Advantages of Sharing Information among Students

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Abstract. Information sharing or known as knowledge sharing is an act of sharing information towards other people such as in the forms of group, friends, families or communities. Knowledge sharing give many advantages towards individuals and society especially students. The advantages are varied such as can boost students' academic performance, enhanced students' social ties and students' mental health is improved. These advantages have been discussed in many research papers that was reviewed.
Keywords: Knowledge sharing, advantages, students

Introduction

Knowledge sharing is vital in today life. It helps to improve life to be better if we share information especially in the student's life. According to Vygotsky's (1980), his theory of sociocultural states that learning is inevitably makes people learn through social interaction and sharing of ideas and experiences. Moreover, previous studies stated that students may learn high-order thinking skills (HOTS) and achieve improved learning performance when they participate in a knowledge sharing activities and share information with peers in the process of knowledge building (Rafaeli et al., 2004; van den Bossche et al., 2011). This clearly states that sharing of information enhanced the betterment of learning performance. Nowadays, students tend to share information in various forms such as in the use of Web 2.0.

Web 2.0 refers to websites and application that is used to create and share the people's posted information. Web 2.0 platforms such as Blogs, Wikipedia, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram also enables students to join in knowledge sharing activities (Valtonen et al., 2011; Williams and Jacobs, 2004; Yang, 2009). Moreover, studies found that in 2014, there were about 1.3 billion Facebook users, 982 million Twitter users and 300 million LinkedIn users worldwide (Smith, 2014). Therefore, Facebook has been the most favorite medium by the people. Moreover, a research has been made by the people in Africa stating that using Facebook helps in enhancing a student's grade and is beneficial towards the learning environment (Shava and

Chinyamurindi, 2018). Although there are also other medium to do knowledge sharing such as using platform of wikis, blogs and websites. Facebook is still the first choice as people tend to share information in the most beneficial and convenience for them. Chang et al. (2008) found that users' intention toward knowledge sharing is impacted by *extrinsic benefits* (reputation and reciprocity), *intrinsic benefits* (enjoyment of helping and self-efficacy), and *costs* (convenience and interaction). Facebook covers all this benefit which makes it a popular mechanism. Some of the topics covered below is the advantages of sharing information using Web 2.0 platform such as Facebook and others.

The Advantages of Sharing Information among Students

Boost academic performance

Students are likeably to use social network such as Facebook as many times more than many other social networks. Facebook is free of charge, easy to use and easily available for students to use with the access to Internet (Sharabati, 2018). Likewise, Bowman et al. (2012) stated that many college students created Facebook accounts starting from high school and used the technology smoothly. According to Kosik (2007), students prefer Facebook in learning than university education as this social network offers instant responses. Based on a finding, Al-Rahmi et al. (2015a) found that Facebook can help boost the students' academic performance if the lecturers used Facebook in their teaching method. This statement is supported by Sharabati (2018) that stated his finding was using Facebook really helps in collaborative learning and engagement. Thus, this led to advances of students' academic performance. Besides that, other platform such as Creative Common (CC) which is a website that shares content of information writings also contributed to the boost of academic performance. Previous empirical studies result stated that Creative Common (CC) mechanism is effective in motivating the student's behavior towards learning (Liu et al., 2013). In this regard, the Creative Common (CC) mechanism supports knowledge sharing and increases peer interactions, which helps the students to learn better (Alexander and Levine, 2008).

Enhanced social ties

Students can have an enhanced social tie if they share information. This is because, sharing information connects people. People share and exchange ideas which makes the relationship or bond is strengthen. Research also shows that happiness from helping others to be a main factor of knowledge sharing behavior (Cheung and Lee, 2007). This indirectly builds bonds with other people also. Besides that, previous research suggests that individuals are more likely to share information online if they have strong and direct ties with their potential audience (Nov and Ye, 2008). Moreover, this is supported by Chiu et al. (2006) that stated the more the user has social ties with their audience, the more they are inspired to do knowledge sharing in the media. Plus, findings supported that willing to share content with others may be increase if they believe that they can provide a useful and great insights of

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information for their close acquaintances on social network sites (Kim and Lee, 2015). Therefore, without a doubt, knowledge sharing builds relationship. Hence, this situation can improve life to be better and happier with the companion of others together with the students.

Mental health is improved

Students need to be in their best state to perform in education. Therefore, their mental health matters as this can determine their performance in their studies. Students can improve their mental health if they share. Sharing information would be the best method to express themselves. Thus, this led to a positive impact towards the students. This is supported by Kankanhalli et al. (2005) that suggest sharing information can boosts one's confidence in what they do. This is one of the strong positive impact. Besides that, Ainin et al. (2015) supported also by the statement stating peer interaction (sharing information) encourage the advance of communication skills and can boost the self-esteem of the user. This both subjects are very important in the development of the student's mental health. Moreover, a study by Du et al. (2007), found that knowledge sharing as a main factor for personal boost in performance. Thus, knowledge sharing increases one performance and can led to an improved mental health.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the sharing of information or knowledge sharing is certainly beneficial towards the students as it provides many positivism effects. Moreover, in this Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic concurrent, the sharing of information is believed to be a helping hand in maintaining the situation of the students whether in academic or non-academic form. It helps when the students are learning online through Open Distance Learning (ODL) method. When the students share an information, it also contributes to the others success which is very good habit that should be cultivate. This is a good habit as according to Islamic religion, 'If you do good, you do good to yourself' (Qur'an 17:7). Moreover, the act of sharing information also increases social ties that helps in their development of being a well-rounded person. This is because, when they share information, they did a collaborative learning with other people. Plus, their tacit and explicit knowledge also can increase as interaction with others is being implemented. Furthermore, a healthy mental state also can be obtained as their interaction of sharing information with others can be shared through the opinion and thoughts of others. Thus, this can lead to a more productivity student as their mentality is more open and they will be a more versatile person in handling situation and problem.

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