

## **The Impact of Virtual Social Networks on Students' Academic Performance**

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### **Abstract**

Academic performance is one of the processes that occurs in the daily communication of different actors within the school and is affected by a variety of individual and social factors. Academic performance falls across a spectrum that has academic success on one side and academic failure on the other. In recent years, reports from the Education Organization, as well as research, indicate that students have suffered from academic failure. Examining why there is diversity in academic performance among students and the relative vacuum of sociological research has led us to do this research; The aim of this study was to systematically review the impact of social networks on students' academic performance. Thus, research findings from 2000 to 2020 AD in the internal and external databases of Google Scholar, Mgrin, Science Direct, Springer, PubMed and search by keywords: virtual social networks, academic performance, academic achievement and academic failure of

students Finally, based on the inclusion criteria, out of 40 articles, 20 articles were included in the research and the results were classified, summarized and reported. The results of this systematic review showed that participation in social networks has a positive relationship with academic performance, while the dimensions of the use of virtual social networks have a significant negative impact on academic performance and cause academic decline and addiction to virtual social networks. Becomes. Therefore, in this regard, the need to provide equipment for the cultural and educational features of these sites for appropriate and optimal use is widely recommended. abstract appears before the keywords. Abstract must be about 200 words. However, it must be limited between 150 to 200 words. The abstract should clearly state, the objective, results and the conclusion of the work.

**Keywords:** Virtual social networks,  
**development of quality of psychotherapy**  
academic performance, academic  
achievement, academic failure

### **1. Introduction**

The and scientific-educational centers is one of the components of sustainable development of societies, so that the twentieth century is the processes and processes related to higher education, so it is rooted in societies, which are usually scientifically based, and or refers to

knowledge-based economics [1]. At the dawn of the 21st century, fundamental changes have taken place in educational processes and products in the world. Explosion information, development communication, changes in government management system, cultural changes and the interconnectedness of global societies, the view and the need for education to undergo fundamental stimulation and change [1]. In the meantime, students' mental health damage can cause irreparable damage to schools and society. Academic performance indicates a manifestation of students' educational status, which may indicate a grade for a course, because grades in a course are related to a subject or different courses. You can consider a variety of criteria for academic achievement, the most famous of which have a minimum grade point average [2]. In education and in academic success, success in grading is the information efficiency that the individual uses in the products of power in his progress with proper satisfaction [3]. Regarding the importance of research to increase academic performance, it should be said that the population pyramid, Iran is at a stage where more population countries are currently available to transfer their education in schools. At the beginning of the 94-95 academic year, the number of students in Iranian schools was reported to be about 13 million, of which more than 4 million were studying in high school [4]. Note that the large number of human power plants and their optimal academic performance in a healthy education system, promises a bright future for society and training of efficient staff if necessary for the comprehensive development of the country. On the other hand, academic failure can lead to injury and other social issues. Academic performance is a set of academic behaviors that are reflected in the pace of academic achievement and regression in the field of information

business. Of course, this performance can be shown in relation to other educational factors such as classroom and university activities and communication with classmates and teachers and professors [5]. Undoubtedly, no educational system can achieve its educational goals one hundred percent. But the success of any educational system depends on getting closer and closer to the set goals. To get closer to the goals of the educational system, it is necessary to recognize the factors affecting academic performance and increase its impact. A study of the factors affecting the performance and development of advanced societies shows that all of these countries have had a capable and efficient education. One of the educational pests of families that every year, wastes a lot of facilities, resources and potential human and economic talents and leaves an irreparable impact in various dimensions is the phenomenon of academic failure [6]. One of the factors that may affect academic performance is social networks. Virtual social networks are a new generation of social relationships that, although not very old; They have been able to open their place in people's lives well. Today's youth no longer have the limitations of the past and can communicate anywhere in the world at any time, wherever they want. There are different styles and social environments, and this has affected the level of control of families and schools over the learning of the new generation, as well as the quality and educational orientations of families, schools and society. The future makers of society are the decline of education and the decline of educational performance. Virtual social networks are currently the strongest online media in the world. These networks have been widely welcomed by users due to the multiplicity and variety of content and numerous software and Internet capabilities. The characteristic of these networks is the power to establish a network system between

friends and like-minded users in a regular and orderly manner [7]. Social networks, like any other technology, have positive and negative effects according to the intentions and goals of the user. One of the positive effects of social networks can be considered to increase the speed in the learning process and establish a round-the-clock communication between teacher and student. The learner communicates with his teacher or professor at any time and in any place that has a question and increases the scope of his learning [8]. Also, the use of social networks in education involves low costs and expenses. [9]. Regarding the negative effects of virtual social networks, some studies show that students who are in social networks, often enter these networks at night, which in itself can cause drowsiness, causing daily fatigue due to students' sleep disorders. Which manifests itself as a lack of focus in the learning process and academic failure [10]. In the study of Kulk and Saunders [11], which examined the relationship between Facebook use and academic performance, there was no difference between the total grade point average of students who used Facebook and students who did not use it. [12], on the other hand, reported that Facebook users had lower overall grades and fewer hours of study. In a study by Shamber et al. [13], they conducted research on students' habits in social networks. The results show that such media are often used by younger people and Facebook is widely used by a large number of communities and has a positive impact on students' lives. High speed and fast approach of the Internet and the development of smartphone technology are the most important factors in the greater use of social media and it has been concluded that virtual social networks increase the academic level of students. But in another study by Gook [14]. Showed that social networks have a negative effect on learners' reading habits. His findings show that many

students have a particular interest in using social media, which has led to excessive Internet addiction, meaning that students spend their free time using social media. This has a negative effect on reading. Many studies on the negation of social media have concluded that these networks have a negative effect on the younger generation and students. These researchers believe that virtual social networks have an effect on students' annual grades, drop in academic grades, spelling and misspellings, lower English language standards, etc., and separate these variables by the amount of use of social networks in They are measured among students. At the same time, others believe that the advent of social media has a positive effect on students' performance and achievement of high grades. These studies also show that these students spend most of their time doing homework and research. Therefore, in the review of previous studies, both methods are discussed separately [15]. Therefore, considering the above issues and the importance of paying attention to the academic performance of students and examining the factors that cause the academic progress or decline of this future group, the present study was conducted with the aim of the impact of virtual social networks on academic performance.

## **2. Research method**

The present study is descriptive and with a library method by searching for a review in databases including Google Scholar, Science Direct, Elsevier, Civilica, Normags, which was related to the years 2000 to 2020 and with the keywords academic performance, academic achievement, academic failure and Virtual social networks took place. Numerous studies have been conducted on the impact of social networks on academic performance, but in this study, the positive and negative effects of social networks on

academic performance in students were reviewed.

### **3. Academic Performance**

The issue of success or failure in education is one of the most important concerns of any educational system. Success and academic achievement in any society indicates the success of the educational system in the field of goal setting and attention to meeting individual needs. Therefore, the educational system can be considered efficient and successful when the academic achievement of its students in different courses has the highest and highest figures [16]. Academic performance (academic failure or achievement) is affected by various biological, psychological and social dimensions. These factors are classified into four groups: inclusive conditions, family, school, and factors related to the community and the environment outside the school. Therefore, in general, the academic performance of learners is affected by the inclusive conditions and his external environment [17]. In general, academic achievement and decline is one of the criteria for the efficiency of the educational system and as a dependent variable has always been considered by researchers. The importance of predicting academic achievement in terms of application was also examined. Academic achievement is one of the important factors of acceptance in the classroom. Academic achievement is also important in obtaining a job and its various degrees [18]. Prediction of academic success in terms of the efficiency of the educational system was also studied. The importance of academic achievement is also important because every educational system is always evaluated by relevant experts in order to achieve the best results and eliminate obstacles and shortcomings throughout the educational process and the optimal use of inputs. Finally, the product of educational systems are graduates who have

acquired some characteristics. Academic achievement can be one of the most important and objective criteria for reviewing and evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of the education system [18]. Discovering and examining the variables affecting academic performance leads to a better understanding and prediction of effective variables in school. Therefore, the study of variables related to academic achievement in different courses is one of the main topics of research in the education system [19]. Among these factors affecting academic performance, intelligence according to its traditional definition has long been considered as the main factor of academic success and achievement, but today with the change in theoretical views on the components of intelligence, it is not. Its ability to be considered a successful predictor of academic performance [20]. To explain the factors affecting academic performance other than cognitive intelligence, researchers have studied the relationship of many variables with academic performance, which due to the growth of technology and the increase in a variety of virtual social networks, one of these factors is the impact. The transition to the academic performance of virtual social networks. In the following, we will define and describe the academic progress and academic failure.

#### **3-1 . Achievement**

**Academic achievement** The amount of achievement that a person achieves in achieving his / her educational goals, although academic achievement is defined as getting a high score in different academic courses or reaching personal and standard criteria, but the best definition of Academic success can be expressed as follows: Academic success is the achievement of defined goals that each person has in mind. According to this definition, goal setting becomes essential [21]. In the education

system, academic achievement is a term that refers to a manifestation of the educational status of learners. And this position can be in the form of scores of different courses that can be measured by standardized tests [22]. Russell (2003), academic achievement, sometimes called academic achievement, is one of the important indicators in the evaluation of education, and all efforts in this system are in fact an attempt to put society into practice. The whole society and the education system in particular is interested and concerned about the fate of children, their successful growth and development, their position in society, and expects students in various aspects, including cognitive dimensions and skills acquisition. Abilities as well as in emotional and personality dimensions, as they should develop and excel [23]. According to Maher, academic achievement is the success of students in one or more subjects (such as comprehension, reading comprehension, or numerical calculation); such progress is measured by graded subjects. The term also refers to the individual's progress in the classroom, as assessed in school work [24].

### **3-2 . Academic failure**

One of the common problems of the education system in many countries of the world is the phenomenon of academic failure, which causes great scientific, cultural and economic losses to governments and families. Efforts to identify important factors in academic achievement and to provide strategies and measures to reduce the damage caused by academic failure, requires a lot of research in this area. Academic achievement is of great importance from scientific and practical aspects. Academic performance is one of the factors of admission in the classroom. It also has a special place to get a degree and a job. Therefore, psychological and educational researchers try to understand the complex determinants of academic

achievement [25]. Academic failure is one of the problems in the education system at all levels of education and leads to wastage of manpower and costs [26] On the other hand, graduates who finish university with academic failure do not acquire the required academic competence in a desirable way [27]. Among the most important concerns of professors, university education officials and students' families are academic achievement and preventing students from dropping out. The opposite of academic achievement is academic failure, which according to numerous studies has a significant impact on the fate of the individual and also imposes huge costs on the family and society. In Iran, this is one of the most important problems of the current education system, which wastes tens of billions of dollars from the country's budget every year, and the potential forces and capital of the society, which is the human resources, are fruitless. In recent years, educational specialists and educational psychologists have conducted significant research on academic performance and related variables. Learners' learning is usually measured by their academic performance. Numerous factors affect students' academic performance. Some of these factors improve academic performance and others weaken learners' performance [22].

### **4. Virtual social networks**

Social networking sites are those that enable a wide range of social interactions with friends and family. Social media can be a powerful tool during the recruitment and review process for employees, especially key employees or those dealing with children. Through thoughtful planning and execution, it is possible to legally harness the power of online media sites and their influence in favor of the organization [28]. The concept of Internet social networks in its current form was first introduced in 1960 at the University

of Illinois in the United States, then the first modern Internet social network was launched in 1991 called "Six Degrees". This site allowed users to join and meet other members. At first, users had the opportunity to create a profile for themselves on this site, but after a while, the possibility of creating a friends list was added to it [29]. Social networking includes several definitions. Some people describe social networking and its differences with popular media as follows: Social networking provides an opportunity for people to exchange ideas, content, ideas and communication online, and this type of media is therefore associated with popular media. There is a difference that anyone can create an impact, comment and add content to a social network. Social network can be in the form of text, sound, image, image and communities [30]. A virtual community or Internet social network is a website or collection of websites that allows users to share their interests, thoughts, and activities; In other words, virtual social networks are sites that, using a search engine and adding features such as chat, electronic messaging, image and voice transmission, etc., allow users to communicate in the form of a network of individual and group relationships. Virtual social networks include blogs, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, which have attracted many users in cyberspace [15]. Virtual social networks such as Facebook, Telegram, Instagram, etc., are also spaces in which people find new friends or keep their old friends informed about the changes in their lives. There are places for discussion where young people share their ideas and opinions. The ability for a young person to connect with other young people in other parts of the world makes virtual social networks a place to introduce new ideas and discuss them. The use of services provided by social networks is becoming more and more popular. Social networking sites are now the most widely used Internet service,

after large portals like Yahoo or search engines like Google. [31].

The challenges that social media has faced in recent years have affected areas beyond cyberspace. Social networks, on the other hand, as one of the types of social media, have provided significant interaction opportunities for Internet users [32]. And have been effective in increasing citizen participation in some processes. On the other hand, these networks have faced governments with extensive damage in the cultural, political and social fields [33]. Virtual social networks are the cause of changes and changes in the new era and by studying the point in the development of communication technologies, which of the key factors and characteristics of virtual social networks in various cultural, social, economic, political fields Education, even security is effective, it is important to have a more realistic understanding of the role it can play in the social sphere. When the Web made its way into human society, no one imagined such a transformation. To make life easier with the help of web-based tools, to the extent that despite the damage caused by it, life without the web cannot be imagined [34].

## 5. Findings

Various studies have been conducted on the role of virtual social networks and academic performance, which have resulted in different and sometimes contradictory results. [35]. Some researchers cite the excessive use of computer games as a factor in academic failure [36].

[11] in a study entitled Facebook and academic performance showed that there was no difference between the total grade point average of students who used Facebook and students who did not use it.

The results of research by Pour Eskandari and Farajollahi [37] showed that students who used the virtual social network

(Telegram) in the learning process had a high academic performance in mathematics, despite concerns about the use of networks. There is a community that can be exploited with careful and purposeful planning of the capabilities of this technology to link education and the learning process. Findings of Shavardi, Heidari and Chitsaz Qomi [15] show that there is no relationship between last year's GPA of students and their quantitative academic performance using the virtual social network and only between their GPA and information exchange. Scientific (exam questions) There is a relationship through social networks. There is also a link between social media use and quantitative academic performance, social media addiction, learning and receiving questions and course questions. However, the effect of social networks on the quantitative performance of students at the intermediate level and its effect on other educational activities of students is at a low level.

Asarzadeh [38] in his research showed that there is no significant relationship between the two variables of extreme use of cyberspace and academic achievement. In other words, the academic achievement of both groups of students who use cyberspace to the extreme and those who use cyberspace normally are about the same.

Javidi [39] in a study entitled The effect of social networks on the academic performance of students of Birjand University of Medical Sciences conducted a conclusion that students with lower grades and academic performance than Facebook students with higher grades and grades, use more Facebook.

Momeni Nasab and Rastegar [40] in a study entitled "Study of the relationship between the use of social networks and academic achievement of high school students in Shahr Babak in the academic year 2015-2016" showed the results that firstly between students' academic achievement and the use

of social networks (Viber, WhatsApp) There is a relationship, and secondly, people who use social networks such as WhatsApp and Viber have a lower GPA than people who do not use social networks.

Emamirizi [41] in a study entitled The effect of using virtual social networks on students' academic achievement, the results showed that between the academic achievement scores of students who are normal users of social networks and are addicted to social networks are mild and addicted to networks There is a significant virtual difference.

The results of Saeedipoor [35] indicate a negative and significant relationship between the variable of social media use and academic performance. Finally, the test of the theoretical model of the research showed that the variables of the individual's use of social networks and communication with peers can predict changes in students' academic performance.

Jafari Nadarabadi [42] in his research showed that there is an inverse and significant relationship between the degree of dependence on cyberspace and academic performance in students.

## **6. Discussion and conclusion**

The aim of this study was to investigate the effect of virtual social networks on academic performance. With the emergence and expansion of social networks, the use of these networks has become an integral part of the daily lives of many students and has a direct impact on many aspects of life, especially the student's study rate and their academic performance [35]. Change has become so ingrained in the lives of people in different societies that turning away from it and ignoring it creates a huge disruption in society and its various social, cultural, political, economic and educational dimensions. The point that was important to us in the research was the impact of these networks on students' academic performance

because it is necessary to solve this problem as an important problem, deep knowledge of the problem. Virtual social networks can be a good way to interact on the one hand to be used between students as well as teachers and students to convey scientific content, share questions and problems and help each other to know the right way to solve problems. On the other hand, students' membership in these networks as a group and as a channel. It creates dependency in a number of students and students spend a lot of their time in it, causing addiction to social networks and also negatively affecting students' academic performance. According to the previous researches of Pour Eskandari and Farajollahi [37]; Kulk and Saunders [11]; Asarzadeh [38]; Shamber et al. [13] showed that virtual social networks do not have a negative effect on academic performance and sometimes lead to academic achievement due to the advantages it provides in facilitating students' interactions with each other as well as with the teacher. But also many studies such as Javidi [39]; Jafari Nadrabadi [42]; Saeedipoor [35]; Emami rizi [41]; Momeni Nasab, and Rastegar [40] Showed that virtual social networks cause academic failure as well as addiction to virtual networks.

Therefore, according to the results of research, the negative impact of students' use of social networks is relatively greater than its positive impact. Therefore, it is suggested to train students to create a culture for optimal use of virtual network capabilities. And informing about the advantages and disadvantages of such networks, through holding workshops by consultants, teachers and experts.

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