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Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence: Navigating the Relationship Among Prospective Teachers

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Abstract

This study investigates the relationship between Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence among Prospective teachers. Through this exploration, the investigator aims to elucidate various levels of Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence among prospective teachers. In this study, the investigator collected data from 378 samples from population and analysed major five hypothesis by using various statistical analysis. The investigator found the relationship between Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence and suggested to add more advanced technological ideas in prospective Mathematics teacher's curriculum.

Keywords: Social Media Competence, Social Intelligence and Prospective teachers

Introduction

Nowadays Social media plays a significant role in shaping an individual social life as well plays a significant role in education as well. In today's world, media-focused education has become popular from kindergarten to higher education and that leads from the background like cooperating Social Media Competence along with their training, career development with formal and informal learning. It reshaped an educator's daily life like how they communicate, collaborate and perceive relationship in their classroom. For a prospective teacher's digital media interaction through various social media is not only a social activity for their daily life but also a critical aspect of professional development. At the same time, social intelligence is the ability to navigate social situations effectively and understand interpersonal dynamics also a part of their professional development.

Need and Significance

As future educators, prospective teachers must balance their professionalism through best Social Intelligence. While Social Media Competence has a vital role in communication, collaboration and professional networking, its misuse can lead to ethical, psychological, and interpersonal challenges and also Prospective teachers must competent in using Social Media responsibility and also demonstrating high levels of Social Intelligence to foster healthy classroom environments. The pedagogical integration of Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence always a produce a good teaching learning output to our society. However, there are limited researches exists on the relationship between these two constructs.

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So, it is essential to conduct such studies to seek information how Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence relate among Prospective teachers.

Review of Related Literature

Sharma and Thomas (2023) discovered a moderate positive relationship between Social Media communication abilities and social empathy in future teachers. Lee and Part (2022) noted that those with elevated Social intelligence are more likely to engage in ethical and constructive social media use. There are only a limited studies that related the two variables Social media competence and Social Intelligence.

Definitions of Key terms

Social Media Competence: The Merriam- Webster Dictionary defines "social as pretraining to human society, the interaction between individuals and groups, or the well-being of individuals as member of society. The term 'media' means the plural form communication systems. "Social media is a public space where posted statements have lasting impact; it is anticipated that discussions will be significant and thoughtful" (Chenm Hsia, and Hu, 2012). Social Media Competence refers the overall skills, knowledge and attitudes required to engage responsibility and effectively in digital communication.

Social Media Competence is operationally defined as the overall and essential skills and knowledge that allows an individual to enrich their Social Media usage in their daily life also in the part their professional life.

Social Intelligence: The term Social Intelligence is the ability to know himself/herself and to know others. It says the way of performing social life perfectly. The major perceptions of Social Intelligence are perception, judgement and memory of social stimuli. It reveals the interpersonal and intra personal affairs of an individual. It includes the social awareness and social cognition and social attunement of an individual in their own life and professional life.

Social Intelligence is operationally defined as the process focusing on social cognition, representing knowledge and skills how an individual stores and processes the information about themselves, other people and social world in their own individual and professional life.

Prospective teachers: According to Merriam Webster dictionary' prospective' means likely to be or become something specifies in the future and 'teacher' means a person. Thus, a prospective teacher is one who were undergoing the teacher training course and ready to a teacher in future.

The term Prospective teachers operationally defined as those currently undergoing a professional teacher training course and are preparing to become a certified teachers in the future.

Objectives

- 1. To find out the levels of Social Media Competence of the Prospective teachers for the whole sample.
- 2. To find out the levels of Social Intelligence of the prospective teachers for the whole sample.
- **3.** To compare the levels of Social Media Competence of the Prospective teachers with reference to the dimensions of Social Media Competence such as
- Individual Media Competence
- Critical Media Competence
- Technical Media Competence
- Educational Media Competence
- Life- long Media Competence



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- **4.** To compare the levels of Social Intelligence of the Prospective teachers with reference to the dimensions of Social Intelligence such as
- Intellectual level
- Emotional level
- Behavioural level
- Environmental level
- Ethical level
- 5. To find out whether there is any relationship between Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence among Prospective teachers for the whole sample.

Hypotheses

- 1. There exist different levels of Social Media Competence of the Prospective teachers for the whole sample.
- 2. There exist different levels of Social Intelligence of the prospective teachers for the whole sample.
- 3. There exist different levels of Social Media Competence of the Prospective teachers with reference to the dimensions of Social Media Competence such as
- Individual Media Competence
- Critical Media Competence
- Technical Media Competence
- Educational Media Competence
- Life-long Media Competence
- 4. There exist different levels of Social Intelligence of the Prospective teachers with reference to the dimensions of Social Intelligence such as
- Intellectual level
- Emotional level
- Behavioural level
- Environmental level
- Ethical level
- **5.** There exist different a relationship between Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence among Prospective teachers for the whole sample.

Methodology

Method adopted for the study

By taking into consideration the nature of the study, the researcher decided to adopt Survey method for collecting data.

Population and sample

The prospective teachers who were undergoing teacher training course in Kerala from different Teacher training colleges is identified as the population of the study.

The sample of the study identified by using stratified sampling. Here 378 Prospective teachers from Palakkad and Thrissur districts included in this study.



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Identification of the variables

Independent Variable: Social Media Competence

Dependent variable: Social Intelligence

Tools and Techniques

The investigator used Social Intelligence scale which broadly consists the following levels

- Intellectual level
- Emotional level
- Behavioural level
- Environmental level
- Ethical level

The investigator used Social Media Competence Scale of the Prospective teachers prepared by Kumar and Ampili (2014) which broadly consists the following levels

- Individual Media Competence
- Critical Media Competence
- Technical Media Competence
- Educational Media Competence
- Life- long Media Competence

Statistical analysis

The collected data was analysed using the various statistical techniques by using SPSS software.

- Preliminary Statistical Analysis (Measures of Central tendency, Measures of Central Tendency, Measures of Dispersion, Skewness and Kurtosis).
- Percentage analysis
- Karl Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Analysis

Scope of the study

Information and communication technologies are always growing in each and every second in this world. Today's classrooms are always challenging to each and every teacher with the most powerful weapon Social Media. Nowadays there is no partition in Social Media usage like teachers and students. But teachers are the real guides happened to say how and what are the importance in the Social Media usage in teaching and learning. The professional growth and development of prospective teachers depends on the competent use of Social Media and Social Intelligence in their classrooms. So there is a wide scope in this study in prospective teacher's profession.

Analysis & findings

Preliminary Analysis

The major preliminary analysis done by the researcher and the details of the results are given below.

Table 1: Preliminary Analysis of Social Media Competence of Prospective Teachers

| Variable | N | Mean | Median | Mode | SD | Skewness | Kurtosis |
|-------------|-------|--------|--------|------|-------|----------|----------|
| Social Medi | a 378 | 279.61 | 276.50 | 293 | 33.52 | 0.37 | 0.24 |
| Competence | 370 | 2/9.01 | 270.30 | 293 | 33.32 | 0.57 | 0.24 |



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Results given in Table 1 suggest that mean, median and mode were found to be 279.61, 276.50 and 293 respectively that means there is no much variance in the three measures of central tendency. Skewness and Kurtosis were found to be 0.37 and 0.24 respectively. This result shows that the distribution of the variable is positively skewed and that the curve is inclined (skewed) more to the right. The value of Kurtosis is 0.24 and is greater than zero for the normal curve and hence the curve is Leptokurtic. This frequency distribution is Leptokurtic. These are illustrated with the help of Figure 1.

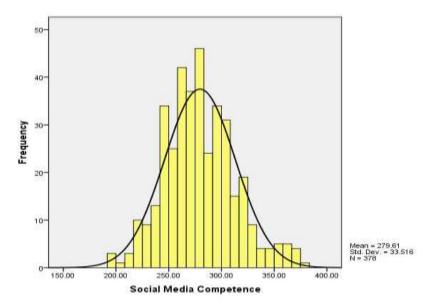


Figure 1 Graphical representation of Social Media Competence among Prospective Teachers

Table 2 Data and Results of the Preliminary Analysis of Social Intelligence among Prospective Teachers

| Variable | N | Mean | Median | Mode | SD | Skewness | Kurtosis |
|---------------------|-----|--------|--------|------|-------|----------|----------|
| Social Intelligence | 378 | 144.74 | 145 | 142 | 11.79 | -0.05 | 0.37 |

Results given in Table 2 shows that mean, median and mode were found to be 144.74,145 and 142 respectively that means there is no much variance in the three measures of central tendency. Skewness and Kurtosis were found to be -0.05 and 0.37 respectively. This suggests that the distribution of the variable is negatively skewed when there are individuals in a group who score greater than the average score for their group. The value of Kurtosis is 0.37 and is greater than zero for the normal curve and hence the curve is Leptokurtic.



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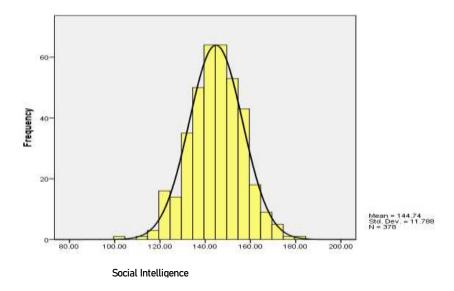


Figure 2 Graphical representation of Social Intelligence of Prospective Teachers

Hypotheses 1. There exist different levels of Social Media Competence among Prospective Teachers for the whole sample

Analysis of the levels of Social Media Competence among Prospective Teachers for the whole sample.

The number and percentage of the college students with different levels (high, average, low) of the variable Social Media Competence is worked out and presented under this section.

The investigator estimated the number of Prospective Teachers under the three levels with respect to obtained $M+1\sigma$ and above in the variable Social Media Competence are labelled as high group, those who obtained scores between $M+1\sigma$ and $M-1\sigma$ in the variable Social Media Competence are classified as low group and those who obtained scores $M-1\sigma$ and below are classified as low group. The analysis is presented in the Table 3.

| Sl. No | Category | N | % |
|--------|----------|-----|-------|
| 1 | High | 52 | 13.76 |
| 2 | Average | 271 | 71.69 |
| 3 | Low | 55 | 14.55 |

Table 3 Levels in Social Media Competence among Prospective Teachers

It is seen from Table 3 that 71.69% of the Prospective Teachers have average level of Social Media Competence, 13.76% have high Social Media Competence and 14.55% have low Social Media Competence. The results indicate that the majority of Prospective Teachers have average Social Media Competence. These are illustrated with the help of Figure 3.



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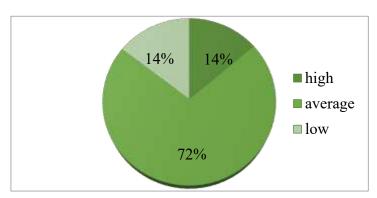


Figure 3 Graphical representation of levels of Social Media Competence among Prospective Teachers

Discussion

Result shows that a large majority is having average Competence in using Social Media effectively for teaching and learning purposes.

Thus, the hypothesis 1 is fully substantiated.

Hypotheses 2. There exist different levels of Social Intelligence among the Prospective Teachers for the whole sample

Analysis of levels of Social Intelligence among the Prospective Teachers for the whole sample

The number and percentage of the Prospective teachers with different levels of the variable Social Intelligence obtained as $M+1\sigma$ and above in the variable Social Intelligence are labelled as high group, those obtained scores between $M+1\sigma$ and $M-1\sigma$ in the variable Social Intelligence are classified as Average group and those who obtained scores $M-1\sigma$ and below are classified as low group. The result of the analysis is presented in the Table 4.

| Sl. No | Category | N | % |
|--------|----------|-----|-------|
| 1 | High | 53 | 14.02 |
| 2 | Average | 267 | 70.63 |
| 3 | Low | 58 | 15.34 |

Table 4 Levels in Social Intelligence among Prospective Teachers

It is seen from Table 4 that 70.63% of the Prospective Teachers have average level of Social Intelligence, 14.02% have high Social Intelligence and 15.34% low Social Intelligence level. These are illustrated with the help of Figure 4

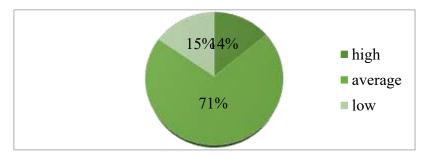


Figure 4. Graphical representation of levels of Social Intelligence among Prospective Teachers



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Discussion

Result shows that a large majority is having average Social Intelligence.

Thus, the hypothesis 2 is fully substantiated.

Hypotheses 3. There exist different levels of Social Media Competence among Prospective Teachers with reference to the dimensions of Social Media Competence such as Individual media competence, Critical media competence, Technical competence, Educational design competence and Life-long learning competence

Analysis of different levels of Social Media Competence among Prospective Teachers with reference to the dimensions of Social Media Competence such as Individual media competence, Critical media competence, Technical competence, Educational design competence and Life-long learning competence.

The investigator estimated the number of Prospective Teachers obtained as $M+1\sigma$ and above in the variable Social Media Competence are labelled as high group, those who obtained scores between $M+1\sigma$ and $M-1\sigma$ in the variable Social Media Competence are classified as low group and those who obtained scores $M-1\sigma$ and below are classified as low group in each level of Social Media Competence. The result of the analysis is presented in the Table 5.

Table 5 Levels in Different Dimensions of Social Media Competence among Prospective Teachers

| Levels of Social Media Competence | Levels | % |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | High | 15.61 |
| Individual Media Competence | Average | 69.05 |
| | Low | 15.35 |
| | High | 14.82 |
| Critical Media Competence | Average | 71.17 |
| | Low | 14.03 |
| | High | 14.03 |
| Educational Media Competence | Average | 71.69 |
| | Low | 14.29 |
| | High | 13.49 |
| Life-long Media Competence | Average | 73.54 |
| | Low | 12.96 |
| | High | 13.76 |
| Technical Media Competence | Average | 71.16 |
| | Low | 15.08 |

It is seen from Table 5; the majority of the Prospective Teachers have average level of competence in each of the dimensions of Social Media Competence. Most of them were effectively using Social Media platforms for efficient teaching and training purpose. The bar diagram of the five dimensions based on the total sample on Social Media Competence is shown in the figure below.



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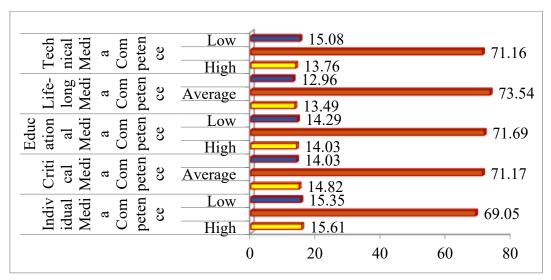


Figure 5 Bar diagram representing levels in different dimensions of Social Media Competence

Discussion

Here a large majority is having average Competence in using Social Media effectively for teaching and learning purposes.

Thus, the hypothesis 3 is fully substantiated.

Hypotheses 4. There exist different levels of Social Intelligence among Prospective Teachers with reference to the dimensions of Social Intelligence such as Intellectual Level, Emotional Level, Behavioural Level, Environmental Level and Ethical Level

Analysis of different levels of Social Intelligence among Prospective Teachers with reference to the dimensions of Social Intelligence such as Intellectual Level, Emotional Level, Behavioural Level, Environmental Level and Ethical Level.

The number and percentage of the Prospective Teachers with different levels (high, average, low) of the various dimensions of Social Intelligence is worked out and presented under this section.

The investigator estimated the number of Prospective Teachers under the three levels named High, Average and Low of each dimension of variable Social Intelligence for the total sample obtained as $M+1\sigma$ and above in the variable Social Intelligence are labelled as high group, those who obtained scores between $M+1\sigma$ and $M-1\sigma$ in the variable Social Intelligence are classified as low group and those who obtained scores $M-1\sigma$ and below are classified as low group in each level of Social Intelligence.

Table 6 Levels in different Dimensions of Social Intelligence among Prospective Teachers

| Level of Social Intelligence | Levels | % |
|------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | High | 15.08 |
| Intellectual Level | Average | 70.11 |
| | Low | 14.81 |
| | High | 18.78 |
| Emotional Level | Average | 64.02 |
| | Low | 17.19 |
| Behavioural Level | High | 19.84 |
| Deliavioural Level | Average | 61.64 |



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| | I awa | 18.52 | |
|---------------------|---------|-------|--|
| | Low | 18.32 | |
| | High | 14.81 | |
| Environmental Level | Average | 71.69 | |
| | Low | 13.49 | |
| | High | 24.34 | |
| Ethical Level | Average | 62.43 | |
| | Low | 13.23 | |

It is seen from Table 6; the majority of the Prospective Teachers have average level in each of the dimensions of Social Intelligence. The bar diagram of the five dimensions based on the total sample on Social Intelligence is shown in the figure below

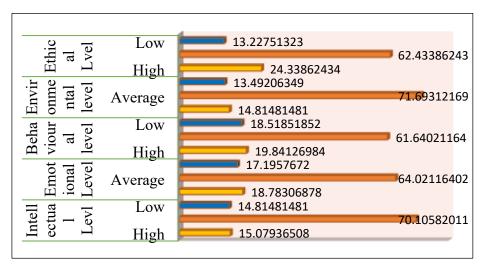


Figure 6. Bar diagram representing levels in different dimensions of Social Media Competence

Discussion

Analysis shows that a large majority is having average Competence in using Intelligence for teaching and learning purposes.

Thus, the hypotheses 4 is fully substantiated.

Hypotheses 5. There exists significant relationship between Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence among Prospective Teachers for the whole sample.

Analysis of relationship between Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence among Prospective Teachers for the whole sample.

To find out the extent the relationship between Social Media Competence on Social Intelligence of Prospective Teachers, the scores of Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence of the total sample of student teachers were subjected to Karl Pearson's Product Moment Correlation analysis.

Table 7 Data and Results of the Relationship between Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence of Prospective Teachers for the total sample

| Variables | Sample | r |
|---|--------|--------|
| Social Media Competence & Social Intelligence | Total | 0.37** |
| Social Media Competence & Social Interngence | Sample | 0.37 |



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**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The coefficient of correlation between Social Media Competence on Social Intelligence for the whole sample is 0.37. The relationship can be verbally interpreted as low correlation. This shows that there exists a significant positive relationship between Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence of Prospective Teachers for the whole sample.

Discussion

There exists a significant positive relationship between Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence of Prospective Teachers for the Total sample.

Conclusion

In the present study, found that there exists significant relationship between Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence among the Prospective teachers. Also, the study revealed that there exist different levels of Social Media Competence and Social Intelligence among prospective teachers.

Suggestions

The present study gives the possibilities of further researches in the following way:

- We can adopt a training package for our prospective teachers in formal way in order to improve their Social Media Competence in their regular teaching learning.
- We can adopt a training package for our prospective teachers in formal way in order to improve their Social Intelligence using Social Media Competence in their regular teaching learning.
- A follow up study can be conducted to make policies and revisions to add more current technology related practical trainings in our current B.Ed. curriculum.

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