

# **THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES TO MARITIME STUDENTS**

Marcelino B. Brioso  
2/M Carlos C. Epres  
**Researchers**

## **Introduction**

The action research surveyed 100 Maritime students to establish their use of social networking sites and how it is affecting them. This was at the start of the second semester. The researcher, then, conducted a simple forum on the impact of Social Networking Sites. This was attended by 96 respondents of the study. A revisit through a survey again, using the same questionnaire, of the students' use of social networking sites was conducted at the end of the semester.

## **Statement of the Problem**

This action research specifically answers the following questions.

1. What are the reasons for the students' use of social networking sites?
2. What are the effects of social networking sites to the maritime students?
3. What educational project/activity could be implemented to guide students in the use of social networking sites?
4. What changes were noted in the students' use of social networking sites?

## **Findings**

The researcher found out that most of the students who has accounts to social networking sites are using them for the purpose of interacting with their friends, relatives and loved ones through chat. They also used these for gaming like PUBG, Mobile Legends, etc. The effects are, 1) Social networking sites have a great contribution to the society, it connects them to other people around the world; 2) It also relieves stress, brings joy and happiness by playing games; 3) It maintains communications among their family members despite distance; 4) It enables one to gain friends; 5) On the other hand, it also gets one a foe, intentionally or deliberately.; and 6) unwise use of social networking can be addictive, hence, mismanagement of time is really a problem. Most of the users are spending much time using social networking sites which lead to cutting classes.

After the forum on the Impact of Social Networking Sites, there was a noted improvement in the students' use of the social networking sites, management of their time, and control of the bad effects on their study and other obligations.

## **Conclusion**

1. Students use social networking sites for important reasons;
2. Use of social networking sites has both good and bad effects;
3. An educational activity as part of students' personal and social growth is necessary;
4. Improved behavior with regards use of social networking sites is noted.

## **Recommendations**

In a fast-paced technology-run era, the advantages of social networking sites could not be ignored simply because of its disadvantages which, mostly are because of the users' personal discipline and knowledge on their psychological make-up as well. It is then important to guide students on the wise use of social networking sites so as for these to work on their advantage or benefit. The department could include Proper Use of Social Networking Sites in its Gender and Development Program for the Maritime students.