validity and reliability of the tools were established by the researcher.

Tools used:

The Attitude towards Social Networking Scale of 41 items and all the items are positive statements. The reliability of this scale was established by Cronbach's Alpha Method. The obtained reliability coefficient is 0.8 revealing that the tool is reliable. The Social Support Scale consists of 45 items and all the items are positive statements. The reliability of this scale was established by Cronbach's Alpha Method. The obtained reliability coefficient is 0.9 revealing that the tool is reliable. The Internet Self Efficacy Scale consists of 42 items and all the items are positive statements. The reliability of this scale was established by Cronbach's Alpha Method. The obtained reliability coefficient is 0.9 revealing that the tool is reliable.

Selection of the sample:

The sample for the study was selected by random sampling technique. The sample consisted of 1208 students drawn from the Government, Government – Aided and Private schools of various districts.

Delimitations of the study

- The study was limited to schools in 3 districts.
- The sample was limited to 1208 students studying in Higher secondary level
- All the analysis is made through standardized test materials.
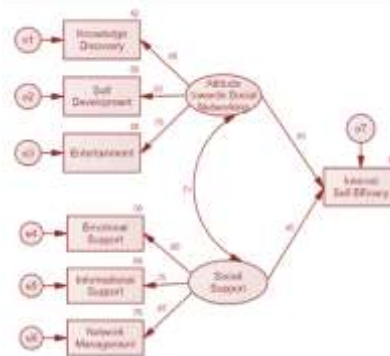
Statistical techniques used:

This theoretical model was tested using structural equation modelling (SEM) as the method of data analysis.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The path analysis is a subset of structural Equation Modelling (SEM), or a form of multiple regression statistical analysis and it is used to explore causal relationship between two or more variables. SEM refers to an acceptable fit between a theoretical and a observed covariance matrix. Structural modelling was used to analyse the relationship among the Attitude towards Social Networking, Social Support, and Internet Self- Efficacy.

A SEM relating to Internet Self – Efficacy with Attitude towards Social Networking and Social Support has been conceptualized and was validated using AMOS. The model is built in AMOS and the diagram is shown figure1. The standardized parameter estimates are shown in the graph.

Figure 1 Schematic Representation of the Conceptualized Path Model for Internet Self- Efficacy

Note: Figure 1 The structural model with standardized coefficients. A structural Equation Model (SEM) relating to Internet Self- Efficacy with Attitude towards Social Networking and Social Support along with dimensions.

Table 1 Measure of Goodness of Fit

Indices	Value	Suggested Value
Chi-square value	42.425	
DF	12	
P value	0.000	>0.05
Chi- square value/DF	3.790	<5.00
Goodness of Fit (GFI)	0.946	>0.90
Normed Fit Index (NFI)	0.938	>0.90
Comparative Fit Index (CFI)	0.941	>0.90
Root Men square Residuals (RMR)	0.071	<0.08
Root Men square Error (RMSEA)	0.054	<0.08

Table 1 contains goodness of fit measures. Goodness of fit measures is used to assess the fitness of structure equation model. In this study p- value of chi- Square test is significant.

The chi-square value for the CFA model was 42.425, (p<.001) and the degree of freedom for the model was 12. The fitness indices for the CFA model demonstrated that the model fit was good. Comparative Fit Index (CFI) = 0.941, Normed Fit Index (NFI) = 0.938, Root Men square Error (RMSEA) = 0.054. A Goodness of Fit is acceptable if GFI, NFI, TLI, and CFI are over 0.90 and RMSEA is under 0.8, and this study used these indexes for assessing the goodness – of – fit of the model. The model revealed that the variable is a good fit and the independent variables are significantly related to the dependent variable Internet Self- Efficacy.

Table 2 Multiple Regression of Independent variables with Internet Self- Efficacy.

Code	Independent Variables	Unstandardized regression Co-efficient (Beta)	S.E of B	Standardized regression Co-efficient (Beta)	t- value	p-value
X_1	Knowledge Discovery	4.169	0.180	0.645	23.226	0.000
X_2	Self- Development	5.830	0.183	0.825	31.942	0.000
X_3	Entertainment	4.897	0.175	0.745	27.953	0.000
X_4	Emotional Support	4.821	.226	.598	21.355	0.000
X_5	Informational Support	5.889	.207	.747	28.392	0.000
X_6	Network Management	7.385	.214	.865	34.487	0.000
X_7	Social Networking	9.426	.893	.398	10.561	0.000
X_8	Social Support	10.772	.890	.454	12.105	0.000

Note. N= 1208, the t-value is the commonly recommended basis for testing statistical significance of SEM components.

R= 0.648, R2 = 0.420, F= 290.951 significant at 0.000 level. The regression 'R' value is 0.648 and F test (F=290.95) is significant at 1% level. The results of table 2 indicate that the components of the independent variables social networking and social support had contributed 42 Percent towards internet Self- Efficacy. From the model, the relationship can be stated as

Y= 4.169 X_1+5.830 X_2 + 4.897 X_3 +4.821 X_4+ 5.889 X_5 +7.385 X_6 + 9.426 X_7 + 10.772 X_8
Where Y- Internet Self- Efficacy.

X_1 = Knowledge Discovery, X_2= Self Development, X_3= Entertainment, X_4= Emotional Support, X_5 = Informational Support, X_6= Network Management, X_7=Social Networking in total, X_8= Social Support in total.

Educational Implications:

In addition to encouraging a loving connection, social and familial support can aid youngsters in developing their character in a variety of ways through modelling the abilities they want to develop and sharing ideas across age groups When family members, teachers, or classmates provide them enough attention and support, higher Secondary students have a greater desire and willingness to participate in learning activities, which results in better achievement. Even in the face of failure, they are eager to learn and approach difficult learning tasks with confidence and social support, preventing the development of helplessness. In order to increase their Internet Self Efficacy, educators and parents should identify the students and encourage them to learn more about using the Internet. By fostering relationships through SNS, one can help people deal with difficult situations and give them a channel for discussion.

Recommendations:

Focus areas should be extended to analyse the significant aspects that may have an impact on the individual and result in the desired results. More hands-on training should be provided to improve the skills of the younger generation, who will be our future citizens when utilising social networking sites, students should be taught to uphold morals and principles.

Conclusion:

Digital learners in the twenty-first century need to possess the following competencies: creativity, communication, critical thinking, collaboration, citizenship, and connectedness. This study on Social Support and Internet Self-Efficacy among Higher Secondary Students offers an insight into the primary factors that will be rewarded for success in this century.

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