A COMPARATIVE STUDY RELATED TO THE EFFECTS OF SOCIALIZATION AND SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE STUDENTS OF AL-SUFFAH ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY AND THE MODERN UNIVERSITIES IN KARACHI CITY

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ABSTRACT: *The phenomenon of socialization and its uses for learning has been under investigation since ages. Almighty Allah (SWT) sent His messengers, who were masters in mass communication and socialization to expound and direct the nations pointing to the virtuous direction. When the lustre of Islam appeared in the Arab world, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) particularly used socialization to teach and preach the community a correct way of life defined by the ultimate Divine. In this modern age, social networking sites have gained wider usability and acceptability and undoubtedly became an obligatory instrument of interaction amid the students specifically at the advanced level of education. In this paper we did a comparative analysis between the student of first Islamic University (Suffah) and the modern universities against the effects of socialization and social networks by applying the Social Gratification Theory to observe behaviour and effects of social networking sites (WhatsApp and Facebook) on modern university's students; all the data was collected form graduate and undergraduate students from five major public sector universities in Karachi. The findings revealed that Social Networking Sites (Facebook and WhatsApp) do not increase the interaction between students and teachers which tends to decline their learning outcomes. In comparison, socialization increased the interaction and augmented the learning outcomes as seen in the students at Al-Suffah University. This study demonstrates a connection between adverse and innovative qualities of Social Networking sites and displays the paths for upcoming studies by enabling an improved understanding of usage of Social Networks.*
KEYWORDS: *Effects of socialization of Al-Suffah Islamic University, Al-Suffah University and Modern Universities in Karachi, Social Networking sites, Ashab e Suffah, First Islamic University.*

Introduction

There is no such region in the world where Islam has not put the light of guidance and assistance likewise not a single moment in human life when the wisdom has not aided humanity to govern this world systematically (Altaf Hussain 2018).

Socialization and interaction are the secrets of learning; for this experiment has been under exploration for a long time. In the early ages Prophets were used to create a bond with society via socialization and then tried to disseminate the message. Although, there are various dissimilarities regarding the education system of modern and ancient societies for many aspects like socialization, education, culture, educational institutions and so on, however, the main concept of education scheme was to educate and guide their people. In this paper we are trying to emphasize a comparative analysis between the first Islamic University (Suffah) and modern universities on the basis of socialization and social network effects over their students. Social Networks although a new terminology which was coined after the invention of the internet, whereas socialization is an oldest methodology of

interaction and association, thus, social networks actually a new and modified form of the socialization. Ultimately, both types of socializations helps university students to structure a new dimension of analysis related to the effects of physical socializations and virtual socializations.

Institutions interact with each other in the continuous process of civilization. In the past, when moral and ethical values started deteriorating in the societies, Allah (SWT) sent His messenger(s) for the welfare and guidance of mankind. Each messenger was sent solely for specific society but Allah (SWT) sent His Beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) towards all humanity as Allah (SWT) said (interpretation of the meaning) *"Allah revealed to His messenger the Qur'an by which to guide people and We have not sent you (O Muhammad) except as a giver of glad tidings and a warner to all mankind, but most of men know not"* (AlQuraan Sabah 34:28).

Studying human history reveals to us that when our Lord created the first human Adam (AS), He ornamented him with the knowledge. Therefore, all prophets and messengers preached their people to acquire the quality of knowledge specially, so they cannot deviate from the true essence of life (Rafiq 2018)[1].In this context, when we see the first revelation sent to our Prophet (PBUH) was about gaining knowledge.

"Read! In the name of your Lord Who has created (all that exists). He has created man from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood). Read! and your Lord is the most generous" (AlQuran Al Alaq 1-3).

In today's era, there are serious threats to our social structure and culture that can only be moulded and refuted by teachers and undoubtedly our Holy Prophet's (peace be upon Him) life is the greatest source of guidance for all teachers. By following the footprints of Hazrat Muhammad (peace be upon Him) our teachers can take our nation towards unparalleled prosperity and growth (Nasir Majeed Malik 2017).

Literature Review

The Al-Suffah

After the migration of our holy prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his companions to Madinah Al-Munawwara, the practice to spreading Islam continued rather increased, for which, Prophet's mosque was the centre of social activities at that time. Under the supreme instructions of Muhammad (PBUH) a shade of date trees' branches was erected at the same place where old Qibla was used to be and the name given to that quarter was Al-Suffah means courtyard (Naseem 2007).

Ashab-e-Suffah

They were usually unmarried, young and poor citizens and immigrants who did not have anywhere else to go. They dwell at Al-Suffah and all the basic necessities of life were provided to them. Their sole occupation was to spend all their time learning and studying with the Prophet (SAW) (Elahi 2001). They surrendered all the attractions of this divine world for the sake of knowledge and entirely presented themselves to please Allah (SWT) and His messenger (SAW) as they were extremely devoted to

Islam (Ali 2003)[2].Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was always worried about their comfort and provisions of all basic necessities of life (Qureshi 1998).Most of them were farmers or tradesmen before, however they committed their lives for spiritual discipline and prayers solely in the close company of the Prophet (SAW) (Jarrar Ahamad 2019). Ashab-e-Suffah has the honour of being the first teachers & educators of Islam.

According to an estimate, at any single time the number of Ashab-e-Suffah could reach to three hundred approximately in which almost seventy Ashab make it as their permanent dwelling (Isphahani 2006).

For the eternal reward hereafter, it seemed from their lifestyle that besides they were the people of the same world but they bypassed all the luxuries of life in order to gain valuable knowledge (Walker 2010).

Ashab-e-Suffah's Virtues and their Position According to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in Ahadiths

Fadula Ubayd reports that, "When the Prophet (PBUH) of Allah (SWT) used to lead the prayers, some people would fall down on the floor due to appetite and those people were the Ashab-e-Suffah and the Bedouins used to say, these people are mad and, when the Prophet (PBUH) would turn to them (Ashab e Suffah), he would say, "If you were to know what is for you then you would love to be increased in scarcity and in need' Fadula said: 'On that day I was with the Messenger of Allah" (at-Tirmidhi 1999).

Wathila Al Aqsa states, "I was amongst the Ahl-e-Suffah and I saw that not a single one of us would have ample attire (to cover our body) and the sweat on our body would collect the filth and dirt. Then the Messenger of Allah would come between us and say, 'Pleased news is for the underprivileged people of the immigrants" (At-Tabarani Hadith no.170).

Hazrat Abu Hurairah (RA)

There is a long list of the Companions of the Prophet PBUH (Ashab e Karam RA) who were included in Ashab-e-Suffah but few of them got the prominent position and status among them (Kandemir. 1994). The most distinguished of them was Hazrat Abu Hurairah (RA) as he was notorious for having a wonderful memory. His role in learning and narrating Ahadiths was so vital that one who has knowledge of hadith cannot deny his topmost position in this field as he had narrated almost a mystifying number of Ahadiths i.e. 5374 (Hashmi 2004).

Ranging from those on doctrines and ethics of Islam to those on belief, Hazrat Abu Hurairah (RA) has narrated diverse types of Narrations (Ghani 2011)[3].

Muhammad bin Sirin said: "We were with Abu Hurairah (RA) and he was wearing two linen attires (at-Tirmidhi 1999). Abu Hurairah (RA) was keen to learn all major and minor actions performed by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and was so meticulous in gathering all types of information, regardless of its insignificance (Ghani 2011).

In another narration, Abu Hurairah (RA) quotes "I have divided my night-time into three parts. I perform Salah in one third of the night, I sleep in one third and I memorize hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the last one third of night (Hakim 2002). It shows that how devoted Abu Hurairah (RA) was in learning and sacrificing his sleep to learn the true essence of Islam.

Hazrat Abu Hurairah (RA) narrated that, the messenger (PBUH) of Allah (SWT) said: "O Allah (SWT), value me with that which You have educated me, and explain me that which will benefit me" (Tirmidhi Hadith no 3599).

Al-Suffah as the First Islamic University

For the first time in the Islamic history Suffah became the first islamic institution which consisted of a mosque as its classroom where all the Ashab e Suffah occupied themselves busy in learning and were preaching islamic education and above all where our Prophet (PBUH) leads as a teacher and mentor (Hamidullah 1990). The main theme to establish that kind of place was not only to set up an area of worship but to provide a centre of education and excellence for the Muslims (Jarrar Ahamad 2019). As a result, after undertaking a long and hectic journey, people from everywhere started to visit and get admitted to Al-Suffah to learn about the true religion "Islam".

Islam has promulgated a methodical value education in so many transcripts to teach the people about valued education, ethics and morals by means of a true reflection of their mentor's personality and behaviour. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) used multiple successful pedagogic procedures in Al-Suffah to coach and guide their pupils as he (PBUH) is undoubtedly the best mentor and councillor in the world till the day of judgement.

Universities and Education in Modern Era

The enhancement in Science and technology has carried substantial multiplicity in education and teaching approach in today's era. Education has become more prolific and more personalized after the diffusion of technology. Alternate paths have been provided by E-learning methods to improve quality education (Sahinshah Babar Khan 2012). The learning methodology supported by conventional teaching emphasis on complete organizational control and face to face meetings over the phenomenon. Now, most of the universities are well equipped with modern facilities and students are getting maximum benefits and exposure from the new techniques especially in Karachi. In contrast, some of the universities are still following the traditional teaching methodologies for their students which are more effective than the online and digital educational facilities so far.

During the last twelve years, social media platforms such as Twitter, Reddit and YouTube have also gained fame. YouTube is among one of the most popular platforms that is being used by the students for educational purposes. The information available on social platforms is highly relevant for the students and it is widely used

to advance their scholastic strength as well as in improving their overall academic performance.

Many universities in Pakistan and abroad are now making use of Television mediums for broadcasting lectures and providing relevant information to the students about program curriculum and course outlines. Students pursuing distance learning education benefit from television lectures and are able to ask relevant questions to the professor particular to the course contents (Rehman 2014).

Education through Conventional and Modern (Virtual) means of Communication

Virtual education can cater a large number of student's at all academic levels and can be considered as an alternative to the conventional system of education. Once it is integrated, it extends the prospects of higher education; technology based instructional methodology and equal opportunity. However, students do face some problems as well (Hussain 2007). Online learning can help to supplement education but cannot replace face-to-face traditional education (Lisa Beradino 2005).

Since the year 2000, social media has observed rapid development and progress and the emergence of new social platforms and applications provided a major boost to the available communication channels. During the period of 2000 to 2005; the introduction of Facebook, LinkedIn, MySpace, and Hi5 has transformed the way people interact with one another (Ellison 2011).

Individual learning is also growing very fast in Pakistan which is primarily the education that focuses on the learner cantered approach which means teaching, learning and evaluation that gives great importance on the background, knowledge, past requirements, the current stage of development and the potential of each learner (Abdur Rehman 2018).

In Pakistan, some of the universities are presenting recorded video lectures for students via television; for instance, Virtual University of Pakistan makes continuous use of television and radio for broadcasting particular lectures which develop interaction with their students. Students acquiring education from remote areas or busy professionals that are engaged in their jobs are able to benefit from the same programs and lectures. Distance learning concept is evolving in Pakistan rapidly and universities such as Allama Iqbal Open University and Virtual University are getting advantage using televised broadcasting and multiple social media platforms for delivering lectures and conducting one-to-one interactive sessions with their students (Muhammad Javed Iqbal 2010). A virtual web classroom-based environment is created and the students are able to interact with the professors on a more regular basis; online technologies and platforms are making it easier for the students to pursue their education from the comfort of their home.

Student's life has become easier with the revolution of web based media as the information is available in abundance on these platforms; however, students have to select the most appropriate and relevant information for fulfilling their academic

requirements and needs. In addition, the greatest edge associated with the usage of web based social networking platforms is that they are free. Furthermore, there are no potential difficulties and hurdles involved in the adaptation of modern media.

The new features included in social media applications allow users to share information across multiple users via text message, images, voice notes, and video or phone calls. Private groups are created by the students on Facebook for initiating a healthy conversation among classmates so that relevant and authentic information related to academics can be shared. As compared to older days where social platforms were used only for business purposes or sharing highly relevant or important corporate information, the modern era allows individuals to share information with other users in multiple forms. Furthermore, students and youngsters often use social platforms for a variety of purposes such as entertainment, music, information, education, viral news or fun activities. With the emergence of these multiple options, there are also a few negatives associated with social media usage, which can have a devastating impact on the students' academic and professional careers. (Przemyslaw A. Grabowicz 2012).

The Emergence of Social Media

Social media is permeating society at a much faster rate than before on a daily basis. Social media is no longer limited to a few social websites; such as Facebook and Twitter have crossed boundaries reaching different areas (Dickey 2010) . Moreover, several researches have shown that not only social media but also, consumer behaviours and social media tactics have evolved significantly. Famous social media websites such as Facebook which was launched in 2004 has reached overall 1.4 billion users (Jonathan Ober 2015). On the other hand, Twitter which was launched in 2006 has reached a threshold of 288 million active users. Social media services rapidly emerged as both a business and social phenomenon.

With the rapid increase in the new services around social media enabled Web 2.0 features to be embedded into other web-based services (O'Reilly 2005).Social media has enabled people to communicate with a large number of people at a single time. Moreover, companies take advantage of this characteristic of social media for the promotion of products and services. (Mangold 2009). Hence, the increase in consumer-to-consumer interaction has remarkably impacted the marketplace. Social Network Sites (SNSs) are increasing day by day, which are attracting the attention of both industries and academics. SNSs are of various designs and types that are used to satisfy different needs and requirements. Each site is designed to satisfy different needs as a result of a wide range of practices and interests.

Using different platforms of social media is the most common activity of the day for the children between the ages of 12-22. These platforms offer a variety of options for the users to take part in different debates taking place online. However, on one hand where social media has several positive effects on society, it also has some

disadvantages that affect the youth. Due to an alarming increase in the saturation level of internet usage, different websites have been developed in the past times.

Education through Social Media

The usage of social networking sites and messaging platforms could be productive and beneficial for the students if used in the right way. Educational groups formed on WhatsApp are a great source of providing bulky relevant information to the group of students (Issa 2016). Many university professors and lecturers teaching in Pakistani institutions have established educational groups, which provide appropriate data and information to the students in order to be able to complete their assignments and increase their knowledge (Shafiq 2017). A healthy and learning environment is established between the student and the teacher with the adaptation of WhatsApp. Facebook educational groups are also beneficial for the students as they aid the students in their studies. Adaptation of technology, social media and other communication apps are transforming the overall communication process. With the emergence and existence of these technologies, communication has become simplified and to some extent educational institutions of Pakistan are getting advantage by utilizing this to accomplish their academic activities.

University students of Karachi are usually active on WhatsApp and use this social networking app for leisure activities and education purposes. During exams, many students form educational groups to combine study and discuss important terms, which are relevant for the examination. Facebook platform has both pros and cons associated with the student's academic performance; it is up to the students whether an individual uses it for educational purposes or involving themselves in unethical practices. However, most of the time students use Facebook for non-academic purposes such as listening to music, watching funny clips or memes, sharing entertainment related stuff and other related activities. Different types of activities performed by the student online consumes on average 6 to 8 hours of student's time daily. Only a handful of students use Facebook for academic purposes and utilize the academic material for completing their assignments. Educational groups present on Facebook provide useful knowledge to the students related to their course (Michikyan 2015). Video content is mostly preferred by the students rather than text for understanding various complex theories taught in the classroom.

Social media platforms and other socializing networks or platforms have become an integral component of students' academic and non-academic life. Individuals enrolled in colleges and universities use these social networking apps on a more frequent basis for spending their precious time in entertainment activities (Rashid 2016). Media has been converted into an indispensable feature of human activity due to modernization (Paul 2012). Precisely, Socialness is one of the many exciting features of social media for education. It permits us to break out of the paradigm of the monolithic student into a more convoluted and complex world of constructivist, active and situated pedagogies.

Learning experience can be made interactive through online courses that offer the opportunity of creating a highly social learning environment. However, critical skills are required by the instructor to manage and create interaction in online courses, especially when collaborative learning is required. The key characteristic of collaborative learning is that it supports and values diversity due to which different cultures and learning styles can be easily accommodated.

Social Media and Socialization

Socialization is defined as a process through which individuals interact as per social standards, values and culture of a particular place. (Gonzalez 2015). Honestly, views and perspectives of a particular social norm or regulation are greatly influenced by that specific agent of socialization; however, social media plays an important role to shape up the socialization process of an individual. In this regard, social media proved to be an effective tool for socialization which considerably affects an individual's way of thinking. Thus, the socialization process of the students expressively influenced due to the incorporation of social media for academic purposes.

In addition, social media can bring extensive social and radical changes along with its impact on the political, cultural, civil, and social outlook. Most of the media centres are found to be located in the urban areas due to the effect of modernization (Fuchs 2014). However, the use of social media is limited to age, personal needs, economic condition, education and availability of proper components.

Apart from this, social media serves as a bastion for consumer socialization by utilizing multiple social media platforms. This strategy of peer communication has transformed into a marketing issue through rapid popularization and increased usage of social media. Hence, consumer socialization and academic socialization segregated easily where social websites have served as a major medium for social interaction. To facilitate socialization, different social networking websites such as Facebook and Twitter offer a variety of features which complements the socialization process. The process includes sharing of messages, photos, and videos to send forms of expressions in the form of emojis. A Facebook profile attempts to create a social desktop and lets the users share messages and personal media content on their Facebook ID which reaches out to their friends list. (Fu 2017). This stunt increases the sociability among people by interacting with one another through the shared content.

In light of these revelations, social media represents itself a key factor of socialization. The usage of multiple media among youth has grown steadily; similarly, youth spend more time watching television, internet, cell phones, and playing video games (Helou 2014). Since the inception of social media, socialization is no longer restricted to a family, peers and other relatives. Besides that, depression is the most common problem which arises due to extensive use of social media and is found to be highly prevalent in the U.S (Lin 2016). Hence, there are several negative

impacts of extensive use of social media, in contrast numerous positive impacts of social media have also been demonstrated in multiple contexts of socialization.

Research Methodology

The research philosophy is considered as a technique in which data related to a certain phenomenon is obtained, evaluated and used. It is concerned with the source from which data is being derived, along with its nature and the way the knowledge comprehension occurs. It also defines the way in which the interpretation of the data takes place (Meyers 2014).

In this paper we opted for both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to compare the Effects of Socialization and Social Networks on the Students of First Islamic University (Suffah) and Modern Universities in Public Sector.

We used content analysis to find out how Ashab-e-Suffah used socialization and physical networks to interact with Muslims of that time and how Al Suffah became the first university for Muslims, where multiple issues ranging from student affairs to the social development were discussed and resolved under the single roof.

A survey of 1000 students from the public universities in Karachi was conducted to find out the effects of socialization and social networks on their academic and social life.

H_0: Social Networking Sites (Facebook, WhatsApp) do not increase the interaction between students and teachers which tends to enhance the learning outcomes.

H_1: Social Networking Sites (Facebook, WhatsApp) increase the interaction between students and teachers which tends to enhance the learning outcomes.

Case Processing Summary

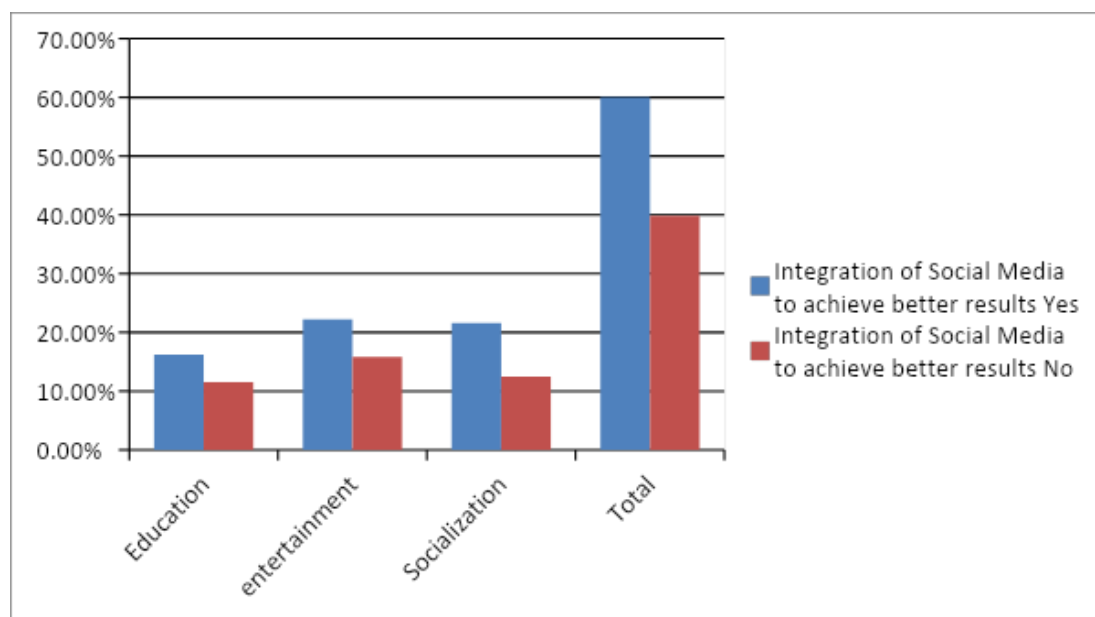|	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Purpose of using Social Networking Sites * Integration of Social Media to achieve better results	1000	100.0%	0	0%	1000	100.0%

Purpose of using Social Networking Sites and Integration of Social Media to achieve better results

Purpose of using Social Networking Sites	Integration of Social Media to achieve better results			Total
	Yes	No	Sometimes	
Education	16.2%	11.5%	.1%	27.8%
Entertainment	22.2%	15.8%	0%	38.0%
Socialization	21.6%	12.5%	.1%	34.2%
Total	60.0%	39.8%	.2%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	3.506[a]	4	.477
Likelihood Ratio	4.192	4	.381
N of Valid Cases	1000		

a. 3 cells (33.3%) have an estimated count less than 5. The minimum estimated count is .56.

Using chi-square test with 4 degrees of freedom it is found that p>0.05 specifies that there is no significant variance between usage of social networks and augment the interaction between teachers and the students which tends to enhance the learning outcomes. Thus the null hypothesis was accepted. It is concluded that Social Networks (Facebook & WhatsApp) do not escalate the connection between teachers and the students which tends to enhance the learning outcomes.

H$_{o2}$: Socialization does not increase the interaction between teachers and the students which tends to enhance the learning outcomes.

H$_2$: Socialization increases the interaction between teachers and the students which tends to enhance the learning outcomes.

To test the above mentioned hypothesis, a content analysis technique was undertaken. A lot of literature about the Islamic personalities were reviewed especially when we discussed how socialization between students and teachers increases the learning outcomes. In that context, we observed an example of first Islamic University Al-

Suffah and its most prominent student Abu Hurairah (RA), who was under the supervision of the greatest teacher and mentor Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) (Ghani 2011) .In fact, there were lots of Ahadiths narrated by other companions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) including Ummul momineen Ayesha (RA), however, maximum number of Ahadiths i.e. 5374 were narrated by Hazrat Abu Hurairah (RA), due to his close socialization with Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), ultimately, his knowledge level was found more among all other Ashab who were related to Prophet Muhammad SAW. Hence, it is concluded that the socialization increases learning consequences and the students acquired effective knowledge from direct guidance from their teachers unlike online or virtual methodology.

Discussion

We performed a comparative study to find out if Social Networking Sites (Facebook or WhatsApp) increase the interaction between the students and teachers which tends to enhance their learning outcomes or if the Socialization increases the learning outcomes. Survey was done to find out the Social networking sites' effectiveness for the students and for the teachers as well, and after analysing the data we collected, concluded that social networking sites do not increase the learning outcomes. Social networking sites which are most famous amongst students like Facebook and WhatsApp cannot help to enhance the learning environment as maximum number of students use them as their leisure time or for their entertainment.

We studied that the socialization done in the primitive Islamic Era increased the learning outcomes as Hazrat Abu Hurairah (RA) had constant closed connection and spent maximum time with Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and so he narrated maximum number of Ahadiths. On the other hand, there were lots of other beloved Ashab-e-Karam like Abu Bakar Siddiq (RA), Umar bin Khattab (RA), Ali bin Abitalib (RA) etc. who also had a close association and had dedicated their lives to Holy Prophet (PBUH), however credit for compiling and describing maximum number of Ahadiths goes to Hazrat Abu Hurairah (RA). The main reason behind this achievement was a direct face to face interaction with the Messenger (PBUH), day and night companionship with the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as well as learnt Islam in detail from his (PBUH) each and every gesture, his personality and his attitude as well.

To some extent, negative social media impacts have been witnessed since the inception of media advancement; therefore, future research should be aimed at addressing the impact of social media usage. Moreover, research should be conducted to address the traditional media and to explore the type of content being uploaded on social media websites as well.

Conclusion

Finally, it is concluded that the direct socialization through face-to-face communication with conventional means of teaching found efficiently effective and it enhance the learning outcomes as we observed and studied the students at Al-Suffah University who were always in direct and close connection with Prophet Muhammad

(PBUH) who is the most prominent personality in the Islamic history; whereas the social networking sites could not be helpful to enhance the learning outcomes of students as well as cannot beneficial for teachers and students' relations and collaboration effectively.

Direct Socialization between students and the teachers especially at the university level is always very supportive to groom students' attitude and personality to move in the proper direction academically and morally; it is clearly mentioned in our study that the students who were studying in Al-Suffah University had comparatively better knowledge and understanding. There were no social networks at that time but socialization took place at the Mosque-University increased their learning consequences. Whereas, the students in the public sector universities in Karachi cannot be benefitted by using social networking sites as these sites are still understood as entertainment medium rather than education, further, with no face-to-face or direct connection between teacher and student decline their learning skills.

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