



INNOVATIONS IN THE CURRICULUM TRANSACTION FOR DIVERGENT THINKING THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIAS

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Abstract:

The present curriculum in higher education is teacher centered rather than pupil centered. It promotes only convergent thinking. The teacher lacks awareness about the techniques to develop creativity in classroom; as a result there is less scope for practicing divergent thinking. The present generation learners are using technological devices. These devices can be used as learning resources for thinking and creativity in classrooms. If curriculum has the scope for inculcating divergent thinking, it will enrich the performance of the student. Divergent thinking is a thought process or method used to generate creative ideas by exploring many possible solutions. One possibility is to give opportunity for divergent thinking to students through the popular media called social media. A rich network is a good source of opportunities. If curriculum links with the social media it will create highly interactive platforms via which individual and communities can share resources, co-operates, discuss and modify content. Through this possible solutions are explored in a short amount of time and unexpected connections are drawn. This paper is an attempt to find out the scope of integrating social media in curriculum transaction for higher education to promote divergent thinking. An attempt has been made to identify few ways in which divergent thinking opportunities can be provided to students through social media, it is an effort to see the possibilities of student centered learning in the Curriculum.

Index Terms: Curriculum, Divergent thinking, Creativity & Social media

Introduction:

In higher education problem arises when teaching styles conflict with learning style. Learner centered classroom place students at the centre of classroom organization and respect their language needs, strategies and styles. As we know in higher education classrooms teacher oriented style of instruction fails to motivate the youngsters. Many studies have revealed that creative pupils can contribute more than others. Present curriculum has limited scope for practicing divergent thinking abilities, where as new generation Medias have immense possibilities to develop divergent thinking.

Divergent Thinking:

Divergent thinking is a thought process or method used to generate creative ideas by exploring many possible solutions. It is often used in conjunction with convergent thinking, which follows a particular set of logical steps to arrive at one solution, which in some cases is a "correct" solution. Divergent thinking is essential for creativity. Creativity is the ability to see lots of possible ways to interpret a question and lots of possible answers to it. Divergent thinking typically occurs in a spontaneous, free-flowing manner, such that many ideas are generated in an emergent cognitive fashion. Many possible solutions are explored in a short amount of time, and unexpected connections are drawn. After the process of divergent thinking has been completed, ideas and information are organized and structured using convergent thinking.

Psychologists have found that a high IQ alone does not guarantee creativity. Instead, personality traits that promote divergent thinking are more important. Divergent thinking is found among people with personality traits such as

nonconformity, curiosity, willingness to take risks, and persistence. Social learning is participating with others to make sense out of new ideas. What's new about this is how powerful social media works together with social learning.

At kindergarten age, the ability to think along divergent lines (exploring many possible solutions or options) was measured at 90%. At 10 years, the kids were measured at 50%. At teenage years (high school) the kids were measured at 10%. From this we see Education is not contributing towards divergent thinking. Social media and divergent thinking are very closely entwined and are the bedrock of one's personal learning environment.

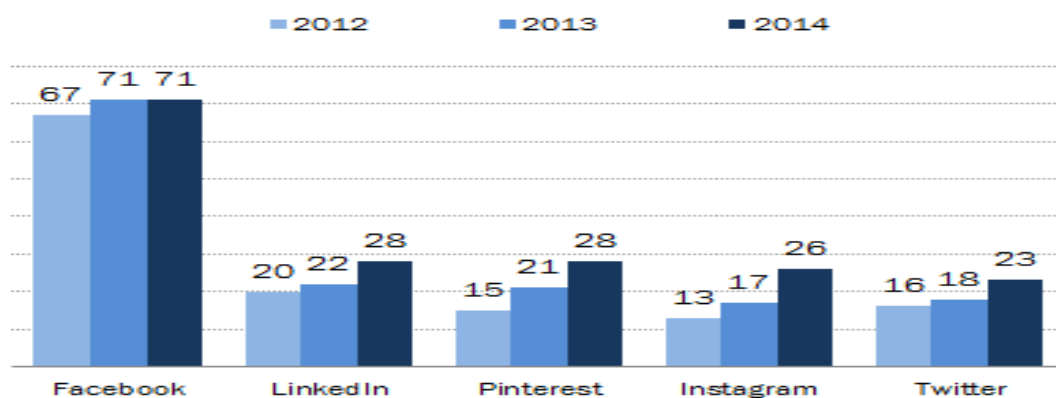
Social Media:

Social media refers to the means of interaction among people in which they create, share, and exchange information and ideas in virtual communities and networks. Andreas Kaplan and Michael Haenlein (2010) define social media as "a group of Internet-based applications that build on the ideological and technological foundations of Web". Furthermore, social media depend on mobile and web-based technologies to create highly interactive platforms via which individuals and communities share, co-create, discuss, and modify user-generated content. It introduces substantial and pervasive changes to communication between organizations, communities and individuals.

A rich network is a great source of professional opportunities. When you need a highly skilled person for an important project, your first port of call is likely to be your network of trusted contacts. If you don't know someone yourself, a recommendation from someone whose judgment you trust can be priceless. Social networking is rightfully compelling youths to adopt technology in internet which is propelling the nation towards a faster path of growth by induction of newer insights and fresh methodologies. The global usage of various networks as follows:

Social media sites, 2012-2014

% of online adults who use the following social media websites, by year









Pew Research Center's Internet Project Surveys, 2012-2014. 2014 data collected September 11-14 & September 18-21, 2014. N=1,597 internet users ages 18+.

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The learner does not have to know these people personally or ever meet those in person. Social Media – 21st century educators know the value of personal learning networks. In addition to the social media outlet teachers choose to engage in school work, you'll want to support your students in developing their personal learning networks using platforms like Facebook, Google+, and Twitter etc.

The Top Networks for Creative People:

The list is not ranked in order, since the 'best' network for you will depend on your individual situation

Social Media	Symbol	Description
Blog		A blog is a discussion or informational site published on the World Wide Web and consisting of discrete entries ("posts") typically displayed in reverse chronological order (the most recent post appears first). Many blogs provide commentary on a particular subject; others function as more personal online diaries; others function more as online brand advertising of a particular individual or company.
You Tube		YouTube is a video-sharing website, on which users can upload, view and share videos. TV clips, and music videos, as well as amateur content such as video blogging, short original videos, and educational videos
Twitter		Twitter is an online social networking service and micro blogging service that enables its users to send and read text-based messages of up to 140 characters, known as "tweets". Since its launch, Twitter has become one of the ten most visited websites on the Internet, and has been described as "the SMS of the Internet
Google Plus		Google+ is a multilingual social networking and identity service owned and operated by Google Inc. Google has described Google+ as a "social layer" consisting of not just a single site, but rather an overarching "layer" which covers many of its online properties.
Facebook		Facebook is a social networking service launched in February 2004, owned and operated by Facebook, Inc. As of September 2012, Facebook has over one billion active users, more than half of whom use Facebook on a mobile device. Users may join common-interest user groups, organized by workplace, school or college, or other characteristics, and categorize their friends into lists such as "People From Work" or "Close Friends".
Wikipedia		Wikipedia is a multilingual, web-based, free-content encyclopedia project supported by the Wikimedia Foundation and based on a model of openly editable content. Wikipedia is written collaboratively by largely anonymous volunteers who write without pay. Anyone with Internet access can write and make changes to Wikipedia articles, except in limited cases where editing is restricted to prevent disruption or vandalism.

With respect to social presence and media richness, applications such as collaborative projects (e.g., Wikipedia) and blogs score lowest, as they are often text-based and hence only allow for a relatively simple exchange. On the next level are content communities (e.g., YouTube) and social networking sites (e.g., Facebook) which, in addition to text-based communication, enable the sharing of pictures, videos, and other forms of media. On the highest level are virtual game and social worlds (e.g., World of Warcraft, Second Life), which try to replicate all dimensions of face-to-face interactions in a virtual environment.

Strategies and Tool for Divergent Thinking:



Divergent thinking, an important part of innovation that's not adequately supported in many workplaces. How social media can influence divergent thinking. There are many different techniques that encourage divergent thinking. Although these techniques as opportunities for social learning and collaboration, these also can be used as solo activities. Here forwarding some strategies and tools that can be used to promote divergent thinking.

Some Activities Which Promote Divergent Thinking through Social Media:

- ✓ Creating artwork: we are all born with this capacity to think creatively but during the years of schooling, this capability deteriorates drastically.
- ✓ Creating lists of questions: The set of activities that promote divergent thinking are a part of our Alchemy of Love Mindfulness Training. The 12 module courses Mindful Being and Conscious Parenting explore the tools to nurture creativity, understand mind powers and work with body, mind and soul. To become a Divergent Thinker, we suggest: Learning how to ask questions.
- ✓ Setting aside time for thinking and meditation, Divergent thinking is mostly found among people who are curious, willing to take risks, and persistent. Research shows that musicians are more likely to use both hemispheres of their brain and more likely to use divergent thinking in their thought processes. Mindfulness is at the heart of many meditations. Mindfulness works with continuous awareness of the body posture and breath; of the feelings, of the thoughts, intentions, images, and of the mental objects that appear during the meditation.
- ✓ Subject mapping / "bubble mapping", Mind or subject mapping involves putting brainstormed ideas in the form of a visual map or picture that shows the relationships among these ideas. One starts with a central idea or topic, and then draws branches off the main topic which represent different parts or aspects of the main topic.
- ✓ Keeping a journal, Journals are an effective way to record ideas that one thinks of spontaneously. By carrying a journal, one can create a collection of thoughts on

various subjects that later become a source book of ideas. People often have insights at unusual times and places.

- ✓ Free writing. In this a person will focus on one particular topic and write non-stop about it for a short period of time, in a stream of consciousness fashion. When free-writing, a person will focus on one particular topic and write non-stop about it for a short period of time.
- ✓ Brainstorming, it is one appropriate way to foster divergent thinking, but it's not the only way. Further, there are processes that can be implemented to support and enhance brainstorming. During brainstorming, participants spontaneously contribute ideas in response to a problem statement. Crafting a good problem statement requires some skill.
- ✓ Brains writing, here, groups of people who are brainstorming don't have to speak to each other, at least initially. Ideas are written down (e.g., on sticky notes or index cards) and shared later
- ✓ Six thinking hat: Pioneered by Edward de Bono, the Six Thinking® Hats system encourages parallel thinking— viewing a problem from different perspectives depending on which “hat” you're wearing. The creativity and new ideas are related to green only.
- ✓ Discussion forums: Social networking refers to the use of online social networks such as Facebook, twitter, Hi5 and Google+ to communicate with other people. A social network can include blogs and ways to share text and ideas, groups, private messaging, a chat facility and file- or photo-sharing functions. Social Networking sites have always opened the gates of debates among users and non users. We can make groups by own interest and chat with them on various topics.
- ✓ Create, share, and exchange information and ideas: Encourage students to ask why something is done the way it's done. Challenge problems, solutions, or anything in between. The idea is that when you challenge something, you start thinking of alternatives.

How to Use Social Medias in Education:

Social media has proven to be a lot of things. Aside from being a casual platform where people can discuss matters of any kind, it is also an essential way to get educated. You can use the different social media tools online to start learning. Here are some tips on how to teach using these media:

- ✓ Upload the materials: To provide a platform for academics to share their work, get criticism from their peers and get to know colleagues.
- ✓ Get more educators: Student can be able to get more online tutorial classes to the topics that they did not understand in class hence acquitting them with more learning knowledge
- ✓ Use images: Students can get images on outside world as fast as they are happening and thereby they are able to keep themselves updated on the current issues.
- ✓ Give assignments: Social media provides relevant and reliable information, which students can use to research more on their assignments and projects.

Conclusion:

Curriculum should add social media in their course; student should know the power of social media. Social Media are providing opportunities with dynamic scope for Divergent Thinking .One who can utilize it sensibly; it will help them to grow beyond limits. While online in social media we can share many things, many of them are thought

provoking and highly inspirational. Social Medias are bringing people of varied nationalities together and creating tons of opportunities with a level playing field in the globalised world. Much of the criticism of social media are about its exclusiveness as most sites do not allow the transfer of information from one to another, disparity of information available, issues with trustworthiness and reliability of information presented, concentration, ownership of media content, and the meaning of interactions created by social media. But one thing is sure that there networks have become gateways of thinking, intelligence and creativity and in future to be bright because of the technological explosion.

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